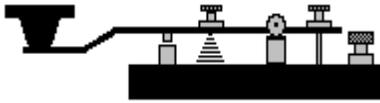


NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 187 JANUARY 2014



KEY CLICKS

◆ **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Have all of you made your New Year resolutions? I can think of several for the NAQCC...

- Increase your QRP/QRO QSO ratio in 2014.
- Work on improving your CW head copy.
- Improve your skills with a straight key, bug, paddle, or sideswiper.
- Build a new piece of QRP gear.
- Go on more portable operations in 2014.
- Participate in more NAQCC sprints **and challenges**.
- Work on completing some of our NAQCC awards.
- Introduce someone to the world of CW and QRP.

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By the way, related to that last one, I have recently been mentoring a new CW op and have been telling him that there is really no substitute for getting on the air - and January provides plenty of slow-speed on-air CW opportunities in addition to our regular monthly NAQCC activities. Of course by the time that you read this the ARRL's Straight Key Night is already over but don't forget that the SKCC has a month long activity with plenty of slow-speed K3Y stations operating around the country. SKCC membership is not required and as long as you are running QRP those QSOs can be applied to any of our operating awards as well.

◆ **AN EDITORIAL FROM NAQCC PRESIDENT TOM, WY3H.** Greetings fellow NAQCC members. I hope the past year was a good one in every way for all of us. We should all look forward to an even better year in 2014. Paul, N8XMS touched on what may be a sensitive subject for some, the SKCC. In the past there has been some dissention between the SKCC and NAQCC (and FISTS I might add). It's high time for this to end. Let's face some facts. All three organizations are dedicated to the promotion and preservation of our CW mode. Many NAQCC members are also SKCC members. I noticed that the SKCC has a really nice calendar on its Web site. The calendar lists not only upcoming SKCC events for 2014, but also lists all NAQCC and FISTS events. To me, this is evidence that the SKCC board is willing to forget any past differences and is extending the hand of friendship. We have just come through a season of "goodwill," and yet I fear there may be some (in all three organizations) who do not extend that spirit of goodwill. I have heard and read disparaging remarks by members of one club made against another club. Why should this be? An old Scottish proverb says: "If you cannot speak well of a man, say nothing." By the same token, I am amazed at the number of radio operators who disdain CW operation, despite the fact that the CW portion of all HF bands can at times be almost overwhelmingly crowded. Look, we're all in this together. If we fail to offer due respect to our fellow CW operators then we are a house divided. I'm not suggesting that the NAQCC "crawl into bed" with any other organization. All I hope for is for all members of all clubs to stop the bickering and back biting and show each other due respect and extend a friendly and sincere greeting and end with 73/72 without any reservations. Is that too much to ask? I have

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to, and will, renew my FISTS membership (11228) and I am proud to say that I am a member (and co-founder) of NAQCC (0001) as well as SKCC (629); Flying Pigs (922) and several other amateur radio organizations. I look forward to receiving comments, pro or con, on my unsolicited diatribe. If desired, comments may be sent directly to my new e-mail: tmitchell210@comcast.net. Thank you all and have a great new year. Tom, WY3H.

- ◆ **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SPANS SPACE AND TIME.** Back in the July 2012 issue of the newsletter Dave Bartusik, K8HW, was our featured member in the *Member Spotlight*. Last month Bruce Bickford (not a ham) saw the newsletter on our web site and experienced a real time warp. Bruce and Dave were best friends during college in the late 60's but had lost touch with each other over the years. Bruce remembered Dave's old call sign from those days and started an internet search with it. That eventually brought him to our *Spotlight*. Bruce then sent me (N8XMS) an email asking if I could help him get in touch with Dave. I forwarded his email to Dave and I'm happy to report that they have now reestablished contact with each other. So apparently with ham radio "six degrees of separation" is way too much!
- ◆ **NAQCC MEMBER PUBLISHES QST ARTICLE.** Skip Arey, N2EI, #3317, wrote an article entitled "One Thousand Miles Per Watt" that appears in the January 2014 issue of QST. It's a great article and gives some good publicity to the NAQCC. Skip specifically featured in his article two of the many awards that we offer - the 1000 MPW award and the KMPW 100 award. Check out these, and our many other awards, at http://naqcc.info/awards_current.html.
- ◆ **SILVER LOG PRIZE AWARDED.** With the completion of our December sprint (see the report on page 6) we ended up with a six-way tie on the year for Silver sprint logs. AA7CU, KB9ILT, KU4A, N8XMS, NQ2W, and WA2JSG each submitted twelve perfectly formatted logs over the course of the year. Since NQ2W was the winner back in 2011 he was not eligible for the prize this year so the remaining five calls were put into a computer for a random selection. And the winner is... *drum roll here* ... WA2JSG! Curt will receive an *ARRL Wire Antennas* book. Congratulations to Curt and a "thank you" to everyone who submitted Silver logs - it really helps our sprint log processing. Maybe 2014 will be your year!
- ◆ **WB8LZG SURPRISES NAQCC PRIZE WINNERS.** NAQCC member Greg, WB8LZG, has been making beautiful wooden paddle/key finger pieces for many years. (You can see his work at <http://www.egr.msu.edu/~mulderg/>.) He generously donates some of his custom pieces to the NAQCC to use in different prize drawings. Greg read in the November newsletter that two members had won American Morse KK-1 straight keys in our anniversary sprint drawing and in his own words he "just couldn't have those keys all naked like that." So Greg put on his Santa hat and fake whiskers and mailed off to the winners some custom finger pieces for the KK-1s. On behalf of those winners - THANK YOU GREG!
- ◆ **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big "THANK YOU" goes out to K6MGO, KK1X, and KK4BOB for their recent contributions to the NAQCC treasury. Thanks to all of the recent contributions that have been sent in over the past couple of months we are once again in a healthy "black" condition. If others would like to make a donation please make out a check or money order to Paul Huff, 9928 Eckles, Livonia, MI 48150. Your donation will be acknowledged by email with a carbon copy sent to another club officer as a "check and balance."
- ◆ **SOMETHING INTERESTING** So why would someone who is not in North America want to join the NAQCC? Well, let me quote new member Fernando, EA7HFW: "I like the philosophy of the club. 73 es HNY"



NAQCC CHAPTERS - What you need to know.

From time to time we receive emails from members asking about the possibility of forming a new NAQCC chapter. Sometimes these emails indicate some confusion about the purpose of a chapter so we would like to clarify that here.

As stated in the guidelines that we send out to people who are considering the formation of a new chapter (see below), their primary purpose is “to provide agendas for local areas that are not practical for a world-wide membership.” There is a lot of flexibility in these “agendas” but the emphasis is on physically getting together with other NAQCC members for QRP/CW fun. That could be meeting at a local coffee shop for some good conversation and equipment show-n-tell, a group build-a-thon of a piece of gear, or some “Elmering” about how to operate QRP.

But by far the most popular chapter activity has been portable operations from parks, historical ships, and other interesting locations. The great thing about these activities is that they not only provide a lot of fun for the local participants, but they also “reach out” and give enjoyment to all of the people that they contact. That’s also positive publicity for the club. Of course we can promote chapter activities through our email news list and monthly newsletter. (By the way, official chapters can use the club call sign, N3AQC, for their portable operations. QSLing is still the local chapter’s responsibility. Contact Paul, N8XMS, at least a week in advance of your operation to work out the details for the use of N3AQC.)

