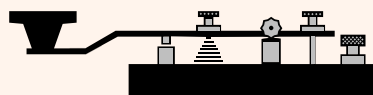


# NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 309 • MARCH 2024



## KEY CLICKS

### • IN THIS ISSUE

The Prez Sez... The Board of Directors is looking for a few good hams, there are lots of ways to stay in touch, and your support is needed; Finding ham treasure; QSO Parties are in full swing; Collector categories; A Letter Challenge that's squared away; 30-30 Award; A new, but not young, ham picks up his grandfather's hobby; Sprint results; Soapboxes; Nets; and more.

### • DIETER "DIZ" GENTZOW W8DIZ, SK

Those of us that build "stuff" and were Flying Pigs will certainly feel the loss with the news that Dieter "Diz" Gentzow, W8DIZ, lost his battle with his illness March 3rd. In addition to helping the "Flying Pigs" get organized, Diz, "the toroid king," ran low cost, top quality parts business at [KitsAndParts.com](http://KitsAndParts.com) which is being continued by Mike KU4QO.

### • LAP SHACKS FOR PORTABLE OPS

The usual Asian suppliers have some neat little zip-up equipment bags that are just the right size for QRP rigs. Sew in a Plexiglass writing and key desk for an all-in-one go bag and lap shack.



### • YOUR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS NEEDED

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

### • UPDATE YOUR MEMBER INFO

Any time you change your QTH, email, or callsign, you can update your member info with a simple 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...

## MARCH MONTHLY SPRINT #233

Wed Mar 20 8:30-10:30P EDT

which is:

Thu Mar 21 0030-0230Z

### Sprint Frequencies

80m 3555 – 3565 kHz

(Be courteous to FISTS operating on 3558 kHz)

40m – 7030-7045 kHz

20m – 14059-14065 kHz

## CW NETS

We have room for a CW Net in the NE and also in the SE. If you have a few minutes once a week, you pick the day and time, why not give it a try? I would guess that there are plenty of Hams to work with.

Contact Mark, W8EWH: [mark.yergin@gmail.com](mailto:mark.yergin@gmail.com) for details.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors Annual Meeting and election of officers is scheduled for April 20th via ZOOM.

If you have any items that you would like the board to address please contact me

If you are interested in becoming a member of the board the 2024 Nomination Committee needs to hear from you. Please contact either Dennis Shoaf at [W4DWS@arrl.net](mailto:W4DWS@arrl.net) or John Leahy: [JLEAHY00@YAHOO.COM](mailto:JLEAHY00@YAHOO.COM)

## KEEP IN TOUCH

NAQCC has the MailMan email system which is mostly one-way and does not offer Links, photos or graphics.

We also have a **groups.io** account. You can subscribe here: [NAQCC+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:NAQCC+subscribe@groups.io). The advantage is the ability to post, save files and so on and it allows links as needed.

**Facebook**, managed by Jeffery Gray #8095, has a good following. Look up NAQCC on Facebook and join in.

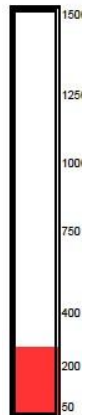
## DONATIONS

20th Anniversary Goal 

please mail your check to:

North American QRP CW Club, Inc  
35 Heather Circle  
Cave Spring, GA 30124

No Change this month 



## DON'T FORGET DST ON MARCH 10TH

Happy St. Paddy's Day, have a Green Key on me!

Until next time,

**72/73!**

**John KK4ITX #7249**

**NAQCC President**



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



# FINDING HAM TREASURE

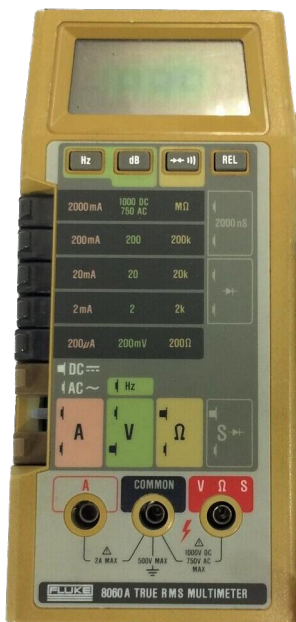
BY GREGG W8GG #1444

While spending winter time in Florida, I've been driver and "tag along" on several shopping excursions with my XYL, Vicki and her sister. They wanted to visit some of the local thrift shops and garage sales. I'm usually sorta skeptical about these venues for Ham stuff. Don't really NEED much these days, but you never know what may turn up.

