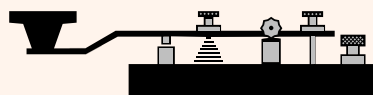


# NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 304 • OCTOBER 2023



## KEY CLICKS

### • **IN THIS ISSUE**

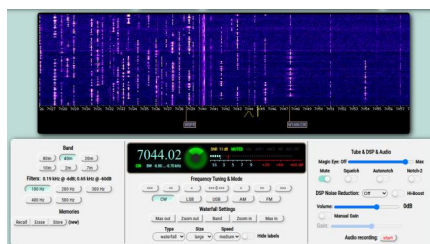
The Prez Sez... Happy Anniversary; Time to work those N3A/# stations; Final month of QSO Parties; Winter is coming in our Member Poll; Going back in time with QSL cards; A new Challenge is in your stars; Milliwatting in Florida; Chapter field reports; Sprint reports; Soapboxes; Nets; and more.

### • **IT'S 19TH ANNIVERSARY TIME!**

Check out the details starting on page 3 for how you can participate to have fun and and get in the drawings for some great prizes!

### • **BETTER THAN A PANADAPTER?**

It can be hard to carve out a space to run with 5 watts on a busy contest weekend, and harder still when most of the other runners are in your skip zone. Sometimes you realize you have company only after it becomes clear that the station you're talking to is working someone else! [WebSDR.org](http://WebSDR.org) lets you tap into waterfall displays from around the world. You can monitor a close one—and another one far away—to help find free space and keep an eye on your signal.



### • **YOUR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS REALLY NEEDED**

Submission doldrums are upon us! 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](mailto: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 on-line 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](http://naqcc.info/member_updates.html)

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# THE PREZ SEZ...

**Happy Anniversary NAQCC.** October is our anniversary month and this one is our 19th. Thank you Tom (WY3H) and John (K3WWP) for creating such a fun club in 2004!! John, by the way is still making at least one QRP/CW QSO every day since August 1994, 29+ years on a piece of wire and 5w or less. Check out John's website (k3wwp.com) for some interesting reading.

**Just a thought**, in the spirit of our 19th Anniversary and with a big **thank you** to our founders why not start a simple weekly local practice session within your own community. Nothing fancy, just reach out to local clubs, schools or whatever. Just find someone, even if only one person, to help learn CW the QRP way. That's about all Tom and John did in 2004 and many others before them..... share your talents and knowledge to those unaware of the magic of radio and the satisfaction of being able to communicate with just a dit and a dah. Let me know how you make out and ask for help if you need it.

**Our Sprint and Challenge** this month are very special events in that all participants that post a log with at least one QSO gets entered into the 19th Anniversary Drawing. In all there will be 13 winners randomly selected from all of the log entries made by the cutoff date.

## The October Sprint

Tue Oct 10 8:30-10:30P EDT = Wed Oct 11  
0030-0230Z

We can use more **N3A OPs** for October Anniversary. contact Rich Berger  
[hamberger@ptd.net](mailto:hamberger@ptd.net)  
if you want to take a turn.

**Fall season**, (worth repeating again this month), is a great time of year to visit your local parks whether you are doing an official POTA, SOTA, BOTA, or just getting out. The weather moderates, fewer crowds and warm sunshine abounds. Probably many like the comforts of home to operate from but there is a real joy making QSOs from the outdoors especially with equipment that you have built. I like to work some of the events from the field whenever I get the chance.

## Donations

Thank you for mailing your check to:  
**North American QRP CW Club, Inc**  
**35 Heather Circle**  
**Cave Spring, GA 30124**

We are getting close to meeting our Anniversary goals but we do need some additional help.

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

Don't forget the **Poll Question** each month on the homepage of our website. Please give us your 2 cents worth.

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

## GET SET – FINAL COUNTDOWN

We are just a few days from the start of our 19th Anniversary Celebration which will run from 0000 UTC October 8th to 2359 UTC October 14th (Saturday evening the 8th to Saturday evening the 14th in North America)

We have 34 volunteer operators signed up to put our special N3A/# call sign on the air from all over the US. **We can still use more ops, especially in HI and PR. We also need N3A ops to put the call out in those zones and in the 2 and 8 zones during the October Sprint.** The N3A operators will generally be found near the standard QRP operating frequencies on all HF bands. Their calls, operating times and frequencies will be posted on our spotting page at [http://naqcc.info/spot\\_schedule.php](http://naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php) That page will be updated continuously, so check it anytime you have an opportunity to try and work the N3A ops.

## PICTURES AND STORIES

I encourage all N3A ops to submit pictures and descriptions of your operations, especially if you were operating outdoors. Let us know what equipment you were using and any unusual contacts that you made.

You can collect certificates for working the N3A ops. More information about the celebration and details on how to get your QSL certificate can be found at [http://naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).

## SPRINT FOR PRIZES

On October 11th (Tuesday the 10th in North America) we will have our regular monthly

sprint with an anniversary bonus – special prizes valued at over \$1,000 will be given to 10 lucky member participants.

## SEE PAGE 5 FOR ALL THE GREAT PRIZES!

As we have done in past years, there are two different tiers for the prize drawing. The top three prizes will be awarded to member-sprinters who have also accumulated a specific number of participation points in the first nine months of the year. The eligibility requirement for the remaining 7 prizes is simply to be a participant in the sprint. Complete details of these eligibility requirements can be found at [http://naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_19th\\_anniv.html](http://naqcc.info/prize_drawing_19th_anniv.html)

Links to the specific anniversary sprint as well as our general spring rules can be found at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>.

## MORE WAYS TO WIN

Our sprints are a great place for non-contesters to get their feet wet and work many QRP stations in a short time. Even if you don't enter the sprint because the anniversary has already started and you can earn a prize in our monthly challenge. There are three great anniversary prizes. Challenge details are at [http://naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_19th\\_anniv.html](http://naqcc.info/prize_drawing_19th_anniv.html).

Have some fun celebrating the 18th anniversary of the NAQCC -the greatest club specifically devoted to QRP/CW operating!