One common confusion that has popped up involves our NAQCC QRS nets. Although the nets and chapters might have similar names – like the Texas Chapter and the East Texas Net – they are completely different entities. Most of our nets certainly have regulars who check-in and enjoy brief CW chats with the other regulars on the net, and that is fine. But that is not their primary purpose. The primary purpose for the nets is to provide on-air slow-speed CW practice for beginning CW ops and to give them a welcoming environment where they can develop their QRP and CW skills. (After all, QRS means “decrease speed.”) The nets do not provide that eyeball-to-eyeball contact that the chapters are designed to give.

We should probably take a moment to state the obvious. NAQCC chapters should never engage in activities that are in conflict with the stated goals of the NAQCC. Our focus is on QRP and CW, not digital modes, fox hunting, or SSB nets. These kinds of activities can be enjoyed through your local clubs or other organizations, but not under the umbrella of the NAQCC. It would also be inappropriate for a local chapter to do something like schedule their code practice sessions during our monthly sprints.

Our current European Chapter is an example of a situation where a little bit more autonomy is given to the chapter, and where the normal local aspect of a chapter doesn’t really apply. Because of the significant distance separating our European members from North America, the European Chapter has created its own schedule for sprints and challenges. This lets European members have fun competing with each other on a “level playing field” without the Atlantic Ocean working against them. Something similar could be done in the future with other regionally remote chapters if the interest and need arises.

Finally, let me call on our members in the Lone Star State. Our Florida, Eastern Pennsylvania, and West Virginia Chapters are quite active with lots of local activities that you have read about here in the newsletter. But the Texas chapter has not really done anything locally in a very long time. Frankly, Texas is probably too large of an area to really properly support an NAQCC chapter. (It’s a little tough to drive 8 or 10 hours to go to your “local” activity!) But is there a group of members in say the Huston area where Ron, K5DUZ, (the current chapter president) lives who would be interested in some local activities? If so, contact him. Or perhaps the Dallas area? Or perhaps someplace else? If there is interest we can certainly

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work out appropriate chapter names – doesn't "The Pecos 5-Shooters" sound cool? (I'm just kidding but did you catch the QRP reference?)

I hope that this has cleared up some of the confusion about NAQCC chapters and that it has perhaps sparked some interest in some of you for the possible formation of new local chapters. Our chapter guidelines are shown below. They could probably use some updating but I'd rather check out the DX on 10-meters right now so that will have to wait!

NAQCC Chapter Guidelines:

1. The purpose of having Local Chapters in the NAQCC is to provide agendas for local areas that are not practical for a world-wide membership. Some (but not all) examples follow.

1a. Having fellowship meetings at the local McDonald's (or whatever meeting place suits).

1b. Getting together for hands-on construction projects.

1c. Having local code practice sessions, either in person or on-air.

1d. Conducting group portable operations in the local park, hilltop, etc.

1e. Just about any other activity that a local group of hams can come up with except for those items listed further on down these guidelines.

2. We discourage the use of the word 'Group', and encourage you to use the word 'Chapter' to describe the Chapter. Group in this day and age tends to suggest the idea of something on the Internet. We're not promoting the Internet, but CW and QRP.

3. While not promoting the Internet, it is acceptable for a Chapter to have a web site if so desired, or some other way to keep in touch via the Internet. If you go to the extent of getting a domain name for any web site you come up with, the URL should be as follows for uniformity - naqccmn.com, naqcctx.com. That is naqcc followed by your state abbreviation .com. Of course, domain names do cost money, and if you can't afford to buy one, that is OK. Keep in mind though, that the Internet, while helpful, is one of the reasons for the loss of popularity of ham radio communications. Use CW to communicate whenever possible.

4. An excellent way to communicate via CW is to set up a local net on one of the ham bands - 80 meters probably being the best for local areas. Or even VHF bands like 2 meters, AS LONG as CW is used, and not any other mode.

5. Any kind of Chapter activity that is publicized in any way MUST refer to the activity taking place under the auspices of your local Chapter and the NAQCC. There should be no reference to any other clubs with the exception of your local radio club if appropriate.

6. All Chapter activities should be written up and submitted for publication in the NAQCC newsletter.

6a. Exception to #'s 4, 5, 6 - A Chapter may get together via phone to discuss CW and QRP ideas for the Chapter. However it must be made clear that such gettogethers are not official NAQCC activities, and are not promoted as such. Just treat them as local ham radio activities not affiliated with the NAQCC.

7. As the idea of Chapters evolves, there will be a section of the club web site devoted to them.
8. Obviously, Chapters are for NAQCC members ONLY. If someone shows an interest in what you are doing, but is not a member, have them join the NAQCC before they can participate. After all, if they are interested in CW and QRP, they should be a member.
9. All Chapter activities should involve CW and/or QRP in some way. Obviously promoting any other modes runs counter to the basic purpose of the NAQCC.
10. Chapters should not set up their own activities that may compete with overall club activities. Instead Chapters should be encouraged to participate in our sprints, challenges, awards, and anniversary activities. When we get more Chapters started, we envision competition among Chapters in our sprints and challenges.
11. The exception to Item #10 is where a Chapter in a geographical area can not reasonably compete in our regular sprints. Then a Chapter can set up their own sprints as the European Chapter is doing (successfully) now.
12. Chapters and their individual members should always promote the NAQCC in every way possible and try to recruit as many new NAQCC members as possible. There is power in numbers when it comes to promoting and preserving our wonderful mode of CW.

These guidelines will be modified and amended as matters arise. We are only in the infancy stage of Chapters now, and much remains to be worked out.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH SPRINT: We have two sprints scheduled for this month to help you keep warm. The first one is our regular sprint on January 16th, 0130-0330 Z. That’s the evening of the 15th here in North America. Then on January 24th, 0130-0330Z we have our annual 160-meter sprint. Let’s start off the new year right with some big participation in these fun events.

Please remember to strive for that perfectly formatted “SILVER LOG” submission. It really helps our log processing. There will be a prize at the end of the year for the most SILVER logs.

Complete sprint rules and information on log submission can be found at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>.

LAST MONTH SPRINT RESULTS: Although no records were set in our 110th sprint, it was nevertheless a remarkable one. Remarkable for the fact that 109 logs were submitted for a sprint that had such universally bad conditions! Participants from almost every corner of the continent reported high QRN, deep QSB, and virtually dead bands, and yet high levels of QFN were also reported. (That’s a Q-signal that I just made up for “FUN!”) We had an average of 14.2 QSOs per log and just imagine what that would have been with better conditions!

Congratulations to the winners and a big “THANK YOU” to all of the participants who submitted a log. Every time that you do so you are casting your vote for CW and QRP!

We would especially like to welcome our first-time loggers: KD3CA, VE3FMW, WH6LE, W0FG, KB8X, NS0D, K5TEB, WB4SPB, K3IRV, KB3FTE. We trust that you had a fun time and hope that you will continue to participate and submit your results.

