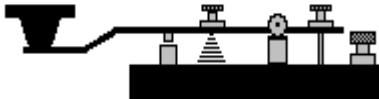




NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 193 JULY 2014



KEY CLICKS

- ◆ **CONCERN OVER PROPOSED FCC RULING.** You have very likely heard about the FCC's proposed rule-making, RM-11708 (supported by the ARRL), that would open up the CW/Data subbands to high-baud rate data signals that could be more than 2 KHz wide. The potential for interference to our CW operations would be very significant under this proposal and the NAQCC has filed an official objection to RM-11708 with the FCC. (See also the *Member Submission* from KA5TJS.) An excellent source of information on the details of RM-11708 and its ramifications can be found at <http://www.savecw.com/RM11708Default2.htm>. You will also find easy to follow instructions on that web site on how to file a comment with the FCC. We strongly urge all NAQCC members to educate themselves on this issue and to voice strong objections with the FCC regarding RM-11708. For the ARRL's perspective on this issue see <http://www.arrl.org/files/media/News/RM-11708%20Briefing%20Memo.pdf>.
- ◆ **N#A OPERATORS STILL NEEDED.** We are still looking for volunteers to operate using our special N#A callsigns during our 10th anniversary celebration October 13-19. We have operators for all 10 US districts but there is plenty of room for more, and several districts do not yet have anyone who has volunteered to use the call during the sprint that week. Your actual operating time and frequencies are completely up to you and the only stipulation is that everything is done with CW and QRP. If you would like to be an N#A operator please send me an email with your name, callsign, and US call district. If you are interested in using the special event call during the sprint indicate that as well (first come, first served). Additional instructions will be given when we get closer to the time. You can find my email address on the last page of this newsletter. An up-to-date list of operators and additional information is available at http://naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.
- ◆ **SEPTEMBER IS HONORING NANCY MONTH.** As has been previously announced we are honoring the memory of CW advocate and CQ Hall of Fame inductee Nancy Kott, WZ8C, with two different events in the month of September. Our first event is a special joint sprint with FISTS, the organization that Nancy headed in North America. The sprint will be on September 3, 0000Z - 0300Z UTC (Sept. 2, 8 PM - 11 PM EDT). This sprint is in addition to our regular one that month and will include a random drawing for some nice prizes. Complete details on the exchange, log submission, etc., can be found at <http://naqcc.info/nancy.html>.

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- ◆ **NEW MEMBER SEEKING SOME ASSISTANCE.** New member (and brand new ham) Tim Arnold, KD2GPP, #7332, is looking for some local elmering. Tim is making good progress at learning Morse code and will soon be setting up a QRP station. He is also very interested in portable operations but has not found a local club that offers very much support in these areas. Tim lives in Boonton, NJ (NNJ west of NYC). If you live near Tim and would be willing to give him some help and support please contact him at coacharnold@gmail.com.
- ◆ **CHALLENGE AND SPRINT REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY PRIZE DRAWING.** We want to again remind you that there are now minimal sprint and challenge participation requirements for members to be eligible for some really great prizes that will be given away in a drawing as part of our anniversary celebration in October. So here is another reminder of this requirement. To be eligible for a prize a member must participate in and submit a log in ...
 - 1) The October anniversary sprint.
 - 2) At least 4 of our regular monthly sprints from February through September.
 - 3) At least 3 of our monthly challenges from March through September.

Complete details can be found in the February issue of the newsletter. (http://naqcc.info/newsletter_188.pdf)

- ◆ **NEW PRIZE DRAWING FOR CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS.** Starting with the August challenge we are adding a random prize drawing to our challenges, similar to the ones that we have been doing for the sprints. Each month one lucky person will be chosen in a random drawing from the members who have participated in the challenge and have submitted their report. The winner will receive a set of paddle/bug finger pieces, or a straight key “poker chip” piece, or a K1/K2 knob insert made by master woodworker Gregg, WB8LZG. You can see pictures of Gregg’s quality work at http://naqcc.info/main_giveaways.html .
- ◆ **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big “THANK YOU” goes out to everyone who has made recent donations to the NAQCC treasury. If others would like to help out with a donation there are two ways that you can do it. The first way is to use PayPal to electronically send your contribution to Paul142857@gmail.com . To avoid any additional fees be sure to check the box that says “*I’m sending money to family or friends.*” Also please add a note indicating that this is an NAQCC donation. The second way to make a donation is to mail a check or money order made out to Paul Huff (*not NAQCC!*) at 9928 Eckles, Livonia, MI 48150. Assuming that we have your correct email address on file your contribution will be acknowledged by email with a carbon copy sent to a second club officer as a “check and balance.”



QRP DXing, By JOHN SHANNON - K3WWP

You can't work DX on HF unless you run high power and have a big antenna farm. How many times have you heard that? Believe it or not even one ARRL employee was very skeptical about the ability to work DX otherwise. Maybe still is.

Anyway I'm writing this to dispel that notion. I also do it by example as many of you probably already know. Let me start by describing my station in detail. My rigs since I became active again in the early 1990s have been homebrew, Kenwood TS-570D, Kenwood TS-480SAT, Elecraft K-2, and now the wonderful Elecraft KX3. All have a couple things in common. They have never been used on any mode but CW. They have never been used at more than 5 watts output power (except for two experimental QSOs and one accidental one - that's another story just mentioned here for 100% accuracy).

My antennas consist of a random wire most of which is in my attic for 160 through 30 meters, a 20 meters flat-top inverted vee in my attic, a 15 meters vertical dipole mounted on the side of my house, a 10 meters sloping dipole on my porch roof, and a 6 meters rotatable dipole in my attic. As KB7MBI puts it, that's not an antenna farm, that's an antenna victory garden.

With that setup I have made 19,140 DX (non-W/VE) QSOs since the early 1990s from a total of 219 countries (entities) on all continents and 36 of the 40 CQ zones. Currently as of May 29, 2014 I have made at least one DX QSO each and every day since March 1, 2013 - a total of 455 consecutive days.

With that preamble to let you know that I probably know what I'm talking about, I'm going to tell you how you can do just the same, probably even better if you have better antennas and a better location than I do. Oh, I neglected to say I don't live on a remote hilltop somewhere, but right in the middle of a small town with its attendant man-made QRN. The town is located in a river valley with surrounding hills making a visible horizon of a couple degrees up to around 10 degrees.

I think the above proves it is possible to work DX with just 5 watts or less output and simple wire antennas. Of course it's not as easy as working DX with 1 kilowatt and stacked 4 over 4 beams, but it's not as hard as many hams think. I believe that ANYONE, without a great deal of effort, can get the basic DXCC award using nothing more than QRP/CW and a wire antenna. I worked 100 countries in just the first 78 days of the year 2000 as part of the ARRL Millennium Award program. Here are some tips to hopefully help you in your DX efforts.