–Rich KC3MIO #9942  
[hamberger@ptd.net](mailto:hamberger@ptd.net)

# 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY N3A STATIONS

## WORK N3A STATIONS ALL WEEK

Members will be operating with the N3A special event call starting on **0000Z October 8, 2022 through 2359Z October 1, 2022**. Track them down and work them all. Check the spot page to see who is on the air: [http://www.naqcc.info/spot\\_schedule.php](http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php)

## N3A IN THE OCTOBER SPRINT

One operator (**in bold**) from each district has been exclusively designated to use the special call in the Sprint that week.

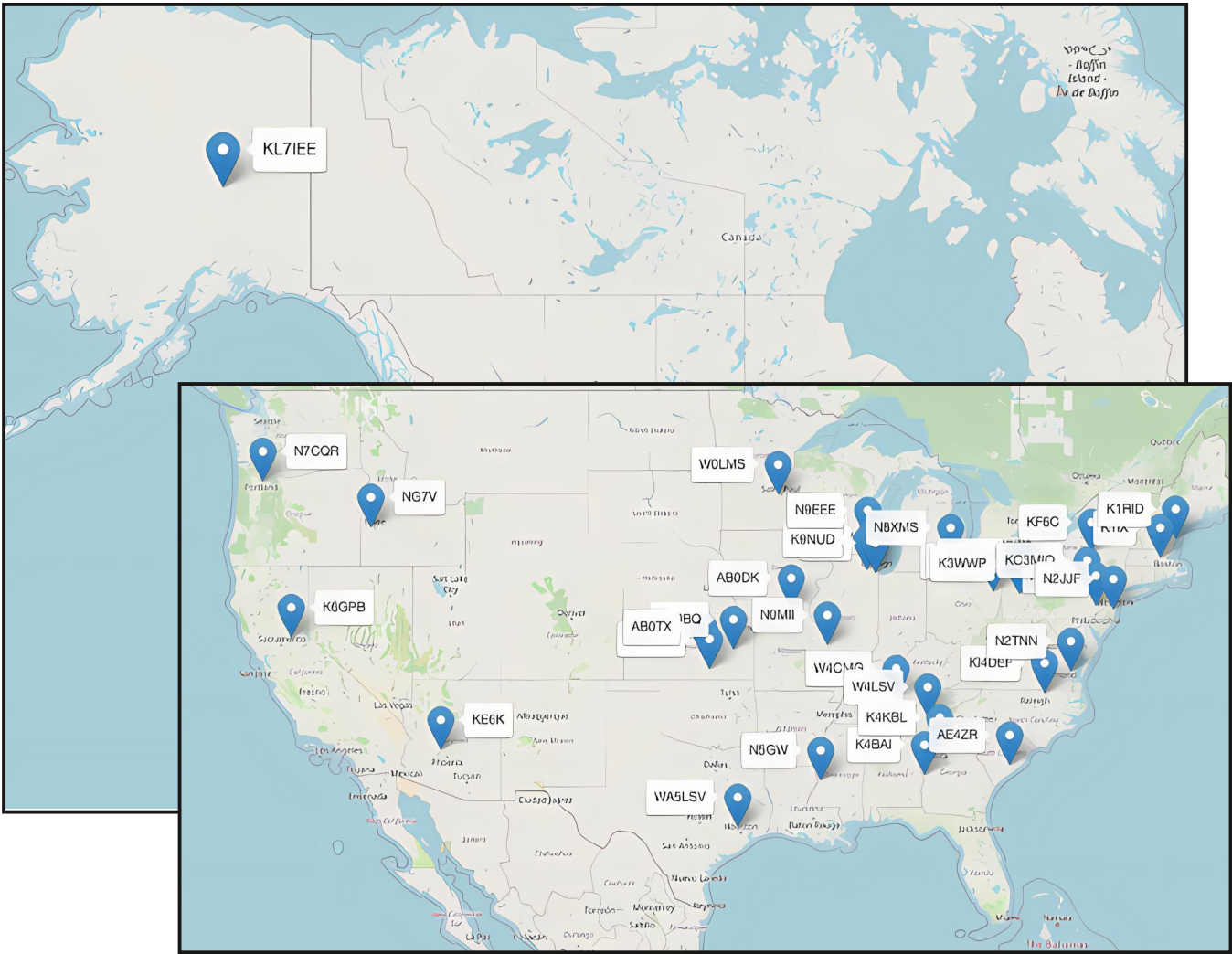
## SPECIAL QSL AND CERTIFICATE:

Special QSLs and certificates are available for anyone making contacts with our N3A stations and there is a special certificate for working a sweep of all the available districts. To get your QSL or certificate sending a list of your N3A/# QSOs, including date, UTC and band to the mailing or email address shown below. Please send your list of N3A/# QSOs as simple text. Spreadsheets, ADIF logs, Cabrillo logs, etc. complicate our work. For QSL cards please include an SASE and money to cover expenses (\$1 for up to 4 cards, \$2 for up to 8 cards, \$3 for up to 12 cards) For an emailed certificate there is no cost but if you want one mailed to you there is a \$3 charge to cover expenses. Remember to include your name, call, and address or email address with your request.

Send your requests to: John Griswold, KK1X, 34 Cambridge St. Ayer, MA 01432 email: [awards@kk1x.net](mailto:awards@kk1x.net)