We are happy to report that 89.9% (98/109) of the submitted logs were perfectly formatted SILVER LOGS and we ended up with a 6-way tie on the year with 12 perfectly formatted logs submitted by AA7CU, KB9ILT, KU4A, N8XMS, NQ2W, WA2JSG. You can read about the ultimate winner for the year on page 2 in the *Key Clicks*.

Complete results for the sprint can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201312.html> . Result summaries are shown in the tables on the following page.

DECEMBER MW SPRINT: The MW sprint on the 18th also suffered from fairly poor band conditions but nevertheless had good participation with 54 logs submitted. Complete results can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201312mw.html> .

SPRINT HONOR ROLL: We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our sprints. Exact counts can be seen at http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html .

| Number of Sprints | Members |
|-------------------|---|
| 50+ | VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG WY3H N4FI K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN N8XMS NU7T |
| 75+ | WB8LZG K4BAI KD2MX K4NVJ W2SH W9CC W2JEK |
| 100+ | KA2KGP K3WWP |
| 125+ | |

| CERTIFICATES | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| SWA CATEGORY | | | |
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | KN1H | | |
| W2 | W2SH | WA2NYY | |
| W3 | K3WWP | | |
| W4 | KG4W | KB4QQJ | WG8Y |
| W5 | W5IQS | W5ODS | |
| W6 | KA6AIL | | |
| W7 | KF7TDF | | |
| W8 | N8IUP | W3NP | |
| W9 | AA9L | | |
| W0 | KI0I | WB0PYF | |
| VE | VE2TH | | |
| DX | | | |
| KEY CATEGORIES | | | |
| Straight Key (x2) | N8IUP | | |
| Bug (x1.5) | KG4W | | |
| Keyer (x1) | NN9K | | |
| OTHER CATEGORIES | | | |
| Gain | NN9K | | |
| First-Time Logger High Scorer | KD3CA | | |
| Prize Drawing | NX8Y | | |

| | Current Month | Previous Month | All-Time Record | Record Date |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Logs | 109 | 104 | 194 | 2/13 |
| Participants | 164 | 172 | 269 | 2/13 |
| Total QSOs | 1549 | 1648 | 2804 | 2/13 |
| Hour 1 QSOs | 866 | 875 | 1468 | 2/13 |
| Hour 2 QSOs | 684 | 774 | 1334 | 2/13 |
| 20m QSOs | 37 | 99 | 1232 | 8/13 |
| 40m QSOs | 639 | 821 | 1534 | 4/12 |
| 80m QSOs | 874 | 729 | 1417 | 2/13 |
| Avg QSOs / Station | 14.2 | 15.8 | 19.3 | 9/11 |



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH CHALLENGE: Our January Challenge is an alphabet challenge with a list of words that are all related to the celebration of the new year. You can find the word list, along with the rules, at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201401.html> . If you are a “motorhead” check out the European challenge for this month. Details can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/january-2014-challenge> .

NEXT MONTH CHALLENGE: The challenge for February is an alphabet challenge that looks forward to the end of winter with the Ground Hog Day predictions that come from animals around the country like Punxsutawney Phil and Staten Island Chuck. The list of celebrity ground hogs, along with the rules, is at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201402.html> .

Complete information about our challenges including a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge is available at <http://naqcc.info/challenges.html> .

LAST MONTH CHALLENGE: Thirteen members submitted logs reporting their 20-minute-plus ragchew QSOs in December and eleven of them completed the challenge by making at least ten QSOs. Several people reported DX ragchews and everyone had a great time. Apparently the most difficult part of this challenge was finding the time to operate during the busy holiday season. Complete results and soapbox comments can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201312.html> .

2014: We would really like to see an increase in challenge participation this year. They don't take an excessive amount of time and they really are a lot of fun. And remember that credit is given for participation, not completion. I sometimes think that it's a lot like the Dr. Seuss story, “*Green Eggs and Ham.*”

Old-Timer: “I do not like green eggs and ham!
I do not like them, Sam-I-am.”

Sam-I-am: “You do not like them.
So you say.
Try them! Try them!
And you may.”

When the OT finally gives them a try he says:

“Say!
I like green eggs and ham!
I do! I like them, Sam-I-am!”

So, with apologies to Dr. Seuss fans, I offer this bit of rhyme:

Try a Challenge!
Try today.
You will like it,
I can say!



NAQCC AWARDS

We have an extensive list of awards that you can earn. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>. Here are the certificates and endorsements earned this past month:

FRIENDSHIP AWARD - 400 Point Endorsement

0018 - W4DUK 206 12/15/13

1000 MPW AWARD

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|---|--------|----------|---------------------|
| 0325 - N3CU | C6AUM | - | 6,032 | 12/03/13 | center-fed Zepp@50' |
| 0326 - N3CU | NW0M | - | 1,783 | 12/03/13 | center-fed Zepp@50' |
| 0327 - WU1V | 4Z5AD | - | 1,103 | 12/09/13 | dipole@30' |
| 0328 - VE3GNS | C6ANM | - | 2,576 | 12/10/13 | wire@29' |
| 0329 - KK4BOB | VK7CW | - | 9,580 | 12/13/13 | end-fed@50' |
| 0330 - W8NNC | CX1AA | - | 1,381 | 12/14/13 | attic dipole |
| 0331 - K0FNR | CT9/R9DX | - | 9,400 | 12/14/13 | vertical dipole |
| 0332 - AD9DX | W6JTI | - | 2,022 | 12/15/13 | wire dipole |
| 0333 - K0FNR | PS2T | - | 11,000 | 12/15/13 | vertical dipole |
| 0334 - W8RJW | 4Z4DX | - | 1,194 | 12/17/13 | dipole@35' |
| 0335 - KK4DMT | VE2TH | - | 1,616 | 12/18/13 | end-fed@30' |
| 0336 - KK4DMT | KB9ILT | - | 1,577 | 12/18/13 | end-fed@30' |
| 0337 - W1SFR | J88HL | - | 22,280 | 12/18/13 | OCF dipole@80' |
| 0338 - WX2S | AA6XV | - | 25,280 | 12/21/13 | 6BTV vertical |
| 0339 - WA2FBN | KB8MMJ | - | 4,739 | 12/21/13 | 105' dipole@30' |
| 0340 - WA2FBN | DF3CB | - | 7,767 | 12/21/13 | 105' dipole@30' |

WAC AWARD

| | | |
|--------------|---|----------|
| 0026 - K0FNR | CT9/DK7YY - JM7OLW - PA3FQA - XF1P - ZM1A - HC2AO | 12/09/13 |
| 0027 - K9OSC | EA8BMG - EZ1A - G100RSGB - K3WWP - ZM9ODX - PJ2/DF9MV | 12/20/13 |



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Each month one of our members is randomly selected and asked to share their ham radio biography with all of us. Questions or comments should go to Paul, KD2MX, at kd2mx@arrl.net.

DISCLAIMER: Any views expressed in this section are those of the submitting member and may or may not be those of the NAQCC or its officers.