Basically there's not a lot you need to know to successfully work DX. First of all, a lot of good DX is only available via some high speed CW operators, so the faster you can copy, the easier it will be to work the DX station and move on to others. Of course since you don't really have to copy a lot of info in most cases, you can get by at lower copying speeds. When you get right down to it, all you really need to copy is the DX station's call, and your own call. But still you'll be much better off being able to copy at least 30 WPM which is not all that hard to do with some good practice. If you can copy everything involved in the DX operation, you'll be much more prepared to work the DX.

You also should know something about propagation as I mentioned in a previous newsletter. That way you won't waste time in mid-afternoon trying to work DX on 80 or 40, nor time in the middle of the night trying to work something on 10 meters. Not to say there aren't times mid-day DX on 80 or especially 40 is possible, or 10 meters DX late at night, but generally it's not.

The most important thing to remember about DXing, no matter what power or antennas you are using, is to

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LISTEN before you do anything. Of course, before you can work the DX, you have to be able to hear it.

Once you find a DX station, you then LISTEN some more to find out the station's mode of operation and just where HE is listening. For example, if you hear him work a station right on his frequency, then you know he's listening there. Zero beat him and get ready to call, but again don't jump in too quickly.

LISTEN to find out the pattern of the DX station's exchange. When the DX is trying to work as many stations as possible as quickly as possible, the exchange should go like this:

Station - Sends
X2XXX - CQ DX X2XXX K
K3WWP - K3WWP
X2XXX - K3WWP 599
K3WWP - TU 599
X2XXX - TU

Sometimes after the exchange of info, the DX station will just say TU as in this example, and then start listening for replies. Other times he will send QRZ?, or QRZ? de X2XXX, or just X2XXX. Some stations send dit dit. Whatever it is, learn when the DX station is done with a QSO and ready for the next call before you jump in. Do everything right and you'll have your QSO or at least a better chance at the QSO than someone who has no idea what is going on.

Of course that is the ideal situation, and it is not going to work that way every time, even for the most powerful station in the world, and certainly not for the QRPer with his wire antenna. Not to say it doesn't happen, though. A few times I have beaten out a fair sized pileup to work a DX station. Why? Often it is simply favorable propagation, but there are also things you can do to help.

Be sure your signal is as clean and crisp as possible and your keying is as close to perfect as possible. DX stations often mention that it is not always the strongest signal that is easiest to copy in a pileup. Often a weaker clean signal with perfect keying is easier to copy. If you have a memory keyer, use that to send your call. It is possible to get nervous when trying for some rare DX, and be sloppy sending even our own call.

Another thing that helps at times is to delay for a second sending your call so that the last letter or two extends past the main buzz of the pileup. In my case, the DX station would then hear the WP and send WP? Then I send my call again, and make the QSO. That is assuming there is no other WP in the pileup, and everyone acts properly and does not transmit again if their call doesn't contain a WP. And we know the odds of that. Generally anyone who has a W in their call transmits, everyone with a P transmits, and others will transmit even though their call has nothing close to a WP in it. The best of the DX stations in this case will send WP? KN KN and keep doing this until everyone else shuts up except the WP station. If a DX station does this often enough, he can really take control of a pileup and make it manageable.

If you're totally aware of what is going on, you can sometimes catch a station switching from simplex to split (more about that below) operation, and be one of the first ones to switch. I've several times gotten an easy DX QSO that way. Or catching a station switching to another band and being the first one to do so and working him easily. Again that gets back to LISTENING which a lot of folks seem not to do.

If you keep calling him without an answer, try to figure out why. It could be that propagation is currently favoring another area. If he is working one W6 after another, and you are a W1, that could be the case or he may have his beam pointed to California at the moment. This is a good time to just note his frequency or store it in a memory in your receiver, and look for someone else. Come back later and see if the DX station is working stations in your area. If so, jump in and try again.

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Some QRP stations like to sign /QRP at the end of their call in a pile-up. I don't think it's necessary, and I NEVER do it for the following reasons:

1. I don't feel my QRP should be pointed out as a special situation. I'm just another station in the pile, not someone special because I'm only using 5 watts or less.
2. I am sure some QRO stations cheat and sign /QRP, and I certainly don't want to be accused of that by those who don't know that I am a 100% QRPer.
3. It does take an appreciable amount of time to send /QRP when you are dealing with running hundreds of stations per hour, especially if it has to be repeated. If I make a contact, there's a chance I'll have to repeat my info since my sigs are weak, and repeating /QRP along with the other info may annoy not only the DX station, but others waiting in the pile. I hate slowing down DXpeditions or contestants like that.
4. To back up what I say in item 3 above, famous DXpeditioner G3SXW in his book "Up Two" urges operators calling him not to use /QRP. Then there is this quote from the 3B9C DXpedition web site to further denounce using /QRP: "We have received a few e-mails demanding that we amend logs to show /QRP. We are aware that some operators at 3B9C have been logging /QRP but it is DXpedition policy that we do not do so. /QRP does not form part of the legal callsign in any country and, as far as we are aware, no QRP awards require the callsign to be suffixed with /QRP. Therefore the /QRP suffix has no place in the 3B9C DXpedition log. You know whether you worked us on QRP or not and that should be all that is needed."

If a pileup gets too huge and the pile obliterates the DX station, then the DX operator will switch to split frequency operation. This is when the DX station transmits on one frequency, and listens on another, usually higher, frequency.

If you hear a DX station say UP (or UP1, UP2, etc.), that means he is listening to a frequency higher than his. The number is the number of kHz higher than his transmitting frequency. Leave your receive frequency on the DX station, and set your transmit frequency UP to where the DX is listening. If he just says UP with no number, generally that means UP 1, but not always. Then you have to find the pileup yourself. Once you determine where the DX station is listening, follow the same procedures listed for simplex or same frequency operation. Just be sure you are transmitting and listening on the right frequencies. Every rig seems to have a slightly different way of accomplishing this. I'll describe two ways it can be done with a KX3.

1. Tap the A>B button twice to copy the A VFO frequency and settings into the B VFO. Hold in the A>B button to activate split operation. Now the A VFO shows the receive frequency, and B can be tuned with the B VFO knob to set the transmit frequency. Then if desired, the headphones can be split via a menu setting so the DX is heard in the left ear and the pile in the right ear. That way you can hear who the DX is working in the pile in your right ear and the KX3 will then be set to transmit on that frequency.
2. Use the XIT feature to offset the transmit frequency from the receive frequency.

I always use #1 above, so I'm not totally familiar with XIT operation.

If the pileup is huge, you might be better off transmitting slightly higher than the main pile. The DX station will often explore the upper (usually) edge of a pileup if he can't pick out calls from the main section of the pile. This is where the clever QRPer can often steal a QSO from the QRO stations. It's really a chess game, and whole sections of DXing books have been devoted to breaking a pileup.

Often times the DX station will be operating split frequency but not saying so. This is where listening comes in. If you hear the DX working one station after another, but don't hear any of the stations he is working, it's time to tune UP and see if he is indeed working split frequency. Or you can go ahead and transmit on the DX frequency, and the self appointed DX policemen will very impolitely and illegally tell

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you the DX is listening UP. It's always better to know what's going on before you do any transmitting.

That's enough about the pile-up type of DXing. If you want to know more, just get on the air and practice, or read one of the many excellent books that have been written about DXing.