Call	NAQCC #	Name	Section	Number
AB0TX	2470	Michael Harvey	N3A/0	10000
W5WMQ	<b>11098</b>	<b>Stacy Walle</b>	<b>N3A/0</b>	<b>10000</b>
AB0DK	9209	David Krueger	N3A/0	10000
N0MII	7878	Jeff Logullo	N3A/0	10000
W0LMS	576	Rusty Lane	N3A/0	10000
AC0BQ	1440	Johhny Matlock	N3A/0	10000
K1RID	<b>7121</b>	<b>Ed Ridolfi</b>	<b>N3A/1</b>	<b>10001</b>
K1IX	7116	Frank McInnis	N3A/1	10001
N2JJF	1117	Denis O'Brien	N3A/2	10002
KC3MIO	<b>9942</b>	<b>Rich Berger</b>	<b>N3A/3</b>	<b>10003</b>
K3WWP	2	John Shannon	N3A/3	10003
KC2EGL	1236	Mike Brennan	N3A/3	10003
WB3FAE	6893	Tom Rice	N3A/3	10003
NR3Z	8717	Marty Skitch	N3A/3	10003
K4KBL	8806	Jerry Pereira	N3A/4	10004
W4LSV	3107	Barry Fluxe	N3A/4	10004
K4BAI	<b>644</b>	<b>John Laney</b>	<b>N3A/4</b>	<b>10004</b>
KO4WFP	11279	Teri Beard	N3A/4	10004
W4CMG	10520	Cathy Goodrich	N3A/4	10004
N2TNN	11052	Dean Marzocca	N3A/4	10004
KI4DEF	247	Kevin Miller	N3A/4	10004
AE4ZR	8936	David Merritts	N3A/4	10004
N5GW	<b>5353</b>	<b>Gene Warren</b>	<b>N3A/5</b>	<b>10005</b>
WA5LSV	7796	Larry Hill	N3A/5	10005
K6GPB	2757	Earl Wilson	N3A/6	10006
KE6K	<b>6655</b>	<b>John Welch</b>	<b>N3A/7</b>	<b>10007</b>
NG7V	11073	Ron Poulin	N3A/7	10007
N7CQR	4040	Dan Presley	N3A/7	10007
W3IQ	8511	Bud Householder	N3A/8	10008
N8XMS	<b>675</b>	<b>Paul Huff</b>	<b>N3A/8</b>	<b>10008</b>
N9EEE	<b>11389</b>	<b>Dick Strassburger</b>	<b>N3A/9</b>	<b>10009</b>
K9NUD	10575	Steve Thom	N3A/9	10009
K9GA	1736	George Armstrong	N3A/9	10009
KC9IL	7610	Warren Pugh	N3A/9	10009
KL7IEE	3966	Richard Mayrand	N3A/KL7	10011





SERIOUSLY? HOW DO YOU NOT LIKE CAR WASHES?  
EVERYONE LIKES CAR WASHES!

SURE, I LOVE BEING TRAPPED IN A DARK SHAKING GLASS BOX THAT A HUGE LOUD ROBOT IS LICKING.

GREAT, NOW I DON'T LIKE CAR WASHES EITHER.

vroom vroom!  
slurp!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

State	Times	IN	Out	Freqs	Links
CA	Oct 7 1600Z to Oct 8 2200Z	QSO# County	QSO# ST	1.815 & 40 kHz up	<a href="#">rules</a>
NV	Oct 14 0300Z to Oct 15 2100Z	RST County	RST ST	1815, 7025-7035, and 40 kHz up	<a href="#">rules</a>
AZ	Oct 14 1500Z to Oct 15 0500Z	RST County	RST ST	1812 & 48 kHz up	<a href="#">rules</a>
PA	Oct 14 1600Z to Oct 15 0400Z & Oct 15 1300Z to Oct 15 2200Z	QSO# County	QSO# ARRL/C an Section	1810 & 40 kHz up	<a href="#">rules</a>
SD	Oct 14 1800Z to Oct 15 1800Z	RST County	RST ST	1.830 & 40 kHz up, plus 7.100 & 14.100	<a href="#">rules</a>
NY	Oct 21 1400Z to Oct 22 0200Z	RST County	RST ST	contest bands	<a href="#">rules</a>
IL	Oct 22 1700Z to Oct 23 0100Z	RST County	RST ST	contest bands	<a href="#">rules</a>

## 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](mailto: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 2021 article](#) or contact him at: [don@hekman.net](mailto:don@hekman.net)

## QSO PARTY SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**Lee AA4GA #5415** Nice to have a lot of activity. Five QSO parties at once is kind of a pain, but N1MM takes care of switching logs pretty easily. I'd rather have that than one QSO party with low activity! I thought I'd never find any NH stations - only six hours during the day each day wasn't a lot of fun, but with some spotting help from KR4AE and RBN, I was able to bag exactly two contacts! TX, IA, and NJ were great. WA was a little tough for me - it's not a good direction for me, especially at that distance, and I made a lot of unsuccessful calls. And enough has already been said about NH!

**Ben AC2YD #10378** Op time was limited to daytime, before another jazz gig took me away for the evening. Every Q was on 20m ... I heard one station on 15m very faintly, and one or two on 40m faintly, but not enough propagation from here in NJ at the time for them to hear my QRP sig. 40m probably would have been fun in the evening, but music called me away.

Worked AA4GA twice on 20m, nice signal both times ... thanks for the info on 3830scores about how you travel from county to county; got me looking at half-wave-end-feds again ... I might be tempted to do some traveling in future years; NJ is not all that far from a number of states, especially DE(!).

To all: Give me a shout next weekend during NJQP!! I'll be at home here in Hunterdon county.

**Brent WT4U #9019** I had hoped to rack up a few points in the late afternoon and evening, but heard only two AL stations. Noise levels were high and my attempts were limited by frequent small thunderstorms. Last year I

blanked completely (forgot?), so I should be happy with the multiplier. Next week will be nuts.

**Don VE3DQN #5846** Well, with my limited time available I did my best. I'd move slowly up or down the band, try whoever was calling CQ and record the QSO in the appropriate N3FJP logbook. At least I was able to reach the QSO number goal I'd set for myself. But completely wiped out on getting an NH station. The limited hours--stopping at 2200Z on each of the two days--disadvantages those of us who live close to NH, unless NH operators are willing to go on 40 and 80m during daytime hours.

I'm really looking forward to the CAQP in less than two weeks. Not only is it the most active SQP, I have special affinity for it because CA is my home state. But this year is going to be different for me, and I don't know what to expect. In the 7-8 years I've participated in the CAQP, this is the first year I'll limit my operations to QRP and CW. In the past CAQPs I'd been so intent on gaining the coveted WACC award that I generally operated at higher powers and SSB at times to chase counties I still needed.

**Steve NI8W #11335** Working 5 QSO parties in a weekend was a strain on my brain, but I was successful in all of them. TX was especially active and accessible from central OH. I worked WI0WA several times on multiple county borders, which accounted for most of my IA QSOs. NJ must have been too close for 20m skip during the day, but I was able to work them on 40m during the late afternoon and early evening. NH CW stations were rare but boomed in on both 20m and 40m when I could find them. I was a bit worried about WA, but I was able to work most of the stations I heard. All in all it was a fun weekend.