GLENN SIMONS, N3COB, #5770



I was first licensed in June 15, 1979 as a Novice, KA3DOO. I worked my way up the ladder from Novice to Technician (April 1980), Technician to General (August 1981) and General to Advanced Class (September 1982). Then I requested a call sign change and received N3COB. Finally, I upgraded to Extra Class in May 2000.

Since I received my Novice ticket in 1979, I was very active on HF. At that time I lived in a townhouse, operating with indoor dipoles on 10, 15 and 20 meters along with a 40 meter inverted vee draped over the roof of my home. A Drake TR-4C, RV-4C, MS-4 and the AC-4 was my first HF Station. During this time I certainly worked well over 100 countries but never had the QSLs to back it up. I did however work, confirm and receive the WAS award (all CW) prior to upgrading to General Class. In 1985 I moved to Brookeville, Maryland, which for you trivia buffs was the Nation's Capital for ONE DAY; August 14, 1814.

In my first year there, I put up 48 feet of Rohn 25 and a Mosley CL-33 Tribander. My country totals seemed to skyrocket overnight. Within that first year in our new home, with the assistance of the Tribander, I easily had my first 100 QSL cards checked, and received my DXCC mixed award. Currently I have over 300 countries worked and over 280 confirmed. This includes DXCC on Ten Meters, WAS, WAC and WAZ. I have also been active on RTTY for over 12 years and am currently active with the newer PSK31 mode. RTTY is my most enjoyable mode of operating. I started with a Microlog AIR-1 and the Commodore C-64. I then graduated to a Microlog ATR6800 Terminal with a DT-600 TU.

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My current station equipment consists of a Kenwood TS850SAT, Heathkit SB220 Amp and a Pulstar ATK2 Tuner. The audio equipment consists of an Audio Technica AT2020 Studio Microphone, Personus V2 Preamp and theBehringer DSP1124P Feedback Destroyer w/Parametric Equalizer. The antennas here are a Cushcraft AV-3 Ground Mount Vertical and an 80 Meter Carolina Windom at just over 95 feet (30 meters).

My latest acquisition is a great little rig. The HB-1B QRP Transceiver from YOUKITS. Purchased from TenTec, it's an unbelievable piece of gear. It has the footprint of a QSL Card, weighs 14 oz. without batteries and transceives on 4 bands; 80, 40, 30 and 20 meters. It receives 3.2 through 16 MHz and you can select from USB, LSB and CW modes (it only transmits CW). Based on DC power input the transmit power is typically about 5 watts. It also has a 30-frequency memory and built-in electronic keyer with selectable speed control. It allows you to store your call sign which is used with the auto CQ you can send from the push of a button. It has adjustable tuning steps plus independent RIT and an adjustable 4-pole crystal filter (400Hz to 3Khz). My current goal is to complete WAS. via QRP. If you hear me on please give me a call.

I'm really enjoying the QRP Sprints each month. Trying to outdo my previous months score each time out is easier said than done but it is fun trying. I look forward to hearing and working you in one of the upcoming NAQCC Sprints. When you have a moment please stop by my QRZ.COM site. Most of what you just read is there but you'll see some additional pictures and information.

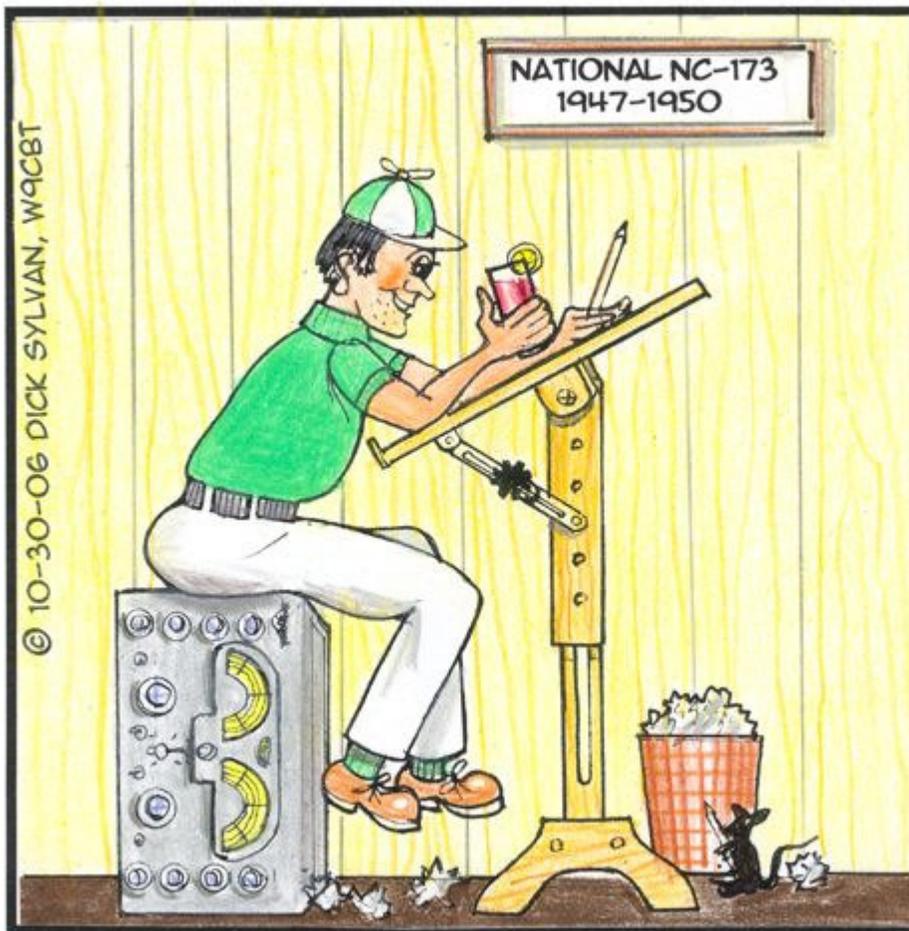


HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, NAQCC #2062, has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very talented cartoon artist. Dick's cartoons appear monthly in the K9YA Telegraph, a free ham radio eZine published by the Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club (<http://www.k9ya.org/>). We are very pleased and honored to be allowed to reprint his cartoons here. Dick has also authored the book "HI HI — A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons" which is available at <http://www.k9ya.org/w9cbt/>.

HAM QUIPS BY DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



DICK LIKES TO DRAW UPON OLD RADIOS TO CREATE NEW CARTOON IDEAS!



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

We currently have five chapters—Europe, Texas, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Florida—but we would be very 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 would be interested in starting a chapter in your area email Paul142857@gmail.com and information will be sent to you.

If your chapter is planning a portable operation activity and would like to have it promoted, send an email with the subject “NAQCC portable operation”, and with the exact wording of the announcement to kd2mx@arrl.net. Please be sure to submit a summary write-up of the activity, including pictures, to Paul142857@gmail.com for posting to this section of the newsletter.

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to matt@naqcc-eu.org. The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

The European Chapter has its own monthly sprints. All are welcome to participate, not just EU members, and we regularly receive log reports of trans-Atlantic QSOs.

No additional report available.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to naqccfl@yahoo.com.