Let's touch on a few other DX topics at random. What about the QRPer calling CQ DX using his wire antenna. It's probably useless most of the time, but I have had DX stations answer my regular CQ's many times. This usually happens on 10M when conditions are really good, but it also happens on other bands. I currently have about 3 dozen countries worked via answers to my CQ's. Strangely, my most distant QSO ever came when VK6HQ answered my regular CQ on 30M one evening. I was so shocked and excited I could hardly send. Even after the QSO, I was wondering if it was really true that I worked a VK6. It was, because I received his QSL card in a couple of weeks. However something like that is the exception rather than the rule for QRP CQ's. Once in a while lightning strikes twice and a couple years later John, VK6HQ again answered my CQ on 30M. This time it led to a long distance phone call from John, and follow up Emails between us. This is one of the rewards of DXing - having one of your contacts become a friend.

The easiest time to work DX is in contests, because the best operators in the world often go to exotic locations for contests to make themselves more desirable or just to activate some rare country. Plus you have the super contest stations in various countries operating with their huge antennas and state of the art receiving equipment. They are the ones who can dig out the weakest of signals, and are glad to do so for those few extra points they will get in the contest. Those points may just help them beat out another top notch contest. You may have a tough time beating the pileups at the beginning of a contest, but often these super contest stations almost go begging for QSO's near the end of a contest period. Then is the time you may easily work them.

Also for the week or so just before the big DX contests, many of the stations setting up for the contest will check out their equipment by working as many folks as possible. At these times they may also operate on the WARC bands (30, 17, 12) which are not available for operation in the contest itself. They often stay at their locations for a few days after contests also.

Always let the DX station dictate the type of QSO. If you answer a DX station outside a pileup, and he still sends just a report, you do the same. You will earn the respect of the DX station and those working him. There's nothing more frustrating that having a DX station send only RST and the station working him sending seemingly his entire life history. If the DX station does send something like RST, QTH, and Name (OP), then you may be fortunate enough to find yourself with a DX rag chew. Send your QTH (maybe just the state), and name, and maybe mention you are running QRP. It doesn't happen too often, but I have had some very nice rag chews with DX stations. I recall a few I especially enjoyed. I chatted for a half hour with a German who was on vacation in the Canary Islands. A PJ2 wanted to know all about my QTH. I had a nice chat with an Italian talking about my Italian heritage (my mother was Italian). A German asked me all about my QRP rig. A station in Haiti was new to operating CW and asked me several questions about it. There were others as well. These are the DX QSO's I find really rewarding, although I appreciate the RST only ones also. You CAN rag chew with DX using QRP when conditions are good.

There's much more good info about DXing on my web site at <http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/>. I hope you'll visit. I also hope you'll be as successful as I have been working DX. I KNOW you can be if you just apply yourself. 73 and gud DX.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH SPRINT: Our next sprint will be July 17, 0030-0230Z. That's the evening of the 16th here in North America.

Please remember to strive for that perfectly formatted "SILVER LOG" submission. It really helps our log processing. Everything that you need to know about how to have a Silver Log can be found at <http://naqcc.info/GLCheckList.txt>. 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: Our sprint on June 11th was our 116th since the start of the club almost 10 years ago. Many members reported high levels of QRN (Welcome to the "good 'ol summer time!) but we were still able to easily break our 100-log level with 118 submissions.

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: KD8RUQ, NR1D, KK4BNC, KC8AAG, KC9UNL, VA3KOT, NF5U, KC2YNC. We trust that you had a fun time and hope that you will continue to participate and submit your results.

In the race for Silver Logs we now have 16 members tied for 1st place with 6 perfect logs submitted so far this year.

MW Sprint: On June 19th we had one of our semi-annual milliwatt sprints where participants turn down their power to less than 1 watt and have at it. Thunderstorms in many parts of the country, along with some really crummy solar numbers made this one a real challenge. Nevertheless 52 logs were submitted and a lot of fun was had on the bands.

Complete results for the June 11th sprint, including soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201406.html>. Result summaries are shown in the tables on the following page. The MW sprint results are at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201406mw.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+	KC2EGL KQ1P N8QY K1IEE WA2JSG WB8ENE AA9L VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG WY3H N4FI K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN NU7T
75+	N8XMS WB8LZG K4BAI KD2MX K4NVJ W2SH W9CC W2JEK
100+	KA2KGP K3WWP
125+	

CERTIFICATES			
SWA CATEGORY			
Division	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
W1	N1DN		
W2	NW2K	K2YGM	
W3	K3WWP		
W4	WB4UHC	N4FZ	KG4UPO
W5	N5GW		
W6	WK6L		
W7	K9JWV		
W8	WB8LZG	KD8RUQ	
W9	K9EYT		
W0	N0TA		
VE	VE7YU		
DX	CO8CML		
KEY CATEGORIES			
Straight Key (x2)	NW2K		
Bug (x1.5)	K1EDG		
Keyer (x1)	W2GN		
OTHER CATEGORIES			
Gain	W2GN		
First-Time Logger	KD8RUQ		
High Scorer			
Prize Drawing	WD4EXI		

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	118	101	194	2/13
Participants	156	147	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1610	1416	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	928	863	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	682	553	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	1008	1040	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	514	364	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	88	12	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs / Station	13.6	14.0	19.3	9/11



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH CHALLENGE: Our North American challenge for July is to make 20 QSOs, using any combination of the WARC, VHF and UHF bands using QRP CW and any antenna system. Be sure to check the current rules for the 60m allocation. It is very different than our other bands and quite restrictive. Complete details can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201407.html> .

The European challenge involves working with the names (and distances) of the countries that the famous Tour de France bicycle race passes through. (It's more than just France!) Details are available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/july-2014-challenge> .

NEXT MONTH CHALLENGE: For August the North American challenge is an alphabet challenge involving the names of continents. The list of words and other details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201408.html> . The European challenge will involve words and numbers associated with formula 1 grand prix racing. Details are at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/august-2014-challenge> .

As was announced in "Key Clicks", starting with the August challenge we are adding a random prize drawing to our challenges, similar to the ones that we have been doing for the sprints. Each month one lucky person will be chosen in a random drawing from the members who have participated in the challenge and have submitted their report. The winner will receive a set of paddle/bug finger pieces, or a straight key "poker chip" piece, or a K1/K2 knob insert made by master woodworker Gregg, WB8LZG. You can see pictures of Gregg's quality work at http://naqcc.info/main_giveaways.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: In June we had three different challenges for you to tackle. In North America there was an alphabet challenge involving words associated with the D-Day invasion of WW2, and our traditional Field Day challenge. In Europe the challenge involved the names of the smallest European countries. As of this writing the submission deadlines are still several days away so complete results cannot be listed here. Once they are in you can use the following links to see the results and soapbox comments: <http://naqcc.info/challenges201406.html>, <http://naqcc.info/challenges201406fd.html>, and <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/june-2014-challenge>.



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:

Awards issued during the month of June...