On previous such excursions I've run across several hand keys, an old sounder, reels of wire, computer equipment, and other stuff at bargain prices. Over the years I've been lucky to find lots of goodies for the ham shack too.

At this venture we ran across a garage sale with an illuminated magnifying lamp on a boom, still in the box. A bit of "haggling" and it was mine for three bucks. The girls grabbed things too, but I'm oblivious to what they buy these days, as long as they're having fun.

At another sale right down the street, I saw a Fluke 8060a multi-meter. The sticker said \$20. A minute later it was mine for 15 bucks!



So now I had two "good finds" for the work bench. I did not expect that I'd run into number three.

The next day while visiting the farmers market, we

went to a thrift shop on the way home. After cruising the aisles and seeing little of interest, I

was on the way out when I spied it—a

Weller soldering station with temp controlled tip. The sticker said \$4. What a find! I quickly took it up to the front desk and asked if I might plug it in to test. Sure enough, gets hot. "I'll take it," I exclaimed to the lady.



Then comes the icing on the cake. I'm fishing out four bucks, and she says to me, "Electronic stuff is half off today, two dollars." I was grinning from ear-to-ear. Weee Doggies! I didn't even see or care about the things the XYL bought. I just couldn't believe my luck outfitting my workbench so cheaply.

A few weeks have gone by here and I have already put all of these tools to work making antenna stuff, soldering a power supply, fixing a fan in the AC unit, and putting lugs on radials.

I'm wondering what I'll spy on our next weekend excursion? You just never know. Good hunting!





Upcoming QSO Parties					
State	Times	IN	Out	Freqs	Links
Oklahoma	Mar 09 1500Z to Mar 10 0200Z and Mar 10 1500Z to Mar 10 2100Z	RST County	RST ST	up 40	<a href="#">rules</a>
Idaho	Mar 09 1900Z to Mar 10 1900Z	County	ST	up 35	<a href="#">rules</a>
Wisconsin	Mar 10 1800Z to Mar 11 0100Z	County	ST	up 50	<a href="#">rules</a>
Virginia	Mar 16 1400Z to Mar 17 0400Z and Mar 17 1200Z to Mar 18 2400Z	QSO# County	QSO# ST	up 50	<a href="#">rules</a>

### QSO PARTY SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**Chris KU4A #1960** The "season" is off to a good start for me. I improved my QSO count in all three (MN, BC, VT) vs. 2023. I'm hoping band conditions stay good so I can smash my totals from last year.

**Ernie N2DGQ #11090** QSO Parties are a sign of warm weather to come, so therefore I'm glad to start the QSO Party season. I was able to work the MN and BC Parties, but I could not hear any VT on 40 Meters. I am in NJ so the higher bands will not work. I think most of them were working only phone QSO's. I was able to attain the silver level last year. I'm Looking to advance to the next level of Gold.

**Stan K3PW #9637** Even though I've been a member of NAQCC for some time, I'm a new CW operator and a new QRP operator. After 6 months of consistent practice and increasing proficiency, in December I decided 2024 was the year to go all in. I had a great first weekend and got a big charge out of working BC from ME with only 5 watts and a vertical. Not a lot of contacts for the first weekend, but I learned a lot and looking forward to the next bunch of parties!

**Ron VE3SIF #10033** It was fun hunting stations from the three QSO parties. I had the best luck with MN on both 40 and 20. VT stations seemed few and far between for me but managed to contact a few. Only three contacts with BC, all on 20. I was using my FTDX10 at 5 watts into an end fed half wave. For the next SQP I might try the QRP Labs QMX transceiver.

**Will NQ2W #4839** SCQP - In and out of the shack throughout the day. Enough activity to keep it interesting but it seemed like in-state participation was a little sparse. I like the per band multiplier rule because it invites stations to try all the bands.

Continues on page 7



# FIELD SPOTTING GUIDE TO RADIO COLLECTORS

BY PAUL WORW #2500

Are You a Genuine Radio Collector, Investor Collector (Flipper), Hoarder, Socialite, or User?