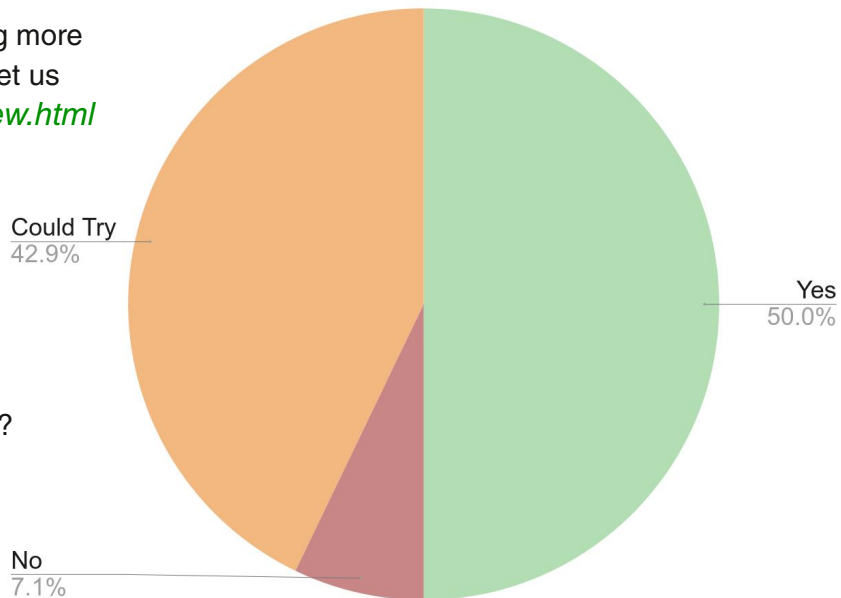




# MEMBER POLLS

## NOVEMBER POLL

Will cold weather have you working more QRP CW in a nice warm shack? Let us know at [http://naqcc.info/poll\\_new.html](http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html)  
Comments are open.



## OCTOBER POLL

Should we try a WARC Week?  
Details in comments  
[http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_past\\_polls.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_past_polls.html)



### Ham History BY DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



LEARN CODE THE EASY WAY WITH THE INSTRUCTOGRAPH

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



# THE PAST BECOMES THE PRESENT

BY DAVE KY4IE #11245

Shores, Virginia is a remote, rural enclave in Fluvanna County, Virginia. It is located along a couple of country roads that dead end at the James River. In 1983 my wife and I bought an abandoned farmhouse in Shores. It lacked plumbing and electricity and was collapsing, but we were young and enthusiastic and moved on in. I built an out-house, tore down a portion of the old house and jacked up another. I wired and plumbed and dug a basement (the house was originally built resting on stumps). Somehow, in the midst of renovations, I got my Novice ticket: KB4HGW.

## FIRST RIG

A ham from the local club sold me his old HW-8, power supply, and straight key. The house had no insulation or interior walls—just clapboard—we could see out between siding boards. As a bonus, this meant that running a wire antenna was a piece of cake!

The house sat on the largest hill around. We could see the old Afton Mountain Holiday Inn sign lit up from there although it was 30 miles away. I had never heard of SWR or resonance back then but my antenna worked just fine. Many QSOs were made and confirmed.

## 40-YEAR-OLD QSL CARDS

Fast forward 40 years and I am back on the air, still all CW and still low power, now as KY4IE. After two moves across the country and numerous shorter ones, I was astounded when we discovered a couple dozen QSL cards along with

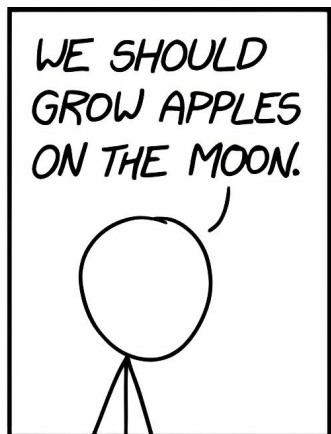
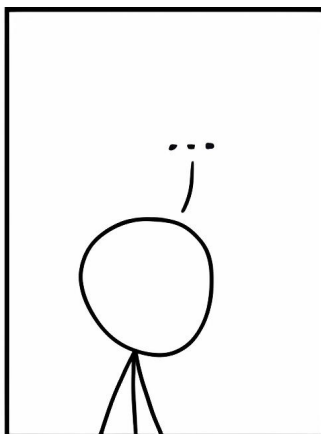
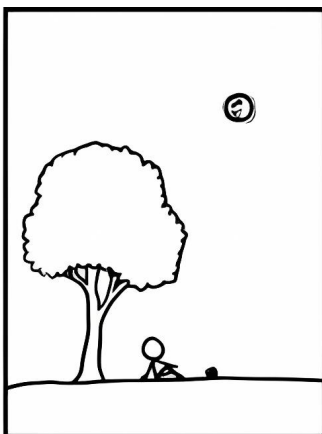
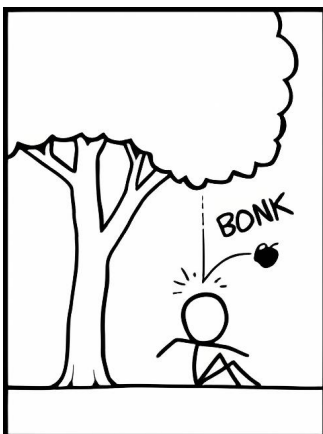
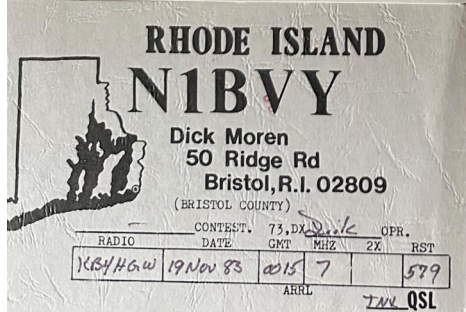
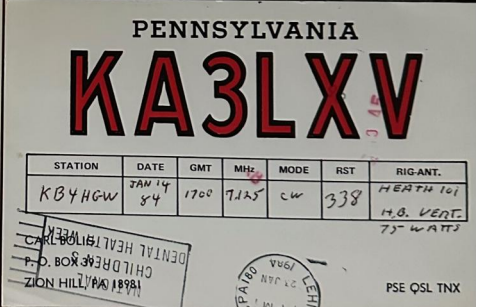
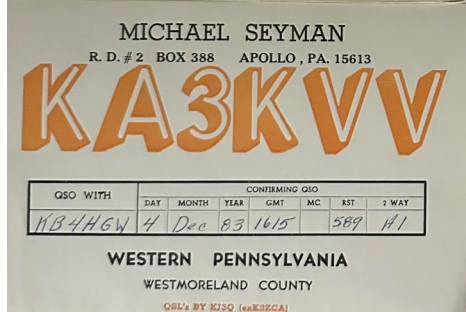
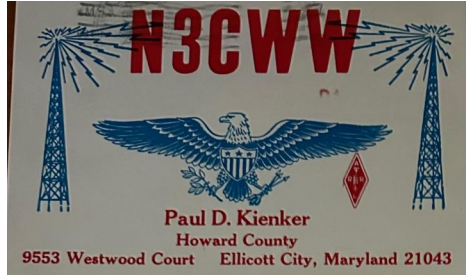


my Novice ticket buried in an old box.