1000 MPW AWARD

0422 - WK3N	FS/K9EL	-	1,920	06/21/14	Double bazooka
0421 - KM7Q	VK3TDX	-	1,639	06/21/14	Dipole
0420 - W6JP	VK5CZ	-	1,624	06/10/14	Vertical
0419 - AB9YC	LZ2KSB/P	-	1,067	06/10/14	Dipole

DXCC AWARD - QRPP - 25 COUNTRIES

0003 - DK7OG 06/10/14

WAS AWARD

0026 - K1YAN 06/01/14



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.

Bernie Kapus, KQ3Z, #3702



I got my Novice license, WN3BPZ in the fall of 1964 when I was just entering high school. I was fortunate to have the support of Don McDaniels, K3ZCA (SK) and the original members of K3MJW, The Skyview Radio Society, to help me get my ham license and station on the air. I upgraded to General a year later as WA3EPX and then worked nothing but 20 meter SSB. But a few years later ran into Don and he kicked me in the direction to upgrade to Extra as KQ3Z. It was such an effort to get the 20 wpm code that I was hooked on CW and never went back to SSB. Work and other life events have kept me off of the air for about 20 years.

I recently was home recovering from surgery and decided get back on the air but this time gave QRP a try. I fired up a Rockmite 40 that I had in storage and heard a lot of stations but couldn't work any. I sold the Rockmite on eBay and then bought a Youkits HB1B. Then I threw a 35' long wire up in a tree with a bottle of water and worked a guy in NY and thought that I was hot stuff. A few nights later the band was open and I heard LY7M, AI in Lithuania. Gave him a call and worked Lithuania, 4,986 miles on 4 watts, 1000 MPW award #0408! Now I'm really hooked on QRP! Besides the HB1B I also have a mint Yaesu FT 102 that I bought in Tokyo in 1984 and hand carried home on my lap.

I enjoy working CW and am presently trying to get my speed back up above 20 wpm. I just built a Spudgun pneumatic antenna launcher that was featured in QST, March 2009. It works great and it was very easy and inexpensive to build. I'm going to use it to put up a loop antenna in the woods behind the house. So if you hear me on the air give me a call and ... PSE QRS HI HI.

73's Bernie Kapus, KQ3Z/QRP
NAQCC #3702



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/>.



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

We currently have four chapters—Europe, 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 challenges to compensate for the Atlantic Ocean. However all are welcome to participate, not just EU members, and we regularly receive challenge logs from North American participants. Please see the chapter web page for dates and details.

== Activity Days ==

Our activity days serve to support QRP/CW operation in Europe and help to provide an opportunity for contacts between members on the air.

We realize that most members have conflicting responsibilities, and different time zones across Europe make finding a convenient time for challenges problematic. The ultimate goal of the activity days is to cater for everybody: we propose a 24-hour period in which one can spend as much or as little time operating as is convenient. We award points for QSOs based on distance between the two stations involved, and normalize the scores based on how much time in that 24-hour period you have spent operating.

We aim to hold activity days twice a year; our first was last December and our next will be in August. For more details, see: <http://naqcc-eu.org/activity-days>

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==== December Activity Day Results ====

First, a sincere apology for the tardiness of these results. We shall endeavor to always publish the results of activity days and send certificates within a reasonable time period for future events.

A total of six stations participated in our first activity day. Valery, RW3AI, won by a huge margin with 3083 points; Yaroslav, R3DAU, and John, K3WWP, came second and third with 1697 and 1563 points respectively. The final results were:

Station	Score
RW3AI	3083
R3DAU	1697
K3WWP	1563
MW0MIE	496
SM5MEK	382
PA7PYR	240

Congratulations to all who took part. This is a strong opening to what will hopefully be a long series of activity days, and a great boost for QRP/CW activity in Europe.

The prize of the 40m receiver kit for the highest score (for more details see below) has been sent to Valery, RW3AI: we hope you enjoy it!

==== Next Activity Day ====

The next activity day is planned for Thursday 14th August. The rules will be similar to those used for the December activity day but have yet to be finalised, so if you have any suggestions regarding how to improve the day, please let us know. We'll definitely produce the results in a much more speedy fashion; we have set ourselves a deadline of 28th August for their publication.

The summer is always a hard time to arrange challenges at a convenient time for everybody, but if you're around on the 14th of next month please do take part, if only for an hour or so. As with all chapter competitions, the activity days are open to all members of the NAQCC, not just those residing in Europe.

== Europe 2013 challenge ==

The goal of the Europe 2013 challenge was to work a station in each of a list of countries across Europe. It ran over the whole year of 2013. Six stations (K3WWP, MW0MIE, MW0RSS, ND9M, ON6NA, and PA7PYR) successfully completed the challenge: congratulations to all!

We are re-running the challenge with a few modifications over the course of this year. For more details, including how to enter, please see below.

== 2013 participation points ==

A total of 16 stations took part in chapter activities over the course of last year, helping to boost QRP/CW activity in Europe. The final participation points (calculated on 10th January 2014) -- awarded for merit in chapter sprints, challenges, activity days and the Europe 2013 challenge -- are as follows:

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Station	Number of points
PA7PYR	36
K3WWP	36
ON6NA	20
MW0MIE	16
W9UX	14
ND9M	12
SM5MEK	10
RW3AI	9
R3DAU	8
WU1V	8
MW0RSS	6
PA5LR	6
GW0VSW	1
NQ2W	1
OK1DJS	1
WH6LE	1

PA7PYR	36
K3WWP	36
ON6NA	20
MW0MIE	16
W9UX	14
ND9M	12
SM5MEK	10
RW3AI	9
R3DAU	8
WU1V	8
MW0RSS	6
PA5LR	6
GW0VSW	1
NQ2W	1
OK1DJS	1
WH6LE	1

The prize of a QRP transmitter kit for the greatest participation score is therefore awarded to Rien, PA7PYR: we hope you like it! Rien took part in every European challenge in 2013, becoming the first person ever to submit logs for 12 consecutive monthly European challenges!

== Prizes ==

The two prizes mentioned above for excellence in chapter activities over 2013 have now been sent out.



The 40m QRP transmitter kit (left) was awarded to Rien, PA7PYR, for gaining the largest number of European participation points of all club members (excluding club officers). The 40m receiver kit (right) was awarded to Valery, RW3AI, for gaining the highest score (by a huge margin) in the first chapter activity day.

== 2014 challenge summary ==

The chapter has been running monthly challenges throughout this year, managed by Ton, PA5LR. We have seen lots of new and plenty of familiar faces take part in the 6 that have been held so far. The alphabet

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challenges have spanned a broad range of subjects: from names of European countries, to the winter Olympics, to European birds, to Swedish inventors and more! We look forward to seeing how the next 6 months proceed.

== Upcoming monthly challenges ==

The premise of the current (July) European challenge is to construct, from the letters and numbers in the callsigns of stations you work, the names of the countries through which the Tour de France passes and the approximate distances covered in kilometres. It is open to all NAQCC members, not just those residing in Europe. More details can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/july-2014-challenge> Please take part to help increase QRP/CW activity in Europe!