1. A **Genuine Collector** is one who finds, acquires, and restores equipment and accessories to transport themselves back to a bygone era and a respite from ordinary life. It is a pervasive human trait driven by a desire to create order amidst natural attrition of aging artifacts. A key driver is the association of the equipment with one's youth or career.

2. An **Investor Collector** (Flipper) is a predator on genuine collectors. They have only superficial knowledge or interest of the equipment. They infiltrate collector networks for personal gain. Capitalizing on the altruistic collectors, driving up the auction prices. Who would do that?

3. A **Hoarder** - There is a narrow dividing line between hoarding and collecting. Both are driven by a compulsion to assemble and accumulate equipment but the collector will continuously improve the quality and diversity of the core collection. The hoarder only gains satisfaction from more of the same. In the extreme, it is a mental illness.

4. A **Socialite** uses his equipment to develop networks of fellow collectors, give talks at clubs, write articles, generate polls, etc.

5. A **User** is more concerned with the operation and frequent use of the equipment.

The idea for this subject and a lot of the information came from Richard Dismore's (F4WCD/ZS6TF), article in *Signal Magazine*, Issue 69. Used with his permission.



# MEMBER POLLS

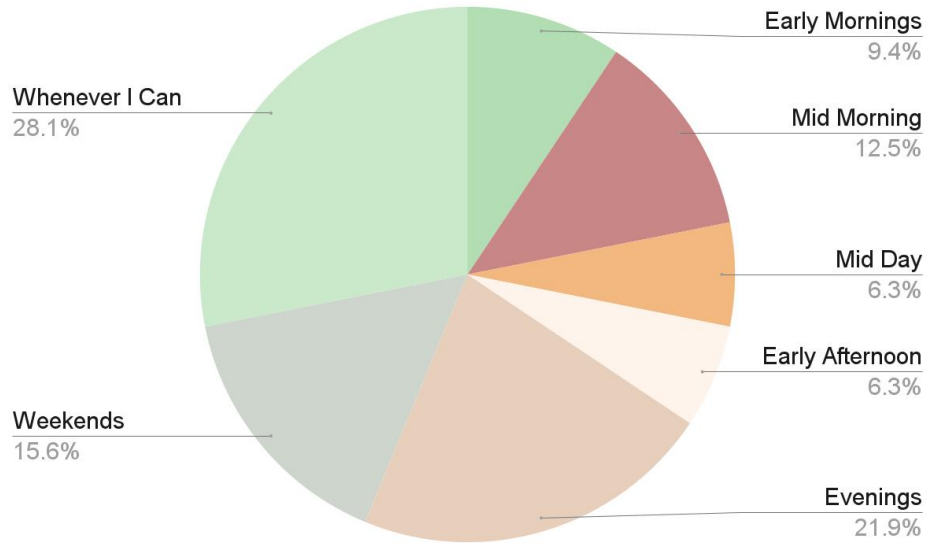
## MARCH POLL

How often do you use QRP CW? Let us know at [http://naqcc.info/poll\\_new.html](http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html)

## FEBRUARY POLL

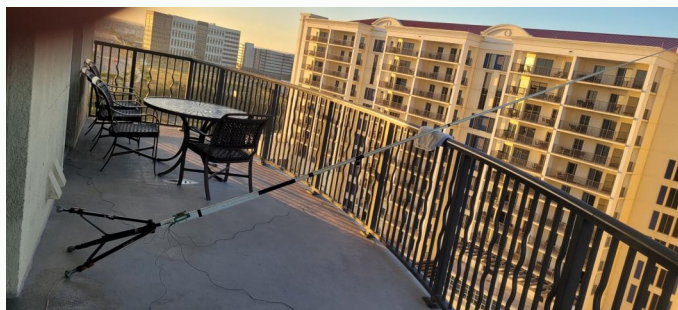
When are you on the air with QRP CW?

[http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_past\\_polls.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_past_polls.html)



**Don VE3DQN #5846** I approach these SQPs casually, but somehow, once I'm on the air I get drawn in. Maybe with the next QSO I'll work a new country :-). For the SCQP I wonder if I'll work a county where my in-laws live. [Richland, I didn't.] The highlight in the NCQP was working Brent WT4U in Madison Co. He had a solid strong QRP signal here in eastern Ontario, as he was perched up on a bluff 500 ft above a river. Good work, Brent!