Blessed with good weather (not always a given in N-FL 'winters'), the Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its December field event on Hontoon Island, an inland island near DeLand, Florida. We gathered early on December 20th and carried half the known existing radio gear of the new world out to meet the boat launch that transported us to beautiful Hontoon Island.

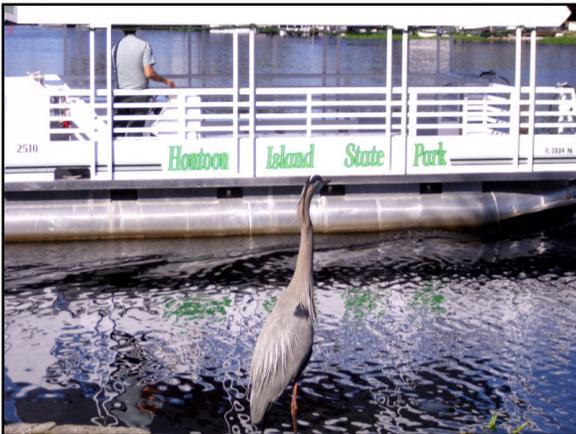
Setting up our respective stations in the picnic area on the promontory point, we were surrounded by water - and all that lives in it there - on three sides, thus enhancing our limited signal strength through the magic of the adjacent 'water amplifier'.



WB4MNK Art (#5274), KG4LAL Wally (#6278), and K3RLL Don (#1905) were joined by a skilled Irish operator Keith GIOSSA from Copeland Island in the North Irish Sea who was visiting FL over the holidays. Incidentally, while visiting Florida, Keith passed his Extra Exam and is also now known as KV4TO. We certainly hope Keith enjoyed his time in FL and returns soon.

In addition to the joy of ham radio and good fellowship, additional companionship was provided by an abundance of wildlife in the area, though none of the many local alligators stalked us this particular day on the island.

(Continued on page 15)



We wish to thank Paul N8XMS for posting our field event to the members and for those loyal and skilled operators who so patiently listened for us in a day with highly varying propagation. Without our NAQCC members who give of their time to listen for us, these field events wouldn't be much fun.



| DATE/TIME (UTC) | CALL | FREQ./MODE | PWR | RST |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 12-20-2013 Hontoon Island State Park, FL | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> KG4LAL | <input type="checkbox"/> G10SSA/W4 | <input type="checkbox"/> WB4MNK | <input type="checkbox"/> K3RLL |

As a group, we made a total of about 30 contacts, both domestic and DX. Thanks again to those who listened for us, whether we had the good fortune of you hearing us or not.

... Art, WB4MNK

NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER:

Items in this section are from John, K3WWP, unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to naqcc33@windstream.net.

2013 was a very good year for the NAQCC WPA Chapter. There were many enjoyable get togethers among chapter members K3WWP, KC2EGL, WY3H, W3IRS, KC3AHO, K3RLL, and WB3FAE throughout the year. That's the purpose of our NAQCC Chapters - to provide opportunities for members in a local area to have personal fellowship with other chapter members. We took full advantage of that throughout the year with the following activities to mention only some of them. For more details refer to the WPA Chapter News in the newsletter number in parentheses.

In January K3WWP and KC2EGL got together and figured out a way to use a straight key, a bug, and a keyer on our KX3s without having to access any menu settings (175).

In February K3WWP and KC2EGL continued their efforts to make the KX3 even more user-friendly than it already is right out of the box. This was done by interfacing it with an SDR/Panadapter computer program. Scanning the bands with the panadapter is more like glancing at the band rather than actually scanning it to see where the activity is, and going right to that spot to see who it is there. (176) Also in February WY3H, K3WWP, and KC2EGL had a great time getting together for our 'near real time' drawing of prize winners from our 100th NAQCC sprint that month. (177) Another February activity was K3WWP and KC2EGL joining up for a 'tag team' effort in the ARRL DX contest. Those of you who follow our activities know what a tag team effort is. For those who don't, it's where Mike and I take turns working stations in a contest. We had great success in the ARRL contest with 599 QSOs between us, and both made a contest WAC along the way. (177)

In March K3WWP and KC2EGL did some other 'tag team' contests, making 284 QSOs combined in the Russian DX Contest and Virginia QSO Party. We also fine tuned Mike's connection between his KX3 and his laptop. (178)

April featured a few different items. K3WWP and KC2EGL each built a Two Tinned Tuna transmitter. We did 'tag team' efforts in the Polish DX Contest, Yuri Gagarin Contest, and Georgia QSO Party the first two weekends. Then we drove the 'tag team' effort to the limit trying to do eight separate contests the next weekend. We managed contacts in all but the Holyland contest, making a total of 250 QSOs in the other seven events. Hardest part was not making the contacts, but being sure we logged them in the correct computer log. Finally on the fourth weekend the FL QSO Party and the HB9 contest provided 128 more QSOs. A mini-straight key kit was also constructed on that weekend. (179) On April 28 WY3H and his wife JoAnne, K3WWP, and KC2EGL went to the Two Rivers hamfest near Pittsburgh to meet with other hams and look for some bargains. (179)

In addition to our 'tag team' contest efforts, we also work DX the same way outside of contests. On the first weekend in June, Mike worked his 100th DX entity that way when he got HQ3W in Honduras. That same weekend WY3H, K3WWP, KC2EGL, W3IRS, and KC3AHO set up a NAQCC table at the Breezeshooters hamfest in Butler, PA. Also plans were being started for a Field Day operation and our first parkpedition of the year. (180)

(Continued on page 17)

The WPA Chapter did set up a NAQCC operation for Field Day at the property of club President WY3H. It was the first time a second Field Day operation was set up in Armstrong County in addition to the local club's normal setup. With our QRP and CW only operation, we easily outscored the local club although FD is not really about scoring but about emergency operation set ups. Our chapter ops were WY3H, K3RLL (now up from his winter home in FL), K3WWP, and KC2EGL. The four of us made a total of 352 QSOs in the event. That included contacts from 56 ARRL sections, 38 states, 3 provinces and Puerto Rico. (181)

In July K3WWP and KC2EGL staged one of several parkpeditions in 2013 from the Kittanning Community Park. We enjoyed working many club members as well as some non-members. We hoped Don could be with us, but he had other commitments that day. K3RLL and K3WWP did get together later that month for a comparison of their KX3s. Don only recently built his after coming north in June. (182)

On August 20, K3RLL and K3WWP did a parkpedition. Conditions were excellent and we made QSOs from all over the USA and Canada. (183)

On September 12, K3WWP and KC2EGL conducted an operation from aboard the submarine USS Requin in Pittsburgh. We made 37 QSOs with our KX3s into the sub antennas. Only one band could be used at a time or we would have had even more QSOs. Plans were made for our traditional parkpeditions during NAQCC anniversary week and on Columbus Day - two separate events this year since Columbus day fell outside our anniversary week. (184)

Superb conditions were there for our Columbus Day parkpedition. K3WWP and KC2EGL racked up 76 QSOs, the best ever for any parkpedition. Included were DX contacts from Italy and Germany. The two of us also got together a couple other times during the month and also in November and worked some DX including Mike's 101st country in San Andres Island. Although Don was now back in FL, Mike and I tried to help him out remotely with his KX3/Laptop setup. We did shed some light on his problems, but didn't come up with a complete solution. (185)