== Europe 2014 challenge ==

In a similar vein to the Europe 2013 challenge that ran last year, we are running another "Worked All Europe"-style challenge this year. This year's is set to be slightly more difficult: it involves working stations in many more countries!

For the Europe 2014 challenge, entrants are required to work stations in at least 42 of the countries on the DXCC list for Europe (available here:

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/2013%20DXCC%20Current_a.pdf). You can pick any 42 of the countries on the list, we don't mind which you work. We'll make the list of candidate countries more accessible in due course, but if you've already done all the work required for the challenge, please email your submission to challenges [at] naqcc-eu.org (include the callsign of the station that you worked in each country, the date on which you worked them, and your power output). QSOs must be 2xCW, have taken place in the year of 2014, and entrants must be using 5W or less at the transmitter, as usual. Upon successful completion, we'll send you a unique certificate, which will include a map showing each of the countries that you worked. The Europe 2014 challenge is also worth 6 chapter participation points. If you don't manage to work a total of 42 countries, let us know how far you get, and we'll send you a certificate of participation and award a smaller number of chapter participation points.

As with last year's challenge, a special milliwatt endorsement is available, if you manage to complete the challenge using less than 1W of power. Nobody has yet managed to achieve this feat: you could be the first!

== Some dates to note ==

July challenge deadline	10th August
August activity day	14th August
August challenge deadline	10th September
September challenge deadline	10th October
December activity day	15th December
Final day for EU2014 entries	10th January



NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER:



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

The Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its May field event on Friday, May 23rd, starting at 9am, in Hontoon Island State Park in Deland, FL. For the unknowing, this State Park is really an island...we have to take a "ferry" across the St. John's River to the park. It is a great radio friendly site, and is usually very lightly populated during the week (like most parks).

Don K3RLL (KX-3 with 5W) made four on 20M - three with the antenna wire disconnected and hanging in the breeze, and one more actually WITH an antenna connected!! Seems he "forgot" to connect his wire to the Unun box – and still managed to work stations in NY, CO, and TX (he also worked W1AW/2)..... Steve WB4OMM (30M on his KX-3 running 5W out) made 2 contacts – W1AW/2 in New York, and W9EBE #898 in IL. Wally KG4LAL made a contact!!!! He too worked W1AW/2 in New York!!! Hooray for him!!!! (See, his Yaesu FT-817 DOES work, and his antenna WAS connected!) Jim K4AHO #1713 joined us (he took the picture – no official NAQCC-FL shirt or hat! Hi hi hi...) and made a QSO too....but not with W1AW/2!! (go figure....)

Antennas included: Don's 31' vertical bottom fed with 9:1 HB Unun - no counterpoise required; Steve's brand new "Super Antenna" purchased at the Dayton Hamfest; and Wally's dipole.



Steve WB4OMM #5913, Don K3RLL #1905, and Wally KG4LAL #6278.

Note that this fine looking group all are official - official hats and shirts too!!! (NO! We ain't going to do matching shorts. If you saw our legs, you would fully understand why!!!)

We quit at 11:30 and had a "picnic" lunch, punctuated by our usual wild CW QRP "tales". Steve told us about his adventures at the Dayton Hamfest, his first trip! Another great day!! The weather was nice (clear, warm, but with a light breeze, 88F) and the bands were, "Marginal" to say the least – and later that day, we

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discovered the sunspot number was 70 and A index of 9.....we were surprised we made any QSOs, even with our antennas connected!

OK, so I just gotta' tell y'all the antenna story.....

Someone set up his station out there on the point by the Hontoon Park Sign and flag pole with a 270 degree view of the water and resultant excellent ground plane it provides. The 31' antenna mast was erected, coax connected carefully from the KX3 to the 9:1 Unun, and operations commenced on 30, 20, 17 and 15 meters. Not many stations were heard and they were all really weak. It was with great difficulty that only three contacts were made: NY, CO and TX, missing out on a couple of good DX stations and others that just didn't hear me

TWO HOURS later, K4AHO, KG4LAL and WB4OMM walked over to chat and Jim noticed something very unusual while inspecting my antenna setup. (Clue as to who didn't have his antenna connected!)

"How does the signal get from the Unun to this 31' antenna wire still tied to the string on the reel?" (Read: Antenna NOT connected to the Unun)

So, he sheepishly connected the 31' radiator to the thumb screw on the Unun and immediately signals got a lot louder! Amazing!

Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this yet another successful NAQCC event.

72/73 to all!... NAQCCFL@yahoo.com

The Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its June field event on Friday, June 20th, starting at 9am, in Buschman Park in Port Orange, Florida. For the unknowing, this Municipal Park is the result of a "drug related investigation seizure" by the City some 20 years or so ago. The family that owned and lived on the 30 acre tract with a live creek were adjudicated as, "a problem property" from years of arrests and issues. The City ultimately "took it". MORAL – Don't Do Drugs Out Of Your Home!!

It is a great radio friendly site, and is usually very lightly populated during the week (like most parks). All morning folks were going by asking, "what were we trying to catch", since we're adjacent to the water, and it looks like we are using "poles and line". Last month a lady on the ferry (Hontoon State Park – an Island) got into an animated discussion with some of us, assuming we were fishermen!



Darryl AB8GU #6913, Steve WB4OMM #5913, and Art #5274

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Art WB4MNK #5274 with his KX-1 running 4W to a ZM2-ATU to a 53' end fed wire up 20' with one 16' counterpoise was "King Radio" with 16 Qs - NC, MO, FL NY, MI, NJ, PA, VA, and OH...14 were NAQCC members.

Steve WB4OMM (KX-3 running 5W out) made 13 contacts – ID, TX, IL, NJ, MO, PA, FL, MI and two in KP4 Land – 8 of the 13 were NAQCC members. He used his Super Antenna again – but his time tuned it using his brand new FG-01 YouKits Antenna Analyzer. Wow! What a nifty accessory this is!! Had the antenna out and tuned for 14.060 MHz (1.5:1) in less than 10 minutes! Last month, he "guesstimated" the coil length (it worked and the KX-3 tuned it flat), but making it resonant on frequency does wonders!! He was able to work Don K3RLL #1905 in PA (one of our NAQCC-FL team members); and Curt WA2JSG #3457 in NJ after three tries! (Curt also worked Art!)

Art AB8GU #6913 made for great support and friendship! And he smiles a lot! He spots us on the internet, takes our pictures, checks the skimmers, swats mosquitos, and generally is our "go fer" when necessary. Really glad we could get him in the photo this month!

We quit at noon enjoyed lunch at a local chain restaurant....The weather was nice (overcast, warm, but with a light breeze, 90F) and it started to shower as we broke down and left the park. The bands were, "Marginal" – the sunspot number was 108 and A index of 8..... and the QSB was deep (S5 then gone and back to S5!).

Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this yet another successful NAQCC event.

NOTE FOR NEXT MONTH: Due to the ARRL 100th Anniversary and Convention, our next monthly field operation will be held on Friday, July 25th. Watch your e-mails for more information!!