### MAKING CONTACT

I reached out to the hams on these cards and heard back from one, Joe WB2JKJ of "Radio Club of JHS 22" in New York City. Joe is president of the club and has been mentoring students there since our QSO in 1983.

Sometimes, the past circles around to the present and really wonderful surprises happen. For me, finding this card and hearing from Joe, was one of those surprises.





# NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

## THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: CONSTELLATIONS OF THE ZODIAC

The signs of the Zodiac are said to determine things about us such as personality traits and what kind of a month we may expect. They are taken from the various constellations that appear in our sky.

### I'LL FOLLOW THE SUN

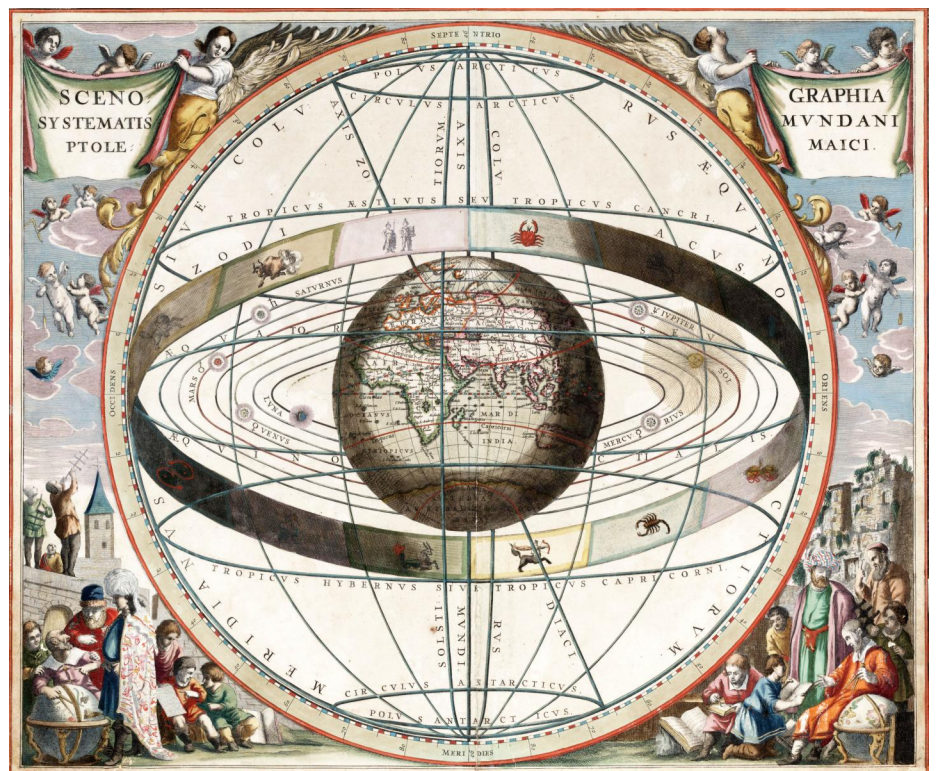
Why were these particular ones selected from all those visible to us? How was it done? From our Earth bound perspective, the Sun traces a circular path across the sky, known as the ecliptic. The constellations of the Zodiac were selected from the ones that lie along this path.

How do you know your personal sign? To determine that, you need to know what constellation the Sun was in the day you were born. That one is your sign.

### STARS ON THE MOVE

There is a small issue with this however. The Earth's rotational axis is not fixed but moves in a circle. This is due to the gravitational attraction of the Sun and is known as precession. It slowly alters the dates when the Sun passes through a certain constellation. This whole cycle takes about 26,000 years. So unless you intend to live to a really, really ripe old age, there is no need to be concerned that someone with your same birthday will have a different Zodiac sign.

Schema huius præmissæ diuisionis Sphærarum .




**WORDS**

- CONSTELLATIONS OF THE ZODIAC
- PERSONALITY TRAITS
- SOLAR CIRCULAR PATH
- PRECESSION OF THE EARTH'S AXIS

**CHALLENGE TRACKER:**

A	C	D	E	F	H	I	L	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	X	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](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 [charlie.wilber@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.wilber@gmail.com)

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](http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html)

## NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

Next month's Lazy Dog Bomb Challenge will be a blast.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202311.html>

## LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGES

The deadline for submissions for the Squawk Codes letter challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202309.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](http://naqcc.info/challenges_schedule.html).

Number of Challenges	Members
25+	AC2C DK1VD KU4A N1JI K9OSC KA5PVB KD0V KC5F WT4U W2ITT AB9BZ NN9K WY3H KI4IO WY7N KI8I VE3HUR ND9M NN3E N1LU W1BLU KD2MX
50+	AK3X KJ4R VE3DQN AH6AX VE3FUJ NF1U WB4OMM G3JFS KB1M N9SE N4OW
75+	PA9CW PA0XAW WI5H WA2FBN W3IQ
100+	K1IEE
125+	K1YAN
150+	N8XMS W2JEK K3WWP

### CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**W4KAC:** Thanks again. This is becoming a habit. Many of my contacts were made while portable at the family farm. Most with the QRP-Labs QMX. Looking forward to next month.

**W1BLU:** I can never predict, (accurately), which letter or number will be difficult to get! Every month is a surprise. Really enjoy these.

