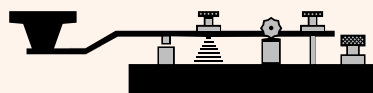


NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 307 • JANUARY 2024



KEY CLICKS

• **IN THIS ISSUE**

The Prez Sez... we have Sprints, challenges, and more winter fun; QSO Parties and rule clarifications; An Old-timer checks into a CW net; A nauti- Challenge; brew your own "Fist-Matic" straight key keyer; Double the Sprint reports; WAS+Canada Award; Soapboxes; Nets; and more.

• **ATTENTION SECRET AGENTS**

On January 20 at 2100Z, station KPH of the Maritime Radio Historical Society will operate a cold war era CW numbers station. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to copy and decode the message. Agents who have had to destroy their one-time pads or frequency lists should reference <https://www.radiomarine.org/mrhs-events> for a detailed brief. A *Certificate of Cryptographic Excellence* will be awarded upon proof of successful decode within the 72-hour window.

• **KH1: QRP CW IN YOUR POCKET**

Elecraft just put out this 5-band, 5-Watt CW rig with a built-in key meant for impromptu ops. With the optional whip antenna, ATU, and fold-out log, you can be on the air in seconds. The KH1 is awfully expensive, but it's also currently sold out! If you have one, write us a review and let us know if it's worth it.



• **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...

The December mW Sprint Cricket Drawing winner was Gary, WA1GWH. There was a good turnout and all had a great time per the soap box remarks. Thanks to an anonymous donor for providing the Four States QRP Cricket 20 kit.

JANUARY MONTHLY SPRINT #231

Wednesday Jan 17 8:30-10:30P EST which is
Thursday Jan. 18 0130-0330Z

160M SPRINT

Wednesday Jan 24 8:30-10:30P EST which is
Thursday Jan. 25 0130-0330Z

SPRINT BANDS - FREQUENCIES

80M - 3555-3565 kHz
(Be courteous to FISTS operating on 3558 kHz)
40M - 7030-7045 kHz
20M - 14059-14065 kHz

QSOs for our regular sprints are limited to those three bands. However the frequency ranges are expandable up and down to allow for our greatly increased participation. Don't stray overly far though, or you may not be found. For our special 160M sprint in January operating in the neighborhood of 1810 kHz is recommended.

MONTHLY CHALLENGES

I had a blast completing my very first Monthly Challenge thanks to picking up LU7YZ in Argentina on 10m. Not quite 1000 mpw but pretty close. The program link by Robby Robson, WB5RVZ I used to keep track of my progress can be found on the Alphabet Tutorial page

and it takes much of the work out of record-keeping and reporting.

Also I suggest reading up on the General Challenge Rules, it may save you from starting over, don't ask how I know ;-)

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Our 20th Anniversary (Oct.) is ahead of us! Hard to believe that 20 years ago the idea of NAQCC was born and now we have had 11,654 hams decide to give NAQCC a try!!

The plan for this year's anniversary is to have a prize list of around \$1500 +/- in QRP related equipment. The top three of the (13) prizes are awarded to those that have 9 Participation Points by October 1st. Points are earned for competing and submitting a log in the Monthly Sprints (1) and the Monthly Challenge (1) and if you do both in one month you get a Bonus Point for a total of (3). See last month's newsletter for an idea of what the prizes were for 2023.

WINTER FIELD QRP

Look back to the August '23 newsletter and find the article on a 1/8w 20m whip on a HB mag mount. With this antenna I activated two POTAs, participated in FOBB and the Mosquito Hunt this past summer in Maine. It works well and when needed you can operate from your vehicle and stay warm(er) and dry. Contact me if you want plans or have any questions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting and election of officers is tentatively scheduled for April 20th via ZOOM. If you are interested in being on the board, see the newsletter next month for the Nomination Committee persons to contact.

DONATIONS

Please mail your check to:
North American QRP CW Club, Inc
35 Heather Circle
Cave Spring, GA 30124

POLL

Don't forget the Poll Question each month on the home page 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!



MEMBER POLLS

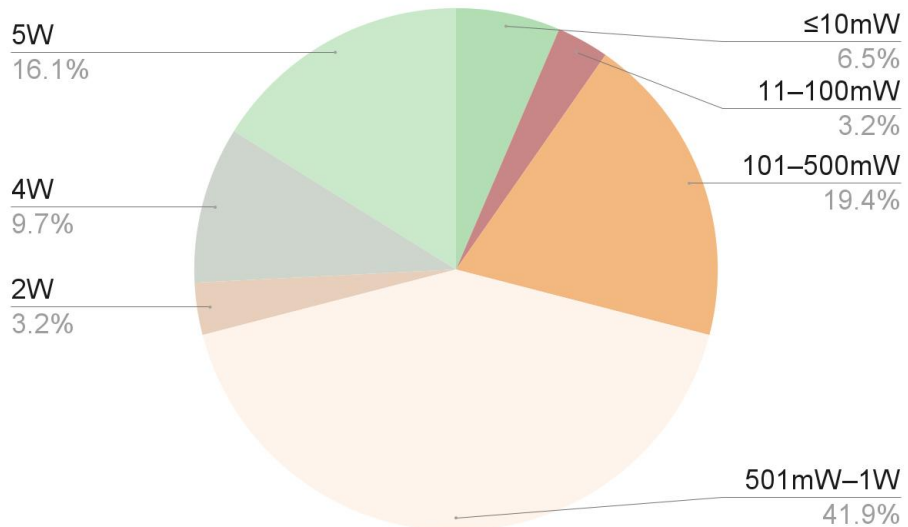
JANUARY POLL

Have New Year's Resolution? Let us know at http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html Comments are open.