72/73 to all!... NAQCCFL@yahoo.com

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NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER:



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

I think one of the best features of our NAQCC is our Chapters. In addition to our sprints and challenges, I enjoy equally as much the various things that are done together with other chapter members. It was great to get together with other chapter members Mike KC2EGL, Tom WB3FAE, Scotty KG3W, Tom WY3H, Ariel KC3AHO, Ethan W3IRS, and Bob W3BBO at the Butler hamfest on June 1st. That was written up in the June newsletter so I won't dwell more on that here.

Other activities in June included a brief get together with Mike KC2EGL on June 8. Just before he got here, I worked DQ60WAE, then after he arrived, he worked him also. The bands weren't all that good and whatever we were hearing was mostly weak. We did hear EA9EU on 20M. Mike didn't think he had Ceuta and Melilla, so he tried for quite a while but no luck. We could barely copy him here so it wasn't that surprising not to work him.

After that, we went to Wendy's for a chicken sandwich, potato and a drink (Frosty for me, and I can still drink or eat one with a straw). Home again where we watched a video of solo goals by possibly the best soccer player in the world today, Lionel Messi of FC Barcelona. We played a couple computer bowling games then back to the shack.

I quickly got my DX QSO of the day when I worked OE3WMA and Mike followed suit. Then I tried and succeeded in finding W1AW both in LA and AL for Mike to work. He got both virtually with a single try. I had already gotten them, so I didn't bother trying them tonight. After that, Mike had to head home again to get some rest before getting up early for work.

On Thursday June 19, I spent several hours with Tom WY3H in kind of a going away get together before he moves down to GA in a couple weeks or so. We had some good pizza, and also did some ham radio and computer work. I got him set up with the Elecraft KX3 Utility computer program so he can update the KX3 firmware, program the KX3 memories, etc. I also installed the HDSDR panadapter. That took quite a bit of doing and it still has a couple bugs in the setup that I couldn't figure out. However the basic panadapter works just fine for seeing what's on a band at a glance and exploring the blips to see who is causing them. Subsequently I did figure out the problem and we fixed it via a land line call. It was a good time and a sad time all at the same time. Once he moves down to GA there's not too much of a chance of us getting together in person again, although who knows - it could happen.

Mike dropped by for a short visit on the 25th after the local club meeting. We had an anchovy and mushroom pizza which we ate out on my porch since the weather was so nice. Then we made up a check list for our FD operation this weekend. After that we went up to my shack to chase some W1AW QSOs. Mike worked W1AW/9 on 20, 30, and 40, then got W1AW/3 on 80 meters.

Next up was the big event of the month for the WPA Chapter – Field Day. Last year we operated from the QTH of Tom WY3H and did very well with 352 QSOs. This year we had to make other plans since Tom was headed off to GA. Mike came up with the idea of setting up his tent in my back yard, but when he arrived Friday afternoon, we quickly found out that idea wouldn't work because either the tent was too big or the yard too small depending on how you look at it. In anticipation of that, I had a plan B in mind, and we wound up going with that.

Plan B was to operate from my front porch. Basically except for the antenna setup, it would be similar to what we planned for the back yard. We thought about it a bit and came up with the idea of mounting Mike's

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jumper dipole as an inverted vee on the side of my house. I would add an extension to my random wire from my second floor shack down to the porch. It wound up looking as shown in these pictures.



It's a bit hard to see, but if you look closely that's my extension from the window in the center of the picture down around the gutter onto the porch. In the top left corner of the picture you can see Mike's antenna running just above my window up to the attic windows and the coax running down from the attic. The black wire running across my window is an old unused cable TV wire.



The left picture shows the mast in my front yard that held one end of Mike's inverted vee. The wire on the ground is the unused 80 meters portion of the wire. My yard is only big enough (barely) for the 40 meters portion of his antenna. The other end of the antenna terminated on a fence post in my back yard as shown in the right picture.

With the antennas set up, the next order of business was to set up our operating positions as shown here.

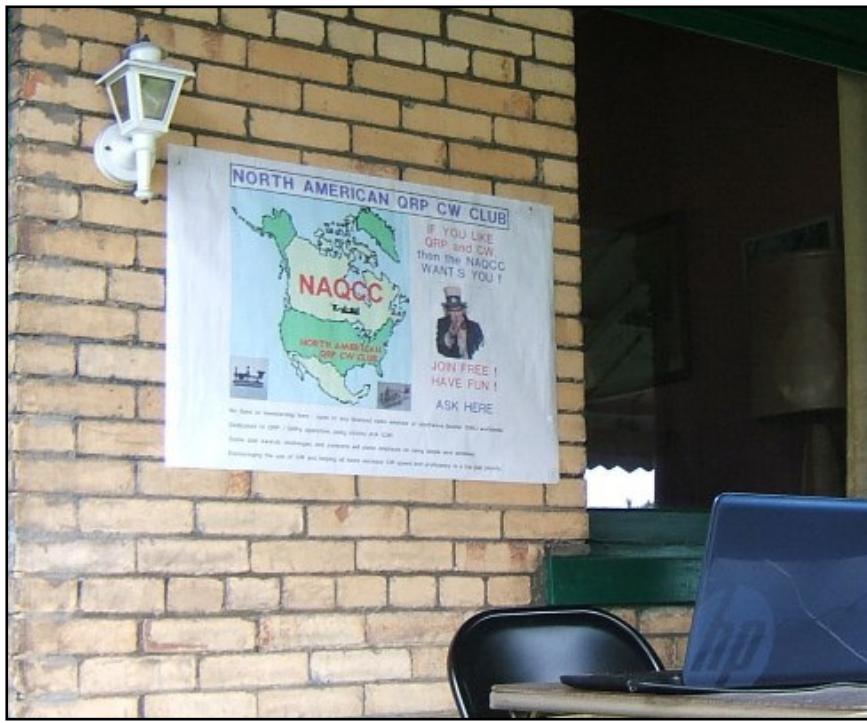


Note the temperature on the wall thermometer at about 82 degrees. The picture was taken during a cool period. A lot of the time it was up around 90-92 degrees, hence the big fan to keep us cool. After the internal batteries on Mike's KX3 did their duty, he switched to his massive battery shown at lower right. I was also on the same battery the second day when this picture was taken although my 7Ah gel cell lasted for about 8 hours the first day and could have still continued the second day since it was still at 11.9-12.0 volts when we shut down Saturday evening. Even running both rigs, Mike's battery hardly knew it had done any work and was still virtually fully charged at shutdown Sunday afternoon. Here's another I took of our setup concentrating on the gear. That's my gel cell in the lower right corner this time.



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Even though we didn't expect anyone to pass by on my dead-end street, we did put up our NAQCC banner just in case.



Now here's a picture of the ops in action with young Mike on the left and old John on the right. (Am I really that old?)



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Finally a close up of my KX3, laptop computer with GenLog for logging, my Bencher paddle, and headphones.