**Ernie N2DGQ #11090** My wife and I take our annual trip to Orlando Florida during the SC and NC QP. We stayed in a Hilton Resort in Orlando, unlike last year where we were on the top 15th floor, this year we are on the 14th floor so I had to lean my QRP Guys vertical on the balcony railing. See picture in the March Newsletter. For the SC QP I only worked the first hour and last hour unfortunately no one heard my puny signal. But for the NC QCP that was a different story. I had good results with the "sloping" vertical @ 5W and SWR of 1.2:1.



See the full soapbox at [http://naqcc.info/qsoparties\\_soapbox.html](http://naqcc.info/qsoparties_soapbox.html)

# NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

## THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: ROMAN COMMUNICATIONS

Here you are, on a Roman battlefield, commanding your legions. The battle continues and a change of plans has to be quickly communicated to the troops. How do you do that? Send a messenger and hope that he makes it through the battle in time and gets the message right? Risky business. Lets go with one of the two high tech approaches of the day.

### HYDRAULIC TELEGRAPH

If the message is to perform a standard maneuver, like a calvary attack or a retreat, you can use the hydraulic telegraph system. A big jug of water has a spout at the bottom that will drain it when the spout is opened. A stick, with numbers on it, is floating vertically in the jug next to a pointer that marks a number on the stick. Pull the plug and the stick drops down and the number changes.

There is a list of maneuvers to match the stick numbers. Your commo man lights a torch and signals to get the attention of other commo men. When they signal ready with their torches, a signal is given, by torch, to open the spout and let the water run. When the water has drained enough to align the marker with the desired message number, another torch signal is given to close the spout and stop the water flow. Read the number by the pointer, check the list of maneuvers and you are ready to go.

### POLYBIUS SQUARE

For those things that are not standard options, there is another choice called the Polybius square. Invented by the Greeks, it is a checkerboard like square with numbers along the top and left sides. The squares each have a letter

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I,J	K
3	L	M	N	O	P
4	Q	R	S	T	U
5	V	W	X	Y	Z

in them and together, contain the whole alphabet. This allows you to select a letter by using two numbers to indicate its position in the square by row and column.

The numbers are transmitted by using torches after an alert exchange, like in the water jug system. Numbers are passed by holding up the number of torches corresponding to each number to be sent in a predetermined sequence. Matching squares at the sender and receiver allow the message to be coded and decoded and provide a measure of security for the information.

A secure, digital messaging system from ancient times in action. Seems like pretty primitive technology, but, it got the job done. The principle of the Polybius square was used as the basis for some message encryption systems into modern times, but, the advent of computer analysis of codes made it too easy to crack.




### WORDS

- HYDRAULIC TELEGRAPH SYSTEM
- NUMBERED STICKS
- STANDARD MANEUVERS
- POLYBIUS SQUARE
- TORCH SIGNALING

### CHALLENGE TRACKER

A	B	C	D	E	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	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](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](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

Get ready to go for a ride in next month's AI's Cadillacs Challenge.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202404.html>

## LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGES

The deadline for submissions for the Tally Stick letter challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202402.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 KC5F KU4A WT4U N1JI K9OSC KA5PVB KD0V W2ITT AB9BZ NN9K N2EIM WY3H KI4IO NN3E WY7N KI8I ND9M W1BLU VE3HUR N1LU AD0YM W4LSV KD2MX K4KBL ON7DQ
50+	AH6AX VE3DQN KJ4R VE3FUJ NF1U WB4OMM KB1M N4OW N9SE G3JFS DK1VD
75+	PA9CW PA0XAW WI5H WA2FBN W3IQ AK3X
100+	K1IEE
125+	K1YAN
150+	W2JEK K3WWP
175+	N8XMS

### CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**AD0YM:** The challenge has been motivation for me to get outside for a portable op. Late start this month, but finally made it out.

**VE3DQN:** Kudos to the creator of these Challenge topics! I'd never heard of tally sticks before. Gotta keep on learnin' ..