DECEMBER POLL

What is the Lowest Power you have used to complete a QRPCW contact?

http://www.naqcc.info/main_past_polls.html



NAQCC STATE QSO PARTY CHALLENGE

BY DON VE3DQN

#5846

"DRIVERS, START YOUR ENGINES!"

Whoa! What newsletter is this!?

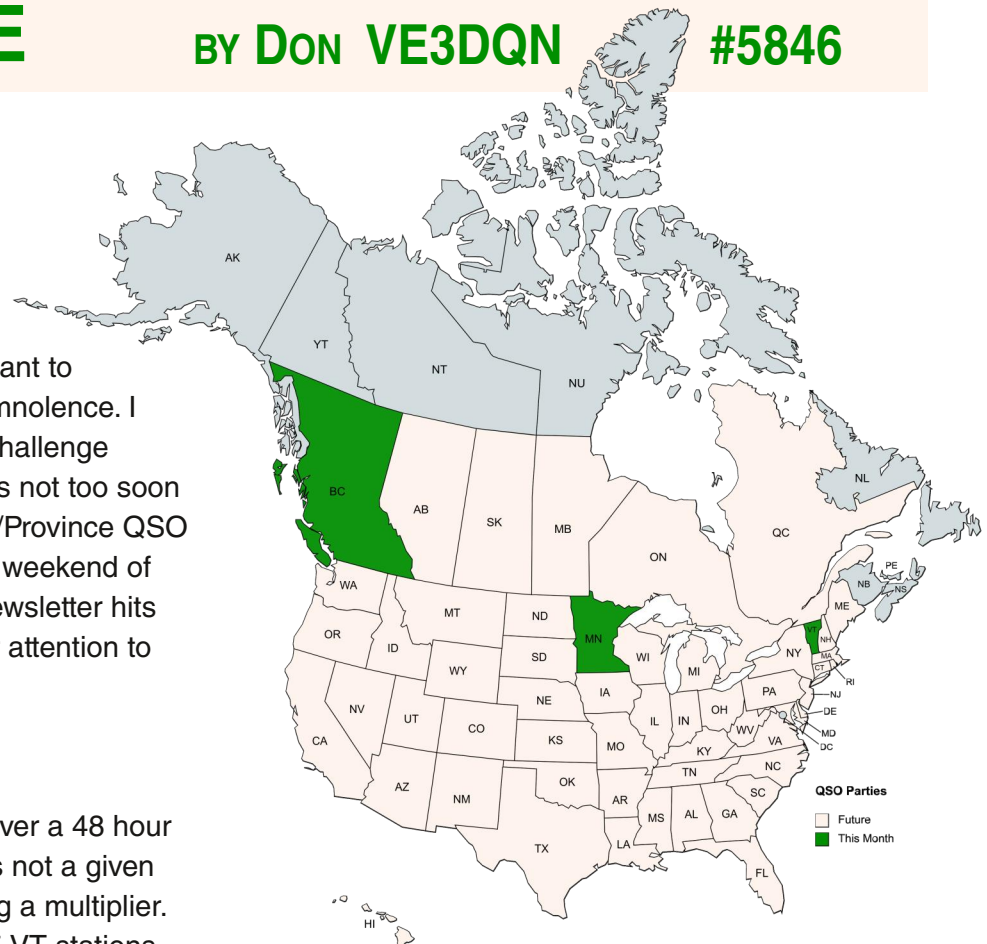
Okay, you are on the right frequency. This is the NAQCC January 2024 Newsletter, and I want to wake you up from your winter somnolence. I know that the State QSO Party Challenge season begins in February, but it's not too soon to put it in our sights. Three State/Province QSO Parties take place during the first weekend of February, before our February Newsletter hits our inboxes, so I want to call your attention to them.

VERMONT'S A TOUGH ONE

With few in-state stations active over a 48 hour period, the Vermont QSO Party is not a given for making two QSO's and gaining a multiplier. Last year fortunately there were 5 VT stations active on CW. Let's hope they're on again this year. The Minnesota QSO Party gives us a good chance to gain points. And the British Columbia Party also has lots of stations, but, hey, it's a long haul from the east coast to the west! I'm counting on propagation that favours openings on 15 and 10m.

SCORING SLIP-UPS

This is a good time to review the guidelines and suggestions for operating in the NAQCC version of the SQP Challenge. Even if you think you're familiar with it all, review each line. <http://naqcc.info/qsoparties.html>



Since we get our data from <https://3830scores.com/> it's important that you enter your data correctly. I call your attention to a couple places where we sometimes slip up.

On the chart of # of QSOs, I find it helpful to fill in the # of QSOs per band, then double check that the total is correct.