**PA9CW:** This month I activated 5 Flora and Fauna parks in The Netherlands. So with a total of about 250 QSO's it was no problem to get the letters. 73 and cu in the next challenge. Tonnie

**ON7DQ:** Not so difficult this month, since I could add a few QRP SOTA activations in EA6 Mallorca during my holiday. Rig was a KX3, using a random endfed antenna. Great fun as always!

**N8XMS:** I had to actively go on the hunt to finish up all of the needed "0's" and "O's."





# NAQCC AWARDS

## FEATURED AWARD:

### WAC

It's just the classic Worked All Continents award with some modifications for QRP/CW.

### TIME FRAME FOR QUALIFYING QSO's:

January 1, 2004 0000Z through the present

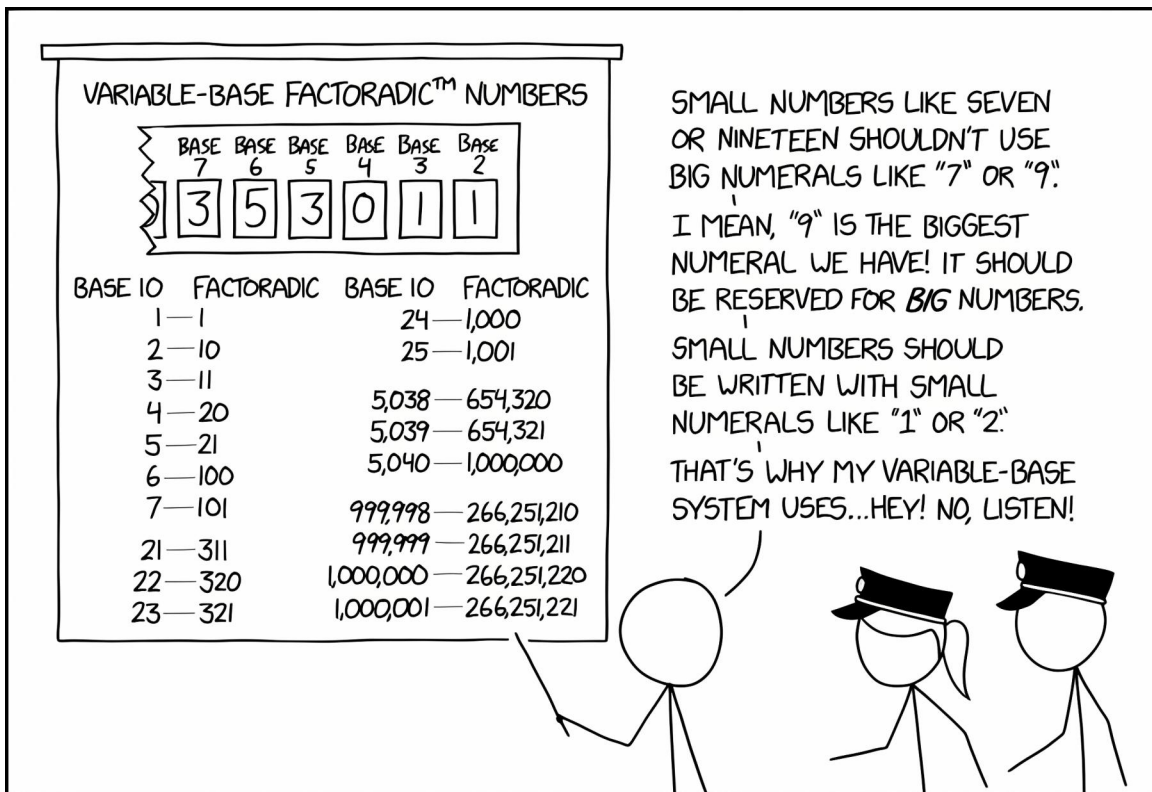
### BASIC AWARD PREMISE:

Contact all 6 permanently inhabited continents (AF,AS,EU,NA,OC,SA) within the time frame using QRP, CW, and simple wire antennas.

### CATEGORIES:

- A - 6 continents.
- B - 6 continents 2X QRP
- C - 6 continents QRPp

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>.



FACTORIAL NUMBERS ARE THE NUMBER SYSTEM THAT SOUNDS MOST LIKE A PRANK BY SOMEONE WHO'S ABOUT TO BE ESCORTED OUT OF THE MATH DEPARTMENT BY SECURITY.

# MILLIWATTING ADVENTURES AND MORE IN FLORIDA

BY KEVIN KI4DEF #247

After several months away working on Hurricane Ian recovery in FL, I resumed my milliwattting journey through state QSO parties with CO and TN. Saturday N0NBH predicted fair-poor propagation conditions on all bands for the CO QSO Party. However, during the first two hours my CQs on 15 and 20m were spotted on both bands in KS, AZ, and WI. I heard a few weak signals on 20m but none on 15m. I was able to work 2 OMs on 20m for the multiplier.

Propagation improved Sunday for the TN QP, but 40 and 80m remained fair-poor (TN is too close

to my NC QTH for higher bands). During the first few hours, my 40m CQs were spotted in MD NC and PA, and I heard a few weak signals but was unable to work any. 40m opened briefly later in the afternoon, but despite a sudden flurry of signals, strong and weak, I couldn't catch any using my usual strategies for 300 mW rockbound. As the sun set, both 40 and 80m came alive, again with both strong and weak signals. My CQs were spotted on both bands, but I was unable to get through on 40m. With more power on 80m I did better, working 2 for the multiplier. Minimal results, but not bad for minimal propagation and minimal power.



## ASSIGNMENT: FLORIDA

I retired from the US Dept of the Interior several years ago (Dec 2018; I'm an ecologist). Around the time COVID struck, I was invited to come back part-time, on an as-needed basis, to advise FEMA in some technical aspects of disaster recovery, helping communities become more sustainable and resilient.

I'm part of DOI's Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function cadre (<https://www.doi.gov/recovery/about-recovery/ncr-rsf-overview>). It's very rewarding. Because of COVID, it took several years for them to put me to work; this is my first assignment. I've been working in FL, mostly in the Ft Myers area, since Memorial Day.

## FIRE STATION FIELD DAY

A highlight of my time there was joining the Ft Myers ARC for Field Day and getting to help operate both of their stations:



W4LOC and W4LX. The latter was especially fun: in the waning hours, they'd sent me from their fire station LOC site to the "traditional" site because all the CW ops that had been there had left.