Other things to close out the year were K3WWP and KC2EGL putting their heads together to set up John's new laptop with the KX3. Turns out that my setup went smoothly without the problems Mike and Don had with theirs. Possibly because my laptop had Windows 8 installed and it more easily recognized the outputs from the KX3. At any rate it worked pretty much out of the box after we figured out what we were doing. (186)

Another (last minute) operation from the Requin took place when Tom WY3H was called on to do an article on the Requin for the local paper. He and his sons W3IRS and KC3AHO, along with K3WWP operated the station for a couple hours during the visit as a side benefit of the newspaper article. (186) Also in November, K3WWP and a new NAQCC member from about 20 miles away got together for an eyeball QSO. He is Tom WB3FAE who hopes to be another active part of our WPA Chapter. (186)

Believe it or not, the above are only some of the activities the WPA Chapter engaged in during 2013. I culled most of the info from glancing through the 2013 newsletters, and I can think of other things that were omitted there or that my glancing didn't catch. The NJ QRP Club Skeeter hunt is one example.

K3WWP and KC2EGL did a multi-op setup in that one from the Kittanning Community Park and placed well in the results. With that, we close out 2013 and look forward to much more great fellowship in 2014. I hope those of you not in Chapters realize from this just what you are missing.

NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from John, N8ZYA, unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to John at jspiker58@gmail.com. The chapter's web site is at <https://plus.google.com/communities/102627005227155262259?hl=en&partnerid=gplp0>.

No report available.

NAQCC TEXAS CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from TX Chapter Director Ron, K5DUZ, unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to webmaster7388@naqcctx.com. The TX Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcctx.com/>.

No report available.



NAQCC QRS NETS

Additional information about our slow-speed CW nets can be found at http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html .
Send any questions to Net Manager Chuck, KB1ZMX at cfytech24x7@gmail.com.

| NAQCC QRS NET SCHEDULE | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Net | Local Time | UTC | Freq | Primary NCS |
| Main Net | Sunday 8 PM Eastern | Monday 0100 Z | 7060 KHz | Ron, WB1HGA (in MA) |
| East Texas | Monday 7 PM Central | Tuesday 0100 Z | 3561 KHz | Allen, KA5TJS (in TX) |
| Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental | Tues/Thurs 4 PM Mountain | Tues/Thurs 2300 Z | 14062.5 KHz | Dale, WC7S (in WY) |
| East Coast | Thursday 8:30 PM Eastern | Friday 0130 Z | 3560 KHz | Robert, KG4KGL (in SC) |
| Pacific Northwest | Thursday 7 PM Pacific | Friday 0300 Z | 3574 KHz | Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA) |
| Pacific Northwest (Suspended until Feb.) | Monday 8 PM Pacific | Tuesday 0400 Z | 7123.5 KHz | JB, KR5RR (in CA) |

Conditions for some nets continue to be challenging, with some NCS reporting No QNI many nights or suspending the net altogether. To make up for this, consider getting a group of local ops together to take advantage of NVIS propagation, especially during daylight hours if you are free to do so. Broadcast QRM on 40M is not a factor then. I hear a lot of slow speed QSOs around 7.110-7.115 so a search and pounce there should be easy.

In my region there are plenty of morning nets on 75 meters and I have no problem pulling them in from 300 miles away with an OCF dipole SWA at 15 feet. So an 80M local round table net for CW is quite possible; don't let the phone guys have all the fun! Last but not least there is now a lot of contest and other activity on top band (160M). Check the ARRL website or qrp-l mail reflector for more updates. You don't need a half-wavelength length dipole to get out on 160M; there are many sloper designs you can home brew that are less than 100 feet long and some way less than \$100, ready-to-hang.

I've also had good luck making contacts to the west on 30 meters, hearing and working as far west as the Mississippi (Michigan, Wisconsin) and down to Texas. High band dipoles are small, and are easy to make and hang, despite the cold weather.

My personal approach is that it's more important for a noob (like me) to build key time, regardless of QRS or QRO necessary to make the contact. So I'm chipping away at WAS on CW. There are also the monthly club challenges. Pick a goal and have at it. It's easier than you think and you'll meet some nice people along the way.

72, Chuck KB1ZMX, QRS Nets Manager

(Continued on page 20)

NAQCC Main QRS Net (NQN) - Sunday, 8:00 PM Eastern Time, 7.060 Mhz

- 12-01-2013 (7) NCS WB1HGA N8IUP W4HH K3NLT K1IEE N8ME and N1DN. The going was tough, more stations in the noise but I could not pull them in.
- 12-08-2013 (0) NCS WB1HGA no QNI
- 12-15-2013 (4) NCS WB1HGA VE3FMW W0CC (very difficult cpy/ 22N)
- N4EUQ KE5HL QSB ruled the band es I'm sure my sig wasn't heard by many.
- 12-22-2013 (4) NCS WB1HGA K9EYT Ray from FL, N5DRG Danny from TX
- 12-29-2013 (4) NCS WB1HGA N8ZYA KC4URI W8GDP

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) - Monday, 7:00 PM Central Time, 3.061Mhz

- 12-01-2013 (4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM KG0YR Ruff night. The QSB was very bad and everyone was in and out. I had S5/S6 noise here but we got it done.
- 12-08-2013 (4) NCS KA5TJS KA5TJS KE5YGA WB0QQT
- 12-15-2013 (5) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA N5DRG KE5YUM KG0YR QSB bad but everyone got their comments in.
- 12-22-2013 (4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA K5BRY N5DRG
- 12-29-2013 (4) NCS KA5TJS K5BRY N5DRG KE9DR

NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) - Monday, 9:00 PM Central Time, 7.123.5 Mhz

- 12-01-2013 (5) NCS WB0QQT Called net but no QNI tonight.
- 12-08-2013 (3) NCS WB0QQT Called net but no QNI tonight. Bad conditions still present.
- 12-15-2013 (3) NCS WB0QQT N5DRG K5BRY Thanks guys !!
- 12-22-2013 (2) NCS WB0QQT Called net but no QNI tonight.
- 12-29-2013 (2) NCS WB0QQT Called net but no QNI tonight.

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMR) - Tuesday/Thursday 5:00 PM Mountain Time, 2100z

14.062.5 Mhz

- 12-03-2013 (6) NCS WC7S N6MY W2SH KF7WNS AA7CU KE6OIO
- 12-05-2013 (8) NCS WC7S NE5DL, KA4RUR, KE6OIO, AA7CU, N6MY, KF7WNS, K7CHS
- 12-10-2013 (3) NCS WC7S KE6OIO KF7WNS
- 12-12-2013 (7) NCS WC7S NE5DL N6MY AE7CG W2SH N9RLO KF7WN
- 12-17-2013 (6) NCS WC7S K6MGO N6MY AE7CG K0DTJ W0CC
- 12-19-2013 No Report
- 12-24-2013 Cancelled
- 12-26-2013 (4) NCS WC7S KE6OIO K6MGO KF7WNS
- 12-26-2013 (4) NCS WC7S N6MYKF7WNS KE6OIO

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMR) - Tuesday/Thursday, 5:45 PM Mountain Time, 7.0652.5 Mhz. Note that Tuesday and Thursday 40M QRS nets have been cancelled by NCS.