OF QSOs, NOT POINTS

Even if a CW QSO counts for 2 or 3 points in a particular SQP, the **total of CW QSOs should match actual QSOs, NOT the number of points gained by those QSOs.**

Upcoming QSO Parties					
	Start		End		Links
	Date	Time	Date	Time	
Vermont	Feb 03	0000Z	Feb 04	2400Z	Rules
British Columbia	Feb 04	1600Z	Feb 04	0359Z	Rules
	Feb 04	1600Z	Feb 04	2359Z	
Minnesota	Feb 03	1400Z	Feb 03	2400Z	Rules

We don't use the per-event multiplier data, but the same principle applies there. The # of multipliers cannot be more than the # of QSOs.

IN OR OUT?

Note the box just beneath the box for your email address. It's easy to overlook making the selection for either "In-State/Province" or "Out of State/Province."

DOUBLE-CHECK THE DATES

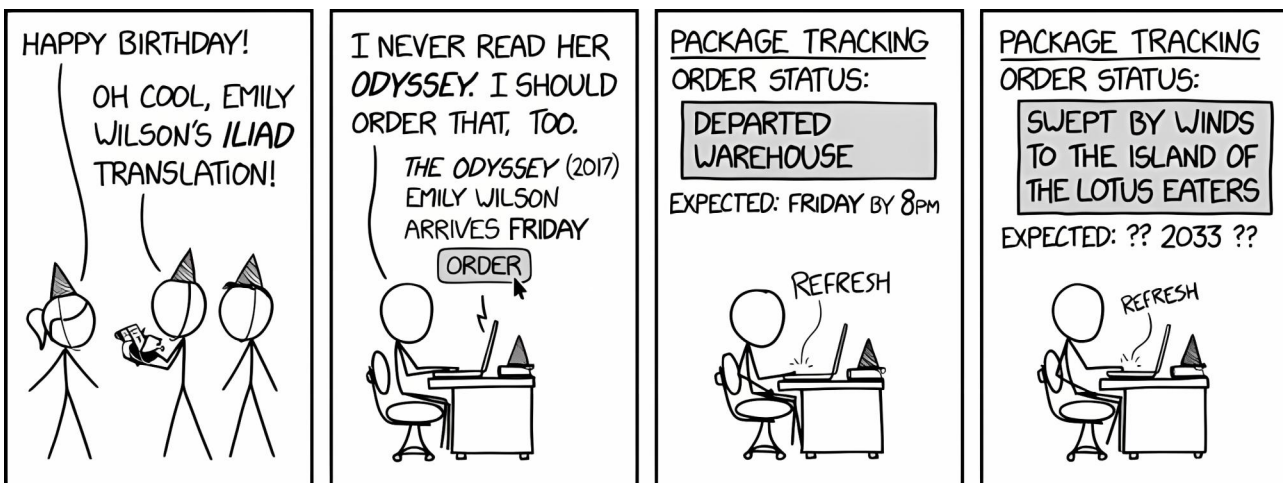
Though we post in our Newsletter each month the date/time/exchange/frequencies for the SQPs coming up in that month, it's also good to verify with the specific SQP website. Sometimes that change on short notice, and we've even been known to make mistakes. [did I just admit that?!]

FIRST TIMERS: GIVE IT A TRY

Now, a word to you who haven't yet participated in a State QSO Party operating strictly QRP and CW. I invite you to try it; it's a hoot! You can do it as casually or as competitively as you like. I won't repeat all the instructions here; read the website. Check out some of the soapbox comments of participants http://naqcc.info/qso parties_soapbox.html

Or see my original November 2021 Newsletter article that tells what attracted me in the first place to the SQP Challenge.

In 2022 we had 47 NAQCC participants in the SQP Challenge and 18 who earned certificates. In 2023 we had 67 and 27 earned certificates. Can we surpass that in 2024?



SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

BY JEFF KA1DBE #1570

One thing that I have never done in my 45 years of amateur radio is check into a CW net. Most of them are traffic nets and I don't really do a lot of Emcom with CW. A while back, I had read that the New England QRP club had started up their net again. I thought to myself, why not give it a try.

I had to Google net check-in procedure because I didn't know a QNI from a QRU. I scribbled some notes and figured I would listen to how others were checking in and follow.

As luck would have it, we got hit with a couple of major storms up here and my antenna was on the ground. As it was just before Christmas, I had no time to get it back up in the air until the weekend before Christmas.

This being a QRP net, I thought I would shake the dust off of my TenTec Argosy and use it for the task. The Argosy was one of my "Bucket List

Rigs"! (Everyone has a Rig bucket list right?)

The Net is on Wednesdays at 2000 EST. As the time slowly approached, I finally heard the net control station sending CQ NEQP. I waited.....and waited.....and waited. Well, I decided to jump in. Sent the letter B. Well, I guess this net uses full call signs. I sent my DE KA1DBE GE QRU BK. OK, I am in!

I started copying the other stations checking in and then net control wants everyone to send RST, State, Name, NEQRP#. NEQRP#? Yes, I have one of those.....I just had to find it. #807, Yes, that's it, big modulator tube. Kind of ironic for my QRP CW :)

I sent all my data and net control acknowledged my info and gave me a solid 599 and GUD SIGS. The old Argosy was getting the job done!

Wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that everyone will try something new this year!



THANKS!

I won an Emtech ZM-2 Tuner in the anniversary drawing. Just wanted to say "Thanks!!" to the club for this great prize! It is a perfect companion to my PFR 3B radio, and I'm looking forward to getting to the outdoors with it. Work and other obligations have cut into my radio, but hope to have more time soon. Thanks to all who donated and those who work to make the NAQCC a great club!



Thanks and 73,
Ed KJ4R #8048

NAQCC AWARDS

FEATURED AWARDS:

WAVE

This award is one suggested by Gary K1YAN. All questions about it go to him at gtxmx@verizon.net

It's just the classic WAS type award but focused on working the Canadian Provinces with QRP/ CW.

Time Frame For Qualifying QSO's:

March 1, 2011 0000Z through the present.

BASIC AWARD PREMISE:

Work All VE Provinces within the time frame using QRP, CW, and simple wire antennas.

Categories:

A - 8 Canadian Provinces

B - 8 Canadian Provinces 2X QRP http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html.

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>.



NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: THE MAYFLOWER 400

You hop aboard your vessel, ready for a day on the ocean and give instructions to be taken to your favorite fishing spot. The catch is that you are talking to your boat and not a person. Sound a bit far fetched? Well the early steps are being taken to make this a reality.

In the harbor at Plymouth, MA, the Mayflower 400, an autonomous ship, pulls up near its namesake the Mayflower II. She sports no sails or rigging, just the array of sensors that break her sleek profile. The contrast between ships is like a Model T parked next to a Ferrari. It is a trimaran style vessel, with a central hull and a pair of outriggers. At 49 feet long, she weighs about 5 tons and has a solar powered electric drive motor, batteries and a diesel backup generator. The official launching was in September of 2020.

Her crew is an artificial intelligence system, a cognitive pilot, nicknamed the 'AI Captain.' It is a pilot system that was built and "educated" by IBM and ProMare, a non-profit marine research entity. The captain's education required some one million gigabytes of data. During the process he acquired a knowledge of maritime law, maritime "rules of the road" and the ability to make decisions critical for safe navigation.

The vessel has 6 AI-powered cameras and 30 onboard sensors to gather information for its 15



data analyzing devices. Radar scans for 2.5 nautical miles while cameras search for visible ships and hazards. An Automatic identification system provides data on approaching vessels. GPS provides location, speed and course

data to help the Mayflower 400 navigate. Sensors monitor water depth and ocean conditions.

For a large portion of the voyage from Plymouth England to Plymouth, MA, the vessel had no human inputs available and traveled based only on its own decisions. If a connection is available, it can access the cloud to receive meteorological

data, receive any system updates and upload the ocean observation research data it has gathered. There were a few problems requiring a return to port at the beginning of the voyage. Then, after 40 days at sea, the Mayflower 400 arrived in North America at Halifax, NS on June 5, 2022. She then made her way to Plymouth, MA, where she is on display in the harbor.


WORDS

- MAYFLOWER 400
- IBM AND PROMARE
- THE AI CAPTAIN
- COGNITIVE PILOT
- ONE MILLION GIGABYTES OF DATA
- CLOUD UPLINK

CHALLENGE TRACKER

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

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



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

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

The easiest way is to use the great tool hosted by Robby WB5RVZ. Create an account, choose this month's challenge, and paste in all the illegible 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

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

Tune in for next month's Fox Hole Radio Challenge.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202312.html>

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGES

The deadline for submissions for the Zodiac letter challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202310.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+	AC2C DK1VD KU4A N1JI KC5F K9OSC KA5PVB WT4U KD0V W2ITT AB9BZ NN9K WY3H K14IO N2EIM WY7N KI8I VE3HUR NN3E ND9M W1BLU N1LU KD2MX K4KBL
50+	AK3X AH6AX VE3DQN KJ4R VE3FUJ NF1U WB4OMM KB1M N4OW G3JFS N9SE
75+	PA9CW PA0XAW WI5H WA2FBN W3IQ
100+	K1IEE
125+	K1YAN
150+	W2JEK K3WWP

CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

K3ES: Thanks for another great Word Challenge. Life is too short not to be amazed by QRP!

VE3DQN: Since many of us cut our radio teeth on "crystal" radios, I wonder if I could make a fox hole radio today that actually works. I'll keep wondering.

PG4I: The word challenge has been recommended to me by Luc ON7DQ. I really like it! Another good reason to be active on the bands. See you next month!

W5GDW: Thanks for another great monthly challenge! de W5GDW

AK3X : Another fun challenge.

W4KAC: Thanks again! Already looking forward to next month. Ken



THE “FIST-MATIC” ELECTRONIC KEYSER FOR STRAIGHT KEY LOVERS!

BY BRIAN NM7T #11215

Around 1981, Jonathan A. Titus, KA4QVK (now KZ1G) designed the first electronic keyer for straight key CW operators. Jon named his keyer "The Fist Fighter."