### POCKET TE-NE-KE TO THE RESCUE

When I got there they were closing up shop: no one could configure any of their SDR rigs to do CW, and I'd left my MTR3b at the hotel. Undaunted, one of the OMs pulled out an old club lcom, we hooked it up to the only antenna that was still up (a 15m beam), I connected the



A tiny KK5PY version of the Boyd Mason NE8KE Te-Ne-Ke sold by the North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club <https://w8cso.org/te-ne-ke/>



KK5PY Te Ne Ke I had in my pocket, and away we went! Some of the folks still standing were curious, so I unplugged the headset and turned up the AF gain. They gathered 'round the rig, reminiscing and chatting about CW, and picking out calls. A few CW ops were still there after all!

Thanks for all you and Brent do to support NAQCC. You've helped us all have a blast with this challenge! Together we may have put NAQCC on the 3830 "map" (the pull-down).

72/73, Kevin KI4DEF

# NAQCC SPRINTS

## OCTOBER SPRINT

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Wednesday, October 11th at 0030-0230Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, October 10th in North America. Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202310.html>.

## RULES

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

## SEPTEMBER SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202309.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: VA2NW

September Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	93	85	217	4/17
Participants	134	117	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1,348	958	3,154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	771	564	1,704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	577	394	1,450	4/17
20m QSOs	205	179	1,232	8/13
40m QSOs	1,071	735	2,203	4/17
80m QSOs	72	44	1,417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	14.5	11.3	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	AC1KV	K1MZM	KN1H
W2	KA2KGP	WA2NYY	W2SH
W3	KW2A	KC3MIO K3JZD (TIE)	-
W4	KC5F	N2TNN	WB0CJB
W5	N5GW	AC5BX	-
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	KJ7KDB	-	-
W8	NF8M	-	-
W9	K9NUD	WB9HFK	N8HWV
W0	N0TA	N8LA	NN0SS
Canada	VA3KRJ	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1YAN	-	-
W2	N2DGQ	-	-
W3	K3RLL	NN3E	-
W4	KJ4R	AA2MX	-
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	KD0V	-	-
Canada	VE3IDS	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	W1TER	-
W2	K2OID	N2JJF	WA1GWH
W3	KC3RN	-	-
W4	K4BAI	N4MJ	K4KBL
W5	KE5YUM	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	WB8ENE
W9	N9EEE	K9EYT KY0Q (TIE)	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	VE3SIF	-	-
DX	DK1VD	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	-	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	NG7V	-	-



## SPRINT HONOR ROLL

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

Number of Sprints	Members
50+	N7QR KF7WNS KC7DM K4KBL VE3GNU WD4OHD KB0ETU K2YGM AA7CU K1IX AA5LH N8QY WY3H N8HVV K6CSL W5UAA KC2EGL KE9DR AB8FJ NN9K KC2MJT WK6L K2HT VE3HUR W4HH KC3RN KD9EBS K4ORD K5GQ N1JI WA2NYY KD0DK K3JZD KB4QQJ KB9ILT WT4U AB9BZ VA3NU K8NGW
75+	K9EYT KQ1P KB1M K4NVJ WA1GWH VE3DQN WB9HFK WB4OMM WA2FBN VE3FUJ K9OSC N2CN WB1GYZ WD0K N8BB NQ2W K6MGO AA0W NF5U W15H NN0SS KJ4R N8APO
100+	KL7IEE AK3X N5GW W4DUK NA4O KN1H AA9L KA9FQG NO2D WB8ENE N4MJ KD2MX N8LA KD3CA
125+	N2ESE KE5YUM WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y N4FI N0TA K4KRW
150+	K3RLL NF8M K4BAI W9CC N8XMS K2CWM KU4A K4JPN KD0V
175+	W2SH W8GG
200+	K3WWP KA2KGP W2JEK

### SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**VA3KRJ** - Conditions rough from here tonight. Thanks for the contacts and see you next month!

**NG7V** - My first sprint, went well considering band conditions. All in all, a very rewarding experience.

**N2QFD** - 1st sprints in years. Nice to catch so many active. Used Alinco DX-SR8 at 1W and Vibro-cootie key.

**W1BLU** - Surrounded by storms I probably shouldn't have been on but whatever. I did manage to pull out two stations thru the static so it was worth it. Would like to see sprints more than once a month! Thanks!

**WB1GYZ** - Fired up my TS-520s for the Sprint tonight after installing a CW filter for it. Also replaced the meter bulbs for that warm vintage glow. Even though a new rig can run circles around it, there's just something special about keeping an old timer going.

**N3CAA** - First sprint with a EFRW built from salvaged telephone wire. As the saying goes, when life brings you a dump truck with raised bucket that rips all of the utility lines off your house, make simple wire antennas. Bands were a bit noisy, but otherwise relatively good here. Thanks all for the QSOs and especially to KN2G for first QSO on 80m!

**WA2FBN** - Only able to work first half hour. Tent camping and logging by flashlight; getting cold. TNX 72 Ken



# 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](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	7067 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)	Off the air			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)

Sep 01 – QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, W7ANM, WB4SPB, KB7DYP, N7TB, K7JUV

Sep 08 – QNI (11) NCS WB4SPB, KC7CW, WB7WHG, N7TB, N0DA, K7SH,  
KE7LKW/p, AD7BP, KB7DYP, KI7SJE, N7QR

Sep 15 – QNI (11) NCS WB7WHG, KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, N7TB, W7ANM, K7JUV, N0DA,  
NB6M, KB7DYP, KC7CW

Sep 22 – QNI (9) NCS KE7LKW, W7ANM, WB4SPB, KB7DYP, WB7WHG, K7SH, AB7BP, KC7CW,  
K7JUV

## 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

Sep 04 – QNI (2) W0CC, KI4MZC

Don did a GREAT job pulling out the signal from all the QRM and QSB!

Sep 11 – QNI (1) W0CC

Mild QSB, moderate QRM; however, no QSO. Next week will be better!

Sep 18 – QNI (1) W0CC

Several stations with strong and broad (1.5 k HZ) signals on and around 7.031 MHz. Had to go down to 7.02975 to find a "clear" stop; however, I am not sure that the members will search that distance for my 5-watt signal.