What did all the above net us? First of all and most importantly about 12 hours of great operating and fellowship while doing so. The bands weren't all that great either day with much rapid QSB and heavy local and storm QRN, especially on 40 and 80. I took 80, 20, and 10 while Mike did 40 and 15. We wound up with 288 QSOs overall from 41 states, Ontario, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. We also each worked the W1AW stations from IL and MD. We had set a goal after the first day of making it to 300 QSOs and we did come close but fell a little short. Had conditions been better we would have easily made it. Still with a poorer location and less operators than last year, we were very pleased with our results. We regretted not copying the FD bulletin from W1AW, but each time it was on, we seemed to be busy with other things. I did copy the last half of it easily one time, but could never get the first part. So we wound up with a lot fewer bonus points this year than last. After putting together our report on July 1, we found our score was 2,880 points compared to 4,070 points last year.

We were both impressed with how well our setup did perform. Except when the rapid QSB made it a bit harder, the majority of our QSOs were single call, no repeat types even when the stations we worked were not all that strong.

I hope everyone else had as great a time in FD as did the WPA Chapter.

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NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER:



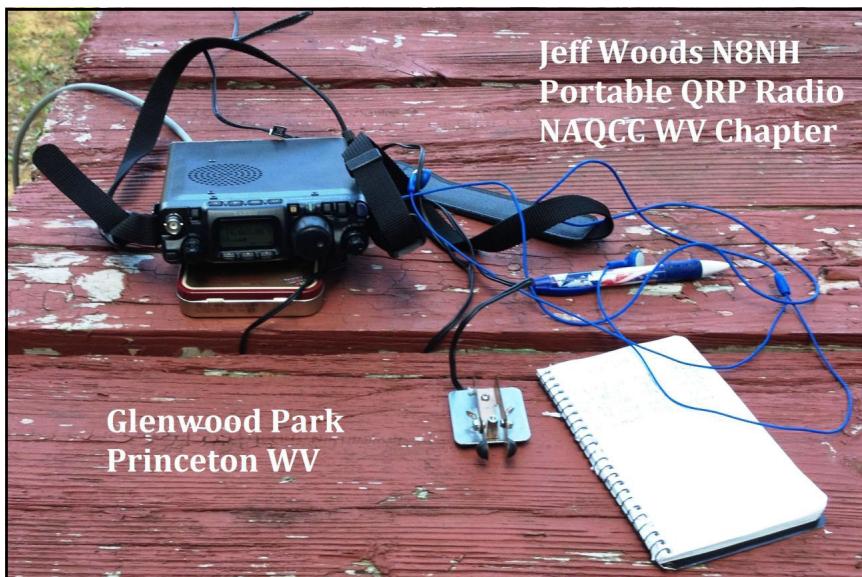
Items in this section are from John, N8ZYA, unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to John at jspikcer58@gmail.com. The chapter's web site is at <https://plus.google.com/communities/102627005227155262259?hl=en&partnerid=gplp0>.

I've been concerned about our club activities being focused primarily around the Charleston area ever since the West Virginia Chapter was established last year. This month, I'm happy to say our group continues to expand slowly into *new* areas. It was especially rewarding to see our member **Jeff Woods (N8NH)** set up this month and operate from the southernmost portion of West Virginia.

This was Jeff's (**N8NH**) first "portable QRP event" and not without its challenges. Mother Nature was not very co-operative this month in the northeastern parts of the United States. His original trip to **Glenwood Park** near **Princeton WV** was cancelled due to heavy rain and lightening in the area; but due to sheer determination, he made the trip again a week later for a successful event.

I don't think the importance of taking this "fist step" of "outdoor portable operating" can be over emphasized. Jeff set up and operated from a picnic table on a high ridge overlooking **Glenwood Park** with 40 and 20 meter dipoles about 25 feet above the ground. He used a softball with a long "eye bolt" inserted through the middle of it, which was attached to a long length of strong nylon cord, to launch the antennas into the trees. I like resourcefulness in this hobby and thought it quite interesting to use this method for getting an antenna in the trees.

He made five contacts in a short period of time. I was the first to work him on the forty meter band (**N8ZYA**) from Charleston, soon followed by **K4EOR** in Franklin NC and then **KD3CA** and **KB3QYX** in Pennsylvania. He also worked **WH6LE** on twenty meters, who was operating a **SOTA** event from Grave Mountain in North Carolina,



Jeff (**N8NH**) used a Yaesu FT-817 at 5 watts of power for the event with a MFJ travel iambic paddle. He has plans to operate later this summer from the top of East River Mountain on the WV- VA border and also operate portable from Oak Island in the Outer Banks of NC in August.

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We have several “clusters” of club members in the Central, Northern, and Eastern parts of the state which I hope will consider operating as outdoor QRP club stations. I’m very encouraged to see Jeff (**N8NH**) taking the important “first step” in this mode. Later that evening, I could sense the excitement and enthusiasm in his voice when we talked about his outing on the land line. It wasn’t the number of contacts that were made during the event, it was the important, and monumental “first step”. Jeff was very happy to represent the club in this new endeavor and I’m very happy to hear about the fun he had on the ridgeline with his radio. To me especially, this is a VERY big deal, and I’m ecstatic to see another club member, in another part of the state, join in the activities of the state chapter.

Our **WV Chapter** of the club still continues to have a breakfast meeting at 8:30am on the second Tuesday of every month at the “First Watch” Restaurant in Charleston, and of course, all are welcomed and encouraged to gather for fellowship and friendship. Our “core group” remains solid and looking forward to new opportunities to meet other members in different parts of the state. We’re tossing around some ideas to accomplish that goal.



The staff of the restaurant is getting to know us as the group with telegraph keys and wiring boards with blinking lights. Steven (**KC4URI**) brought an “**Arduino**” board with him last month. He bought it at the “**Four Days in May**” event at **Dayton** this year. Eric (**AC8LJ**) always has a new “key” to display in his never ending pursuit of better performance with antennas and sharper radio ears for reception. I might add; he does a very good job with both of those projects. Jeff (**K9ESE**) is still working with the high school science projects. There are more balloon launches in the near future.

I was in the “flat lands” of Iowa a few days ago and was nearly hit by a Tornado. There was golf ball size hail, 65 mph winds, and a quick “two and a half inches” of rain”. I’m glad to be back safe in the mountains again.



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, AB1VL at cfytech24x7@gmail.com

NAQCC QRS NET SCHEDULE				
Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq	Primary NCS
Main Net (NQN) <i>SUSPENDED</i>	Sunday 7:30 EDT	Sunday 2330 Z	7060 KHz	Ron, WB1HGA (in MA)
East Texas (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7063 KHz +/-	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Great Lakes Net (GLN)	Thursday 9 PM EDT	Friday 0100 Z	7117 KHz	David, KC8AAG (in MI)
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental (RMRC)	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MDT	Tues/Thurs 2200 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Pacific Northwest 80 (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Pacific Northwest 40 (PNW40)	Monday 8 PM PDT	Tuesday 0300 Z	7122 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)

Member 7151, David Moss, KC8AAG, will be starting a new Thursday night QRS Net on July 10, 2014. David is based in Kalamazoo, MI and the net will be called the Great Lakes Net (GLN). Start time will be 9:00 PM Eastern Time (EDT) and frequency will be 7.117 MHz. Please try to check in and get this net off to a great start.