The Blacksburg Group of Blacksburg, VA produced and marketed the Fist Fighter keyer between 1982 and 1984(?). It was sold pre-assembled and tested, or you could order it in kit form.

Jon gave a detailed description of the Fist Fighter in the June 1983 issue of Ham Radio Magazine. [ref. 1]

After searching the Internet and finding no one owning a Fist Fighter keyer, the author decided to design his own using the chips he had on hand.

Once completed though, it sent dashes as long as the key was closed. A *real* Fist Fighter sends only one dash or dot per key press. So the author named his keyer "The Fist-Matic." (The keyer now operates in 'Fist Fighter' or 'Fist-Matic' mode with the flip of a switch. A TUNE/"Extended Dash" feature is included.)

SENDING CODE IN FIST-MATIC MODE

To send a dot, quickly 'tap' the key.

To send two or more dots, 'tap' the key to match the tempo of the dot 'speed limit.' (This can be gauged by sending four dots at the pace it takes to send two dashes.)

To send a dash, 'press' the key. (The press must

be longer than a dot, but not longer than the dash with its dot length associated space.) To send more than one dash, 'hold' the key closed until the last dash is sent.

To send an 'N', hold the key closed until you hear the next element (the dot) start.

Executing an 'N-hold' twice (no space) will send the letter C.

The 'N-hold' shortcut can be applied to other characters too. (like Q and L)

OVERVIEW OF THE FIST-MATIC LOGIC

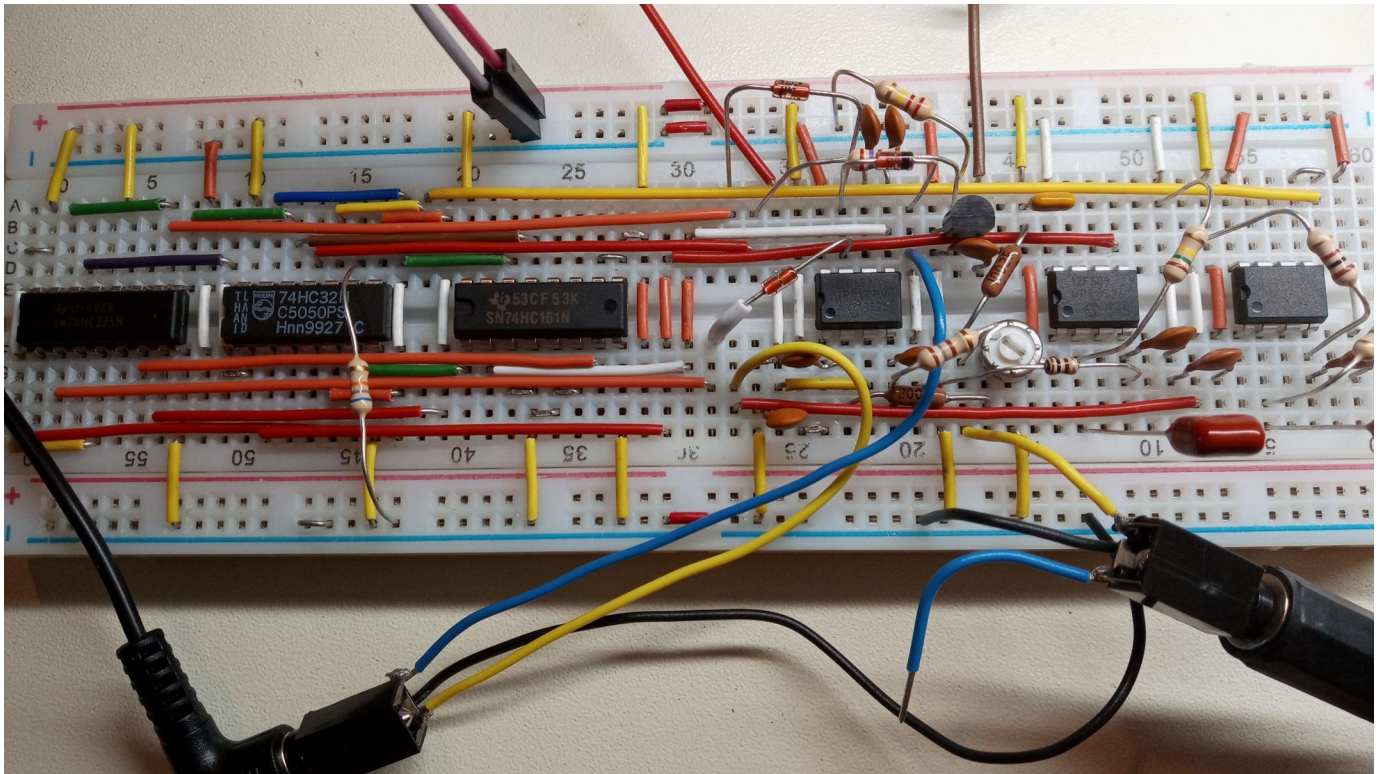
('Fist Fighter' mode is covered in the 'Fist Fighter' mode section.)