- 12-03-2013 NCS WC7S No QNI
- 12-05-2013 NCS WC7S No QNI
- 12-10-2013 NCS WC7S No QNI
- 12-12-2013 NCS WC7S No QNI
- 12-17-2013 NCS WC7S No QNI
- 12-19-2013 No Report
- 12-24-2013 Cancelled
- 12-26-2013 NCS WC7S No QNI
- 12-26-2013 NCS WC7S No QNI

NAQCC East Coast QRS Net (ECN) - Thursday, 8:30 PM Eastern Time, 3.560 Mhz +/-

12-05-2013 (0) NCS KG4KGL No QNI
12-12-2013 (0) NCS KG4KGL No QNI
12-19-2013 (0) NCS KG4KGL No QNI
12-26-2013 (0) NCS KG4KGL No QNI

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) - Thursday, 7:00 PM, Pacific Time, 3.574 MHz

12-05-2013 (7) NCS W7DK N6KIX AD7BP N0DA KE7LKW/6 AB8SA W7ANM
12-12-2013 (5) NCS W7DK K7ZNP N0DA AD7BP KE7LKW/6
12-19-2013 (6) NCS AD7BP KR5RR W7DK K6DMT N6KIX KE7LKW/6
12-26-2013 (4) NCS W7DK AD7BP N6KIX KE7LKW/7

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS 40 Meter Net (PNW40) - Monday, 8:00 PM, Pacific Time, 7.123.5 MHz

12-02-2013 (4) NCS KR5RR W7MWF KW6G KE7LK
12-09-2013 (0) NCS KR5RR No QNI
12-16-2013 (3) NCS KR5RR WB0QQT N6DRG WB4SPB and KF7YHB tried to check in but
neither was heard.
12-23-2013 No net (NCS sick)
12-30-2013 (4) NCS KR5RR & KE7LKW WN0WWY(welcome to Dale, Manhattan, KS) N7HRK
PNW 40 continues to struggle with winter time propagation. Amazing how we can start a net with
mostly strong signals and just moments later everyone fades into noise! NCS KR5RR will be
traveling on business for the next three Mondays. Don't know if we'll have a NCS but people are
encouraged to check on frequency for QSOs.



NAQCC CW ASSISTANCE PROJECT



Items in this section are from CW Assistance Project Coordinator Brion, VE3FUJ, unless otherwise credited. If you are interested in helping out or need some help yourself please contact VE3FUJ at ve3fuj@wrightman.ca. Additional help is also available on our website at <http://naqcc.info/cw.html>.

Happy New Year to all!

Now that Christmas is over with and you've been using that new Rig you asked Santa to bring, you've found it won't go below 1W and you wish to try your hand at say 100mW or less - nooo problem! Get a few resistors together, some solder and a soldering iron, then make a Power-Attenuator. But first do a bit of reading up on the Subject. Drew Diamond, VK3XU, has excellent articles on power attenuators and step-attenuators in volumes 2 and 3 of his books. (Available from the Wireless Institute of Australia at <http://www.wia.org.au/members/bookshop/about/>.) There is also some good information on how to build one on PA1B's web site at <http://a29.veron.nl/pa1b.htm>. Hendricks Kits has a nice 41-dB step attenuator that will easily take your 5-watts of input and put you down into the "basement" of milli-wattling (<http://www.qrpkits.com/>).

That should get you started. Milli-wattling is really a fascinating world all its own. One thing to keep in mind - your power attenuator should be built with adequate power handling and ventilation. Perhaps go a little overboard so that it has no chance of heating up and changing its parameters. If you are using a transceiver you should incorporate a bypass switch (manual or electronic) because you don't want to attenuate a weak station signal that you are receiving anymore than you have to. If, on the other hand, you are using a separate transmitter and receiver it is not a problem since the device should only be between TX and antenna and therefore won't affect reception at all. But even in this situation a bypass switch is a very convenient way to remove the attenuation completely from your transmitted signal.

What equipment is suitable for your endeavor?? That depends a lot on how you want to milli-watt. If you want to become a serious mW'r then get the best receiver that you can. If on the other hand you are a casual happy go lucky mW'r who take things as they come, then a rig like a Pixie should do, or a "DC" receiver transmitter combo will do. DC Rx's usually are sensitive enough but lack a bit in selectivity for the job (an understatement). When the band is not crowded they do well.

But of course in all instances the more stable the RX the better. It's so very easy to lose a very weak and barely audible station by accidentally touching the wrong knob, or just bumping the RX. Some thought should be given to be able to lock the dial mechanically, or as some of the "Mainline sets" do, electronically. (That's one feature I do like.) I seem to recall some of the better tube RX's in the past, had a disc attached behind the dial-knob and somewhere around the perimeter of that disk there was a little finger knob clamp that prevented the disc (knob) from turning when engaged. An industrious Ham could probably fashion something similar.

72 Brion -30-



MEMBER SUBMISSIONS



This section is a forum for you to tell other members what you've been up to on the ham bands or to submit an article dealing with some aspect of CW and QRP operation or equipment. Just about anything that would be of interest to our members would be welcomed. Send your items to our news editor Paul, KD2MX, at kd2mx@arrl.net.

DISCLAIMER: Any views expressed in this section are those of the submitting member and may or may not be those of the NAQCC or its officers.

NOTE: The first three Member Submissions were sent in response to the Cartoon Code article that appeared in the December issue of the newsletter.

From Kai, KE4PT, #7049 --

(Kai is one of our newest NAQCC members. Check out his [QRZ.com](#) page for a fun "Secret Ham Message." - ed.)

I just learned about NAQCC from a Jan 2014 QST article by N2EI. That led me to the membership page (I applied!) and to the Newsletters where I found your very enjoyable "CARTOON CODE" article. Currently, code appears also in the credits for the BBC mystery "Inspector Morse" series, where the name of the lead character MORSE is subtly woven in Morse code into the closing theme music.

I'm also proud to say the my daughter, Dai, KE4QXL, hid some Morse code "Easter eggs" in some of the sound suites for the GM "Volt" electric car during an internship at GM while she was a Masters student at Stanford. Listen for subtle renditions of the name "VOLT" and the logo "GM" in Morse code. Management loved the idea! She is "the Intern" in:

<http://www.fastcompany.com/3020884/innovation-agents/gms-innovation-hunter-is-a-fast-driver-looking-to-speed-up-car-development>.

Morse lives!

73,
Kai, KE4PT

From Jerry, VE6CPP, #5697 --

I remember back in the late 80's..my niece was watching a Disney cartoon..and the 'buzzing bees' were sending W6 call signs, that I picked up immediately! Wish I could remember the cartoon name now..but after some investigating on the air..and back then, 'snail mail'..some of the 'Animators' working for Disney at the time were Ham Op's..so they used their call signs for the 'buzzing bee sounds'..! I used to notice many movies did not send actual code..but one WWII flick my ex and I were watching one evening in a theater back in the early 80's.. as the Japanese soldiers pulled a Radio out of the bushes..and Tx 'US Ships spotted in Coral Cove'..when I said this to the xyl, soon after the sub-title came up with the same ! Guy in front of us turns around and says "I take it you have seen this before" ? She says "No, He knows Morse Code" ..guy was like 'Really' !..then him and I spent the rest of the movie talking about it..to the numerous 'Shhhh's ! Great Article Paul..Tnx for sharing !