**WB9G:** Haven't done this in a while. Great fun! 72 de Chris WB9G

**ON7DQ:** Quite a struggle this month to get the last S's & T's ... but all great QRP fun anyway. 73/72, Luc

**N8XMS:** It took me most of the month to complete this one. I've never used tally sticks but I am old enough to still know how to use a slide rule! Thanks for another great challenge. 73, Paul



# NAQCC AWARDS

## FEATURED AWARDS:

### 30-30

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

#### Time Frame For Qualifying QSO's:

January 1, 2006 0000Z through the present

#### Basic Award Premise:

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

#### Categories:

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

#### QSOs:

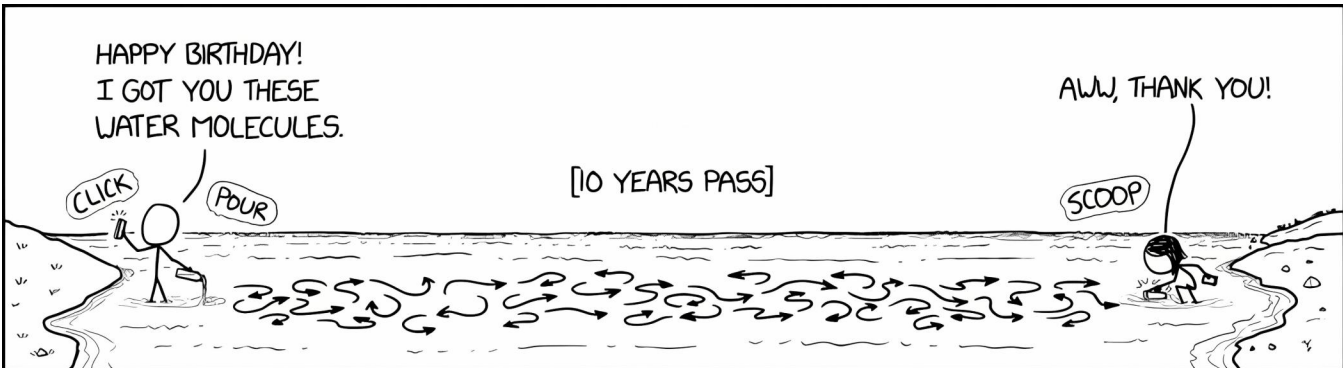
Rag chew and DX QSO's are acceptable. Just sitting on the County Hunters Net frequency and racking up QSO's is not permissible. However, you may count a maximum of two QSO's from the CHN each month.

#### Other:

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

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

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>.



GLOBAL SURFACE OCEAN CONNECTIVITY TIMES ARE  $\leq 10$  YEARS (JÖNSSON & WATSON, 2016, DOI:10.1038/ncomms11239), SO IF YOU'RE WILLING TO PLAN AHEAD, YOU CAN POUR WATER INTO THE OCEAN WHILE WISHING SOMEONE A HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AND THEN IN 10 YEARS LET THEM KNOW THEY CAN PICK UP THEIR GIFT AT THE NEAREST COASTLINE.

# A NEW HAM PICKS UP HIS GRANDFATHER'S HOBBY AND HITS THE TRAILS

BY STACY W5WMQ #11098

## My GRANDFATHER'S HOBBY

I grew up in Natchez Mississippi. As a boy in the late '60s and early '70s, the dits and dahs coming from my grandfather's desk sounded like, well, just noise. I don't recall that he ever

said a word over the air waves. He was an avid CW operator.

I never considered Amateur Radio until later in life, much later in fact. A co-worker of mine who is a ham, was talking with me about it one day and my interest was piqued. You see, I love to tinker. I never realized there was much more to amateur radio than just talking. I am a bit of an introvert and never really say much unless I have something to talk about. My wife is accustomed to it by now, I think. lol

So in late 2021, I decide to study for my Technician exam. I received my call sign in December of 2021, KF0GXF. I knew right away that I wanted to see if my grandfather's call sign was available. I got his call sign and passed the General, then Extra in 2022.

## CW, POTA, SOTA, & QRP

I began studying CW right away. I still am. I think it is one of those things that I will have to stay on top of for a long time to come.

Somewhere in there I discovered SOTA and POTA. Most importantly, I discovered QRP. For a new CW operator the exchange for SOTA and POTA is an excellent learning tool. I have done a lot of hunting.