IC's used in the Fist-Matic keyer

- U1 - system clock (a keyer chip)
- U2 - binary counter (74HC161)
- U3 - quad OR gate (74HC32)
- U4 - quad D Latch (74HC75 or 375) or hex Inverter (74HC04)
- U5 - WB9KZY 'Bug Descratcher'
- U6 - WB9KZY 'Bug Descratcher'

Note: Almost any keyer chip/IC can be used for the system clock since we only need a square wave to clock the binary counter. But try to choose a keyer chip that has:

- speed pot option
- paddle swap feature
- TX sidetone on/off feature
- disable auto time-out option



Note: If you use Automatic Character Spacing, be aware that the standard three-dot length letter spacing will be reduced to just two-dot lengths.

U1's (the keyer chip) only function is to generate the clock signal for the binary counter. (The keyer chip needs to have an active HIGH output signal to clock the binary counter on the rising edge.)

U2 (binary counter) generates the dots and dashes. The Q0 and Q1 signals are combined at OR gate U3d before going through the current limiting resistor on the gate of the MOSFET keyline driver.

The dot and dash self-completion logic uses the counter signals Q0 and Q1 to:

- a. Hold the Dot pin of U1 LOW, and
 - b. Hold the Enable/Reset pin of U2 HIGH
- a) Uses two latches on U4*
 - b) The Q1 signal passes through two

latches on U4 and one OR gate before OR'ing with the Q0 signal at U3b.

Note: If you use a 74HC04 for U4, feed the Q1 signal through four inverters. This should delay the signal by ~40_ns.

(* All latches on U4 stay in transparent mode. The Q0 and Q1 signals leave U4 inverted and pass through two isolation diodes before reaching U1. To prevent the binary counter from sending a dash when the operator 'taps' the key, the Q1 signal is delayed by ~30ns after the Q0 signal goes LOW. This will leave a gap (a LOW) between Q0 going LOW and Q1 going HIGH (which won't happen if U2 Resets during the gap).

On a dash press, the output of U5 will hold the Enable/Reset pin of U2 HIGH, thus allowing a dash to be generated.

U5 (Bug Descratcher) is used to mask the initial scratchies and bounces when the key is first closed. The key signal is also inverted. The output of U5 goes to OR gate U3a. The output

of U3a feeds OR gate U3b. U3b controls the Enable/Reset pin of U2.

A key closure keys both U5, and U1 on the dot input. To prevent the dot/dash self-completing signal from activating the Bug De-scratcher, an isolation diode is installed between the key input and the dot input of U1.

'FIST FIGHTER' MODE (SWITCH S2)

The Q2 output of U2 only goes HIGH when Q0 and Q1 go LOW at the same time. This only occurs if the operator keeps the key closed at the end of the dash. (The pull-down resistor on U3c keeps that input from floating when S2 is open.)

When S2 is closed and the operator keeps the key closed, the Q2 signal of U2 passes through OR gate U3c, and one latch on U4. The Q2 signal leaves that latch inverted and goes to pin 7 of U2. That pin controls the 'count' function of the binary counter. So when Q2 goes HIGH, the counter stops counting. Then, when the key is lifted, the counter is Reset and Q2 goes LOW.

THE TUNE/EXTENDED DASH SWITCH

This feature works in Fist-Matic and Fist Fighter modes. The other input of U3c is connected to the TUNE/Extended Dash switch. This is a SPDT switch. One position selects a logic HIGH (Vcc), and the other position selects the 'Extended Dash' signal out of U6. You must be *sending* a dash when you flip the switch to TUNE. Flipping the switch to TUNE before you start the dash will just disable the keyer. The same requirement applies when sending an Extended Dash. If you plan to send an Extended Dash often, use a twin-lever paddle instead of two straight keys. Then

you can use your index finger to send code and your thumb to extended a dash. (Once you start the Extended Dash, you only need to keep your thumb pressed to hold the dash.)

IMPLEMENTING THE FIST-MATIC

I'm guessing that most readers will not be interested in building the Fist-Matic unless it's available as a kit (with a pre-programmed microcontroller), so I hope that someone will be interested in adding this mode to their programmable keyer.

I will answer any questions from readers who may want to build one, but unfortunately I don't have a detailed schematic.

REFERENCES

1. "Sending CW: A Digital Approach" by Jonathan Titus, KA4QVK *Ham Radio Magazine*, June 1983 (download that issue below)

<https://www.worldradiohistory.com/Archive-DX/Ham%20Radio/80s/Ham-Radio-198306.pdf>

Also see 'New Products' in the July 1982 issue of *Ham Radio Magazine* AND the July 1982 issue of 73.

Note: Back in 1973, Jon successfully built a programmable computer based on the first CPU chip, the Intel 8008 microprocessor. The 'Mark 8' computer was featured in the July, 1974 issue of *Radio Electronics* magazine. The Mark 8 is now recognized as "The first hobbyists' computer". In 1964, Jon held the call WN2KCZ.

73, Brian NM7T #11215



NAQCC SPRINTS

JANUARY SPRINTS

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Thursday, Jan 18, 2023 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, January 17th in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202401.html>.

160 METER SPRINT

Our bonus Sprint is on Thursday, Jan 25, 2022 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, January 24th in North America. Complete information at: http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202401_160.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.

DECEMBER SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202311.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next page.

December Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	90	81	217	4/17
Participants	131	101	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1,006	861	3,154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	588	526	1,704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	418	335	1,450	4/17
20m QSOs	25	35	1,232	8/13
40m QSOs	660	564	2,203	4/17
80m QSOs	321	262	1,417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	11.2	10.6	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	K1MZM	K1YAN
W2	KA2KGP	KN2G	N2WBJ
W3	KC3MIO	K3JZD	W6WU
W4	KC5F	WG8Y	N2TNN
W5	N5GW	KQ7L KE5YUM (TIE)	-
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	KJ7KDB	-	-
W8	N8DD	-	-
W9	K9NUD	WB9HFK	K9QEW
W0	N0TA	N8LA	W1TM
Canada	VE3SIF	VE3IIM	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1TER	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	NN3E	-	-
W4	K3RLL	-	-
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	N7QR	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	KD0V	WU0A	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	-	-
W2	K2OID	AA2VG	N2ESE
W3	KC3RN	KM3D	-
W4	K4KRW	K4KBL	AF4PX
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	KI7LW	WA7QCC	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	NF8M
W9	N9EEE	AB9BZ	-
W0	KC2MJT	-	-
Canada	VE3DQN	VE6VIC	-
DX	DK1VD	-	-

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

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+	K4KBL KF7WNS KC7DM VE3GNU WD4OHD KB0ETU K2YGM AA7CU K1IX AA5LH N8HWV KC2MJT N8QY WY3H K6CSL W5UAA KC2EGL KE9DR AB8FJ NN9K W4HH VE3HUR WK6L K2HT KC3RN KD9EBS KD0DK K3JZD WT4U AB9BZ K4ORD K5GQ N1JI WA2NYY KB4QQJ KB9ILT VA3NU K8NGW K9QEW
75+	KQ1P K9EYT KB1M K4NVJ WA1GWH VE3DQN WB9HFK WA2FBN WB1GYZ WB4OMM VE3FUJ K9OSC N2CN NQ2W WD0K N8BB AA0W NN0SS K6MGO KJ4R NF5U WI5H N7QR N8APO
100+	KL7IEE AK3X N5GW NA4O KN1H W4DUK KA9FQG NO2D N4MJ WB8ENE AA9L N8LA KD2MX KD3CA
125+	KE5YUM WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y N0TA N4FI K4KRW
150+	K3RLL NF8M K4BAI W9CC N8XMS K2CWM KD0V K4JPN KU4A N2ESE
175+	W2SH W8GG
200+	K3WWP KA2KGP W2JEK

SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

KN2G - Another great night even with the Foxhunt! Sorry for the double dupe (yes double dupe!) on Steve KC5F... Forgot to change bands on the logger the first time and scrambled several calls on the second one because of the foxhunt. Gotta love the chaos. Every sprint is a new reason to laugh at myself for something! See you all on the Milliwatt sprint next week. 72

AA5LH - A tough night here in CO, Ladies & Gentlemen. With 20M DOA & no 80M ability, this only offered the 40M marginal option. Noisy conditions and deep QSB, it really challenged the K3. However, like all Sprints extreme Fun and our ability to 'have a GO of it'. Merry Christmas to All & tap at you next month. Take Care.

K2OID - Conditions were a bit unusual on 40 tonight. Mostly longer skip with no "regular" skip (few mid Atlantic and no New England from Western NY) but got Florida, Colorado, Alabama. Glad to finally work N2ESE, Gary, after seeing him in the results almost every month. Fun as always.

W1PQO - First Sprint in awhile so a little rusty

W8GG - Hello Fellow Sprinters ! Using FT857 at 5 w to Gnd mnt vertical wid 10 buried radials. 20 was just winding down at contest time, 40 was vy noisy hr in south Fla. DEEP QSB. Several stns were there one min gone the next. Lost 3 QSOs that way. I did bag a few QSOs tho to keep from being skunked. My ears were shot after 30 mins so i pulled the plug early. Hope to see many of u in mw sprint next week. 73 Gregg



DECEMBER QRPP SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <https://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202312mw.html>

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	K1MZM	K1YAN
W2	KA2KGP	KN2G	W2SH
W3	KC3MIO	AF3Z	K3JZD
W4	K7EK	K4JPN	N2TNN
W5	N5GW	KE5YUM	-
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	KJ7KDB	-	-
W8	NF8M	-	-
W9	K9NUD	WB9HFK	K9QEW
W0	AA0W	AA5LH	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

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

QRPP STATS:

Logs submitted: 65

Total participants: 89

Total QSOs: 538

States + Provinces : 32

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	NN3E	-	-
W4	-	-	-
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	N7QR	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	KD0V	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	-	-
W2	WA1GWH	WA2FBN	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	K4KRW	KR4AE	K4KBL
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	WB8ENE NG8S (TIE)
W9	N9EEE KY0Q (TIE)	-	AB9BZ
W0	W0PWE	KC2MJT NO2D (TIE)	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

MW SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

WD4OHD - Couldn't hang around long this evening but managed to get a couple of milliwatt QSOs in the log. Using a substandard antenna at the moment. A last minute antenna malfunction knocked me out of this month's regular Sprint, and I have yet to get a proper antenna for 80m & 40m back up in the air. Some surprisingly strong milliwatt signals tonight when the QSB cooperated, and a lot of dead space when it didn't. Considerable QRM early on also. Best holiday wishes to all.