(Continued on page 24)

Here is a link to an eHam forum about CW in the movies:

<http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,73262.0.html>

From Terry, VE6TEP & VE6CAQ, #6234 --

In Dec. 2009 the following link to a movie about hams in movies was passed around among local hams here in Calgary and area. <http://makezine.com/2009/12/12/radio-hams-in-old-cinema/>. Our CARA Club CW Guru listened to it and said it is perfectly good CW but told us we'd have to come up to speed and copy it correctly for ourselves. The most import CW is toward the end sent by a ham from a plane which finds a downed sea plane but runs out of fuel and doesn't make it back after CWing the downed plane's location. I still can't read all of the CW. Can you?

From Paul, N8XMS, #675 --

I posted this report to the ARRL web site but thought that NAQCC members might also enjoy seeing the key that I used for SKN...

SKN is always a great way to kick off the new ham radio year! In between various activities, including shoveling about four inches of snow, I managed to enjoy seven SKN QSOs. I operated my Elecraft K2 on 20 and 40 meters with my usual 5-watts of QRP into my old Cushcraft R7 trap vertical. For a key I used my very special antique strap key that was made in the Engineering Shops at the University of Michigan. The date that this key was made, as well as the reason that it was made, are not exactly known. As an alumnus of U of M, owning and occasionally using this key is very special for me. It has both "make" and "break" contacts and makes an almost musical clickity-clack sound when used. There are no adjustments that can be set on the key so I have to adjust my fist instead!



From John, K3WWP, #002 --

2013 was a great year for ham radio. Not only all the WPA Chapter events mentioned in the WPA Chapter News, but because of other personal achievements as well which were largely due to the great band conditions especially in the latter half of the year. Let me give you some stats to show just how good they were.

(Continued on page 25)

Starting on March 1 and continuing through the end of the year (and now beyond), I worked at least 1 DX (non-W/VE) station each day which made 306 consecutive days of DX. Below is a list of achievements on the bands and the last previous year they were that good or better.

Total QSOs - 3,621 (2002 - 3,962)
10M QSOs - 441 (2002 - 980)
12M QSOs - 35 (2000 - 71)
15M QSOs - 667 (2002 - 938)
17M QSOs - 143 (best ever)
20M QSOs - 1,103 (1999 - 1,466)
Countries - 132 (2000 - 149)

I think that's enough to give an idea of just how great 2013 was, and how the results track with the sunspot cycles. Keep in mind that my operating time is pretty much consistent each year so that didn't factor into the stats. In the event you may be interested in more stats, they can be found on my web site at <http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/>.

Recently, the 10 meters contest was another example of the great conditions. I made 191 QSOs in that one - for the most part DX QSOs although I did work some W/VE stations when the DX got slow.

I got a new laptop computer mainly for use in my shack to replace the dinosaur I had been using there that was so slow, grass was growing faster at times. However I wound up liking the new Windows 8 operating system on it that I now use it as pretty much an equal main computer along with this Windows 7 PC I'm using at the moment.

I had a great time each month working on our NAQCC challenges - both the one 'on this side of the pond' and the European Chapter one. Of the 25 (including the extra FD one in June), I managed to master all of them except for the January European Chapter one for whatever reason.

I talked about our parkpeditions in the WPA Chapter news, but I just wanted to add what a delight it was doing them this year with my KX3 instead of the older KX1. It sure made operating much simpler. Now in 2014 I'll be using it along with my laptop for logging and things will really be even better. No more paper logging.

One big NAQCC happening in 2013 was my decision to retire as vice-president when the club reaches 10 years of age in October 2014. With the transition well under way, my work load has decreased considerably and in 2014 I hope to be more active in my other hobbies such as walking and fishing, to mention but two.

I wish everyone the best for this new year. I hope to work you on the bands and add to my total of some 1,125 different club members I've worked so far.

From David, N0WKZ, #6828 --

So tonight, I sat down at my rig and tuned up 40 meters to do my usual time tediously listening to CW that I mostly do not understand quite yet. Indeed, very often it has been months of torture. An act of seeming sheer futility. Oh, of course I can pick out numbers, letters and the occasional word 'is,' but up until recently it has been like hiking up a ladder with a bundle of 50 year shingles. Then there is the almighty 'CQ' that seems to ring endlessly up and down the band and is quite recognizable from one gazillion miles away. All those single character triumphs are great but there is no cigar when you cant understand the conversation. But tonight was different. Tuning up the band I finally heard an operator who was keying the

(Continued on page 26)

characters at about my speed, 15 WPM, but with wide spacing. Here we go I thought. I might as well listen in and at least muscle through a few minutes of copy practice. After all, what could I lose. As I sat listening, I started to hear more than I normally hear and then it happened. I heard the word 'GETTING!' I was amazed! Astounded! I had heard the characters but I also heard the word. I had been told this would happen but as of late I was kind of losing faith that it would for me. I was so excited that I tore off my headphones and ran through the house into our kitchen where my wife was making jello and exclaimed my victory in a sort of touch down/crazy dance. Wow! Youth returns for that one fleeting moment, my hair catches the fire of exuberance, and CW is too Cool....

Amen

GB and 73's





Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and extensive contact list is available on our website at

<http://naqcc.info/index.html>.

Questions can also be sent to Vice President John Shannon
478 E. High Street
Kittanning, PA 16201

naqcc33@windstream.net

CLUB INFORMATION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

by Founding President Tom Mitchell, WY3H

We realize that QRP and CW operation do not appeal to everyone. We have no "axe to grind" with the QRO (high power) fraternity. We recognize that there are times when QRO operation is invaluable. During disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or terrorist attacks, radio amateurs provide vital, life-saving communications for which QRO operation is often necessary. QRO operators also provide an invaluable public service in health and welfare traffic and routine traffic handling.

Amateur radio has something for everyone, including SSB, other forms of digital communication and AM and FM operation. However, for a small but dedicated group, QRP (and QRPP) CW operation provides the greatest challenge and thrill amateur radio has to offer.

Each month the club will host a different challenge such as the GAW (Get Acquainted Week) or the Turkey challenge (making words relating to Thanksgiving from letters in callsigns of stations worked). Also we will have a 2 hour sprint each month alternating between Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with a bonus multiplier for using a straight key.

In addition to QRP CW operation, the club encourages (but does not limit operators to) the use of simple wire antennas. The club offers free membership to any licensed radio amateur (or shortwave listener) anywhere in the world who is willing to use and promote QRP (or QRPP) CW for at least part of their operating time.

We don't have all the answers, but we are willing to answer questions concerning QRP and CW operation from newcomers to the hobby and veteran amateurs alike. Let's put the thrill back into amateur radio and work together to encourage everyone to just give it a try.

We welcome all who share our view to join us and become part of an elite amateur radio fraternity.



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