### THE HUNTER BECOMES THE HUNTED

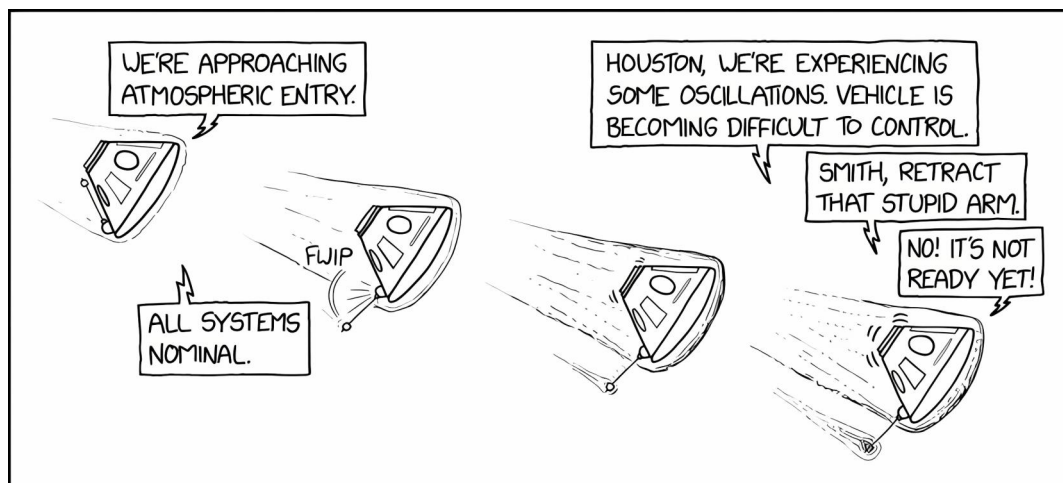
February 9, 2024 was my first SOTA activation at Petit Jean State Park in Arkansas, W5A/MA-009. I quickly realized the activator's point of view. Instead of trying to break through the pile, I was trying to decipher the pile up. It turned out to be an exciting success.

### PORTABLE GEAR

My portable rig of choice is a QRP Labs QCX mini for 20m, with EFHW and a telescoping crappie pole. I will be building a 40-meter version soon. This is a great compact, portable field radio.

### A FINAL THOUGHT

I heard a podcast called "Foundations of Amateur Radio" by Onno VK6FLAB. A quote he said has stuck with me about the Amateur Radio hobby: "Amateur Radio, a thousand hobbies in one."



IN RETROSPECT, THE REENTRY MARSHMALLOW TOASTING MODULE WAS A MISTAKE.

# NAQCC SPRINTS

## MARCH SPRINT

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Thursday, March 21, 2023 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, March 20th in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202403.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).

## FEBRUARY SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202402.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next page.

February Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	89	82	217	4/17
Participants	120	113	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1,434	970	3,154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	812	616	1,704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	622	354	1,450	4/17
20m QSOs	222	100	1,232	8/13
40m QSOs	1,050	527	2,203	4/17
80m QSOs	162	343	1,417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	16.1	11.8	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	NR1D	AC1KV	K1IX
W2	AA2VG	KN2G	KA2KGP
W3	K3JZD	KE3V	K3EMS
W4	KC5F	WG8Y	N2TNN
W5	N5GW	KQ7L KA5HZV (TIE)	-
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	NF8M	-	-
W9	K9NUD	WB9HFK	K9QEW
W0	N0TA	N8LA	W1TM
Canada	VE3SIF	VE3IIM	VA3KRJ
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ	-	-
W2	WA2FBN	-	-
W3	KC3MIO	NN3E	-
W4	KJ4R	K3RLL	-
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	N7QR	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	KD0V	KG0RD	-
Canada	VE3HUR	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1TER	KB1M	-
W2	WA1GWH	-	-
W3	KQ3Z	KC3RN	K3WWP
W4	K4BAI	AF4PX	K4KBL
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	KI7LW	-	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	-
W9	N9SE	WS9J	-
W0	N0RZ	KC2MJT	NO2D
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-
DX	DK1VD	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	NQ2W	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	K1DW	-	-

## 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+	KF7WNS KC7DM WD4OHD VE3GNU K1IX KB0ETU K2YGM AA7CU AA5LH N8HWV KC2MJT N8QY WY3H VE3HUR W4HH K6CSL W5UAA KC2EGL KE9DR AB8FJ NN9K KC3RN KD9EBS K3JZD WT4U WK6L K2HT KD0DK AB9BZ K4ORD K5GQ N1JI WA2NYY K8NGW K9QEW KB4QQJ KB9ILT VA3NU W4NLT
75+	KB1M WA1GWH VE3DQN WB9HFK K4NVJ WA2FBN WB1GYZ NQ2W WB4OMM VE3FUJ K9OSC N2CN WD0K N8BB AA0W KJ4R NN0SS N7QR K6MGO NF5U WI5H K4KBL N8APO
100+	KL7IEE N5GW NA4O KN1H W4DUK KA9FQG NO2D N4MJ AA9L WB8ENE N8LA KD2MX KD3CA KQ1P K9EYT
125+	WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y N0TA N4FI K4KRW AK3X
150+	K3RLL NF8M K4BAI W9CC N8XMS KD0V K2CWM K4JPN N2ESE KU4A KE5YUM
175+	W8GG
200+	K3WWP KA2KGP W2JEK W2SH

### SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**K3RLL** - Interesting evening. Started out on 20m but lost 2 or 3 to QRM. Went to 40m but it was high noise and lost KC5F and another. Went back to 20 and things went far better. Booming signal out of the Empire State was NQ2W and he could hear me too! Went back to 40m again and couldn't hear anyone. Best RBN, by far, was from Slovenia tonight. I guess skip was long? 72 and thank you, ... Don

**W1TM** - My Drake is on the bench so borrowed my friends Oak Hills Classic. Nice little rig. Was able to make similar results with the old QRP kit rig.

**K9EYT** - This is sprint # 100 for me . Winter QTH Tarpon Springs FL, Rig Icom 706 5 watts to an end feed 40 foot wire at 15Ft very stealth for the HOA. Thanks for QSO . 72 Ray

**WD4OHD** - Got a late start this evening but still managed to make a few good QSOs on 40m. Still using a substandard antenna, so my apologies to those of you struggling to hear my signal. I hope to have a proper 40m dipole installed by this time next month. Best to all.

**KN2G** - I tried calling for short stretches tonight. Usually I just hunt and pounce. Got a new personal best at 29 contacts. I expect that since the bands were so open that there will be some big scores tonight. HOWEVER, it is always fun to grab a teeny weeny signal and make a contact while surfing through the ether. Some good fists and some great ears out there! 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

March 10 changes for Daylight Time in red

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7PM CST 7PM CDT	Tuesday 0100 Z 0000 Z	7066 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30PM CST 7:30PM CDT	Tuesday 0130 Z 0030 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 5 PM PST 7 PM PDT	Friday 0100 Z 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)

Feb 02 - QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, WB7WHG, KB7DYP, AD7BP, KC7CW

Feb 09 – QNI (5), WB7WHG - NCS, KC7CW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, KE7LKW

Feb 16 – QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, KB7DYP, K7JUV, VE7NKR, KC7CW

Feb 23 – QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, KJ7KDP, KE7SJE, KC7CW

Mar 01 - QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, N7TB, KJ7KDP, WB7WHG, K7JUV, KC7CW

## 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

Feb 05 – No Net Tonight

Feb 12 – QNI (3) W0CC, W1TM, N5NLP

Both Tim and Mike did a GREAT job digging out my signal. CB0ZA was working splint on 7.021 and, when they pushed it up 10, I started getting a lot QRM from the transmitting stations, so I had to move up to 7.03150 and that is where I found Mike, N5NLP.

Feb 19 – QNI (3) W0CC, W1TM, K4TNE

Tim, W1TM, had a string signal; however, when Jeff, K4TNE came up, the QRN also came in and he did a GREAT job in picking out the signal!

Feb 26 – QNI (2) W0CC, W1TM

A lot of QRM and need to QSY a few times to prevent being overpowered!

## 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)

Feb 06 – QNI (3) NCS KE5YGA, KA5YUM, KG8DA

Signal pretty good tonight. Talked about yard work and weather mostly. First time check in from George in OK. He was running 3.5 watts and great signal 599 at the end.

Feb 13 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, KA5YUM

Good signals last night 599/579. N4NN still under the weather I guess. Cold and some rain in AR. Windy and cool in ETX.

Feb 20 – QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, N4NN

Good signals last night, 599 all around. Great to have Allen N4NN back after a bad spell with allergies. Sounding real good from GA.

Feb 27 – QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, N4NN

Good signals again tonight, 599/589. Nice warm WX in AR/GA. Need some rain.



# 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/>.

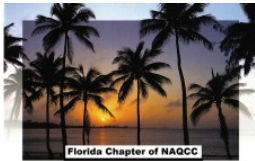
## NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



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