NN3E - Thanks everyone for a good time .. First time on the mw Sprint Merry Christmas and Happy New Year CUL 72 Kevin

K7EK - Lots of great copiable signals on 80m this evening. 40m started out ok but then activity died off quickly. From Kentucky, 80m was the place to be. Looking forward to the next one, as always.

K9NUD - Wow, what a challenge! I'm sorry for the ones I could not dig out :(I used my KX3 @ 1W to my EFHW up 40' and my trusty SW-75 cootie tonight. Thanks for patiently repeating calls!

K9QEW - WOW! Off to a big start on 40m first hour. Band went south after one hour. Lost two stations KR4AE and K3NVI. Merry Christmas to all and STAY TUNED! Daryl

NQ2W - Awesome! Started out on 20m...nothing but RBN spots. 40m was pretty good...80m was very good...lots of loud sigs. I was running anywhere between 700mW and 900mW depending on the band and how my K1 stepped through the power out settings. It amazes me how crazy cool this is...making QSOs with hardly any power. Ya gotta love this QRPp CW stuff! 2-banders with K7EK and W0PWE. Thanks to everyone for the Qs and the enjoyable evening! MX and HNY! 72, Will

NA5N - Gosh, where was everybody? Not much hrd in NM for this one. My good antenna, 133 ft. long TFD, on the ground getting repairs. Only had the vertical. Used Ten Tec Scout 5W and 1938 McElroy bug. 72

W0PWE - Running my homebrew XCVR dialed down to 900mw. When I think holidays I think mW sprint. This year I was able to participate. Only squeezed one QSO out of 20M. 40 was rough - sigs at the noise level QRM from SKCC guys and fox hunts. 80m was very good. Thanks for the QSOs and the repeats. It was a blast.

KM3D - My homebrewed direct conversion RX was not hearing well, need more audio gain. Made only three contacts but fun anyway (one was a half hour ragchew with a non-QRPp'er). The homebrewed rig gets an improvement between every MW Sprint - see you next time! 73, Harry

K8BYP - 500 mW from a Rigol AWG, Yaesu 857 RX

WA1GWH - Worked 40m with a dipole at 15 feet and 900 mW. Not too many stations heard here near Syracuse, NY. Which was an advantage considering I used an old Ten-Tec Century 22 which has direct conversion for receive. So twice as many stations on the band.

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 CST	Tuesday 0100 Z	7067 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 CST	Tuesday 0130 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 5 PM PST	Friday 0100 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 5 PM PST, which is Friday 0100 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-
Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

Dec 01 – QNI (7) WB7WHG - NCS, WB4SPB, AD7BP, KJ7KDB, KI7SJE, KB7DYP, KC7CW

Dec 08 – QNI (6) NCS WB4SPB, KC7CW, AD7BP, WB7WHG, K7JUV, KB7DYP

Dec 15 – QNI (5) NCS WB4SPB, KC7CW, KE7LKW, K7JUV, AD7BP

Dec 22 – QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, KB7DYP, WB7WHG, AB7BP, N0DA

Dec 29 – QNI (9) NCS KE7LKW, N7QR, WB4SPB, KJ7KBD, KB7DYP, AB7BP, WB7WHG, N0DA., K7JUV

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0130 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-
Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas) — Assisted by Dave AB9BZ

Dec 04 – QNI (1) W0CC

Lots of QRM. Needed to QSY to 7.03250. Heard WA9TG(?) however, unable to make QSO.

Dec 11 – QNI (1) W0CC

According to QRZ, the Band conditions were "Good"; however, I could only hear a few stations. P49X was on 7.0297 MHz and could barely hear the stations calling them. Next week will be better!

Dec 18 – QNI (1) W0CC

QRZ listed the 40 M band conditions as "Fair". The only stations that I heard was with a 3 kc wide signal (which was at 7.032.5)!

Dec 25 – No Net

NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC,
on 7067 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)
Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

Dec 05 – QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM

Just me and Terry last night, very good band. 599 both ways. One of our regulars is down with COVID for the second time. Hope he and the wife recover soon.

Dec 12 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, N4NN, KA6J

YGA back after a bout with COVID, great to hear you Andy. NN was good from GA. tonight. Jim was not there when I called and sent me an email and said I faded out on him.

Dec 19 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, N4NN

Signals were great tonight, Andy and Allen both 599 on 80 meters and QRN pretty low. Andy still recovering from COVID.

Dec 26 – No Net (Holiday)



NAQCC CHAPTERS

START A LOCAL CHAPTER

The North American QRP CW Club currently has six local chapters - 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/>.

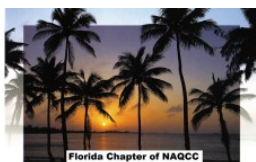
NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



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

Questions and comments should go to Howard, WB2UZE.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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

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

NAQCC DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



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

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

NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Tim, N9BIL.

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

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

NAQCC GREEN SWAMP WCF



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

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



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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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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