Sept 25 – QNI (1) W0CC

Must be a good Monday Night Football Game!

## NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0000 UTC,  
on 7067 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)  
Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

Sep 05 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5UM, N4NN

Good signals last night. Terry's new EF random wire at 10ft. did a good job. He was 599 with some QSB. Allen in GA was also 599. No QRM problems last night on 7.067kc. Good Labor Day group.

Sep 12 – No Net

Sep 19 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5UM, KE5YGA

Good signals tonight and no QRM. Weather cooler but dry everywhere and all need rain pretty bad...

Sep 26 – QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, KE5UM, KE5YGA, N4NN, KD5GCX

Conditions were good last night and good copy on all. Most working on the yard for fall and getting some rain. Great to have Bill KD5GCX from OK check in last night. CU next month.

## MAY 29 – NAQCC WYOMING DAILY QRS 80 METER NET (WY80)

Currently off the air.

Main NCS - Steve KE7UUJ (Wyoming)



# 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/>.

### EAGLE POINT PARK NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA SEPT 16, 2023

We arrived at the park around 8:30AM and set up.

#### Attending:

**Ron, N9EE** rig: IC705, new JNCRADIO MC750 Portable HF GP vertical tuned to 20m.

**Rick, KQ4JQN** with BuddiStick vertical

**Chuck, KA4CEM** with G90 and 40m end fed antenna



**Tim, WD8MVU** with his Rig Expert AA-66 antenna analyzer helped get some antennas tuned.

**Don, KA2KDP**

**Frank, KK4YDF**

**Dan, AB4LN**

**Jane**, no call, visitor learning about Ham Radio. Has some gear at home.

**Ron, N9EE** was trying out his new MC750 vertical. He always wanted to try a vertical for have seen others having good reports using them. Chuck & Rick had just got their G90s and were wanting to work a park.

#### LOG:

#### Ron, N9EE IC705 & MC750

TIME	CALL	RST	FREQ	COMMENT
1103	N1FJ	569/599	14.061	POTA
1105	W1AW/4	599/599	14.062	TN
1110	WB8DDE	559/599	14.060	OH
1112	N9ZJ	599/599	14.060	IN
1114	W3PD	579/579	14.060	NY
1115	K4RKW	579/579	14.060	TX
1116	K2HYD	589/599	14.060	VA
1119	N5QLZ	599/579	14.057	Red, MS, SKCC 25227T
1155	N5AU	599/599	14.048	TQP, RAN
1156	N9DF	599/599	14.042	TQP, GILL
1159	K5Y	599/559	14.0415	TQP, BZA
1206	W1AW/0	599/599	14.0396	CO
1208	KG5U	599/599	14.0337	TQP, HARR
1210	W5MF	599/599	14.026	TQP, HARR
1212	W1AW/4	599/599	14.022	TN
1213	W5LXS	599/599	14.035	TQP, MILL

We had hot dogs and sodas for all. The Texas QSO Party was going strong on 20m so QSOs came easy and quickly. Good to see some on the remote W1AW stations on giving QSOs. By 12 noon Sun was getting high and temperature was also getting up so we packed up and QRT'd.





**NAQCC-WFL QRP EVENT  
ERNIE WAVER YOUTH PARK  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

Had a great time Saturday, Sept 30 , at Ernie Waver Youth Park with the Hernando Co ARA club after our Saturday breakfast.

Ron, N9EE had his IC705 and MC750 Vertical tuned to 15m. Goes up in about 5 minutes, great for a park event.

Doug, N8QY with his G90, 40m End Fed Wire high end in a tall tree.

LOG: Ron, N9EE, IC705 with EleCraft Tuner and MC750 vertical (did not need T1 tuner).



TIME	CALL	RST	FREQ	COMMENT
1156	L7OD	599/599	21.0174	
1200	0Q23DA	599/599	21.015	
1202	KE0UI	599/599	21.031	MN
1211	NN5SB	559/119	18.080	NO COPY ME
1215	AA3B	599/599	21.030	
1217	KC1RKI	589/559	21.048	
1220	WB0RLJ	579/589	21.0525	POTA
1244	K2EAG/P	579/599	21.053	POTA
1247	K8JD	599/579	21.050	MI, John, SK 1395T
1250	NT6X	599/599	21.030	
1251	AI0Y	599/599	21.026	ND



We did not start operating until late in the morning, around 1100 hrs. Seems lately 20m and above don't open much until then. We had some discussion of the antennas and Doug's setup. He has been working on it for few months trying to get all set for QRP events.

As seen in the photos we had vistor, mostly checking out the trash cans. Had some crackers and was rather friendly after a few. Did not ask to operate.

Sun was getting high so around 1230 hrs we packed up and left.



## 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.

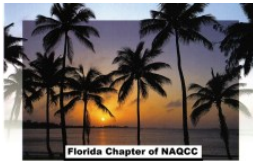
## NAQCC DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



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.

## 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.

## 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



Fun and affordable kits from Pacific Antenna






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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

NAQCC President	John KK4ITX	<a href="mailto:jleahy00@yahoo.com">jleahy00@yahoo.com</a>
NAQCC Treasurer	Dennis W4DWS	<a href="mailto:w4dws@arrl.net">w4dws@arrl.net</a>
Downeast Maine Chapter	Jeff KA1DBE	<a href="mailto:j.hanscom@gmail.com">j.hanscom@gmail.com</a>
Florida Chapter	Nikki KM4SBQ	<a href="mailto:nickies1130@aol.com">nickies1130@aol.com</a>
Illowa Chapter	Tim N9BIL	<a href="mailto:n9bil@arrl.net">n9bil@arrl.net</a>
West Florida Chapter	Ron N9EE	<a href="mailto:n9ee55@gmail.com">n9ee55@gmail.com</a>
Long Island Chapter	Howard WB2UZE	<a href="mailto:wb2uze@yahoo.com">wb2uze@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletter Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul KD2MX	<a href="mailto:kd2mx@arrl.net">kd2mx@arrl.net</a>
Newsletter Editor	Brent WT4U	<a href="mailto:brentWT4U@naqcc.radio">brentWT4U@naqcc.radio</a>
NAQCC CW Nets	Mark W8EWH	<a href="mailto:mark.yergin@gmail.com">mark.yergin@gmail.com</a>

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