Hope you all had a good Field Day with many contacts.

72, Chuck AB1VL
QRS Nets Manager

Be sure to read the submission from ETN NCS Allen, KA5TJS, in the Member Submissions section. - Editor

NAQCC Main QRS Net (NQN) - Sunday, 7:30 PM EDT, 7.060Mhz. *Net has been suspended until Fall.*

06-01-2014 (4) NCS WB1HGA KA2PJO WB5RYB KB1WOD
06-08-2014 (0) NO QNI
06-15-2014 (0) NET SUSPENDED UNTIL FALL
06-22-2014 (0) NET SUSPENDED UNTIL FALL
06-29-2014 (0) NET SUSPENDED UNTIL FALL

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NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) - Monday, 7:00 PM CDT, 7.065MHz +/-

- 06-01-2014 (5) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM N5DRG K5BRY
- 06-09-2014 (6) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM N5DRG K5BRY KG0YR
- 06-16-2014 (6) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM N5DRG K5BRY KE5YGA K5AVJ
- 06-23-2014 (3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA N5DRG
- 06-30-2014 (4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N5DRG

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRC) - Tues/Thur 5:00 PM MDT 14.062.5 MHz

- 06-03-2014 (2) NCS WC7S K0DTJ
- 06-05-2014 (3) NCS WC7S KU7Y WA0ITP
- 06-10-2014 (0) NO NET
- 06-12-2014 (6) NCS WC7S KE6OIO AA7CU K0DTJ WA9EIC KF7WNS
- 06-17-2014 (9) NCS WC7S N6MY K0DTJ KG3W AA7CU W5HNS KE6OIO K0DTJ KD8RUQ
- 06-19-2014 (?) NO REPORT
- 06-24-2014 (7) NCS WC7S K0DTJ QA0ITP NK6A KF7WNS K0ZK KE6OIO
- 06-26-2014 (6) NCS WC7S AC7CU W2SH N6MY KF7WNS KE3W

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

- 06-05-2014 (3) NCS KE7LKW WB4SPB AD7BP
- 06-12-2014 (4) NCS KE7LKW/7 WB4SPB AD7BP N6KIX
- 06-19-2014 (4) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX WB4SPB AD7BP
- 06-26-2014 (5) NCS KE7LKW WB4SPB AD7BP N6KIX K7ZNP

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS 40 Meter Net (PNW40) - Monday, 8:00 PM, PDT, 7.122 MHz

- 06-02-2014 (0) NO REPORT
- 06-09-2014 (8) NCS KR5RR KE7LKW N7HRK WU7F KF7YHB AE7US N6KIX KD8RUQ
- 06-16-2014 (6) NCS KR5RR KE7LKW WU7F N0OI AE7US N7HRK
- 06-23-2014 (6) NCS KR5RR KE7LKW N7HRK AE7US N0OI KW6G
- 06-30-2014 (3) NO REPORT



HELP FOR BEGINNERS



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>.

Punctuation Marks.

Some Newcomers and Old-timers alike use far too many punctuation marks in an average QSO. It's a waste of time in many instances.

The double-dash or equal sign is the most commonly used punctuation mark. For example you send "greeting - RST - QTH - name - then PERIOD (Di-dah-di-dah-di-dah)". It would be better and far more expedient to use "==" (Dah-di-di-di-dah) For one thing its easier to send the double-dash than a period (with a straight key), and it does the same job as a period, namely changing the subject. It is also not uncommon to use it as a "Hmm" or "give me time to think what to say next". Two or three == doesn't sound as bad or as out of place as 3 periods would be, and again it's much easier to send.

Another instance where a punctuation mark shows up frequently but is not necessary is a COMMA after your - Town and before your State or Province. It is not necessary, a normal between-word pause, or perhaps a =, or slightly longer word-pause is quite sufficient.

I have made one observation that most punctuation marks consists of 5 - 6 characters up to as much as 7. So use punctuation marks only if necessary - if you are quoting text, or perhaps some writing for publication, or whatever, where meaning may be lost without punctuation. But not in an every day run-of-the-mill QSO.

Punctuation marks sounds perfectly alright in your head, but look at the following exchange without punctuation marks.

*N8XMS DE VE3FUJ GE PAUL UR 599 QTH HARRISTON ON = OP BRION = ----- General text ---
-- No p-marks*

Now look at one with punctuation marks.

*N8XMS DE VE3FUJ GE PAUL. UR 599. QTH HARRISTON, ON. = OP BRION, = ----- General text -
---- 4 p-marks*

Both are easy to read. So from that you can see that punctuation marks are superfluous. So why spend the extra time sending them? They are time consuming to say the least.

72/73 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.

From Hoss, N2GDS, #5823 --

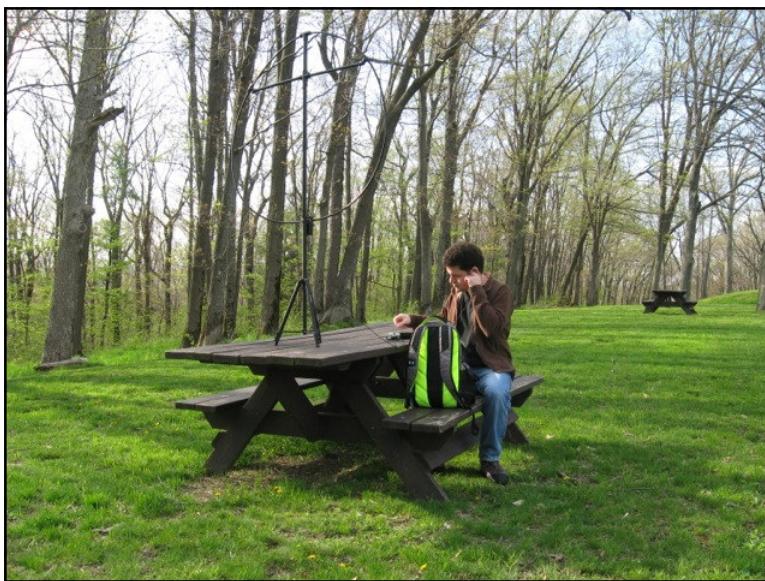
Hoss sent in this report on the homebrew gear that he used to complete the May challenge...

The contacts were made on the 18th around 2200Z, all on 20m CW using 3W out. I combined the challenge with a SOTA activation at Sugar Hill Fire Tower here in western NY, using all homebrew gear: a 20m direct-conversion rig with a crystal oscillator, a magnetic loop made from coax, an end-fed half-wave antenna matched with a homebrew tuner, and a touch keyer designed around an Atmel ATTiny chip.

The QSOs made were: NS7P, W0MNA, W0ERI, EA2LU, AJ5C, N6KZ, N0EVH, NS7E, KT5X, WA2USA, K5TF, CT1BWW, W5ODS, NK6X/4, W7RV, W7CNL, KI0G, XE1GXG, WD0EBZ, K6HPX, and N9KKY.

It was great fun, and as always, I was amazed by how far a 3W signal can travel! Here are some photos:

The operating position: a picnic table. :-)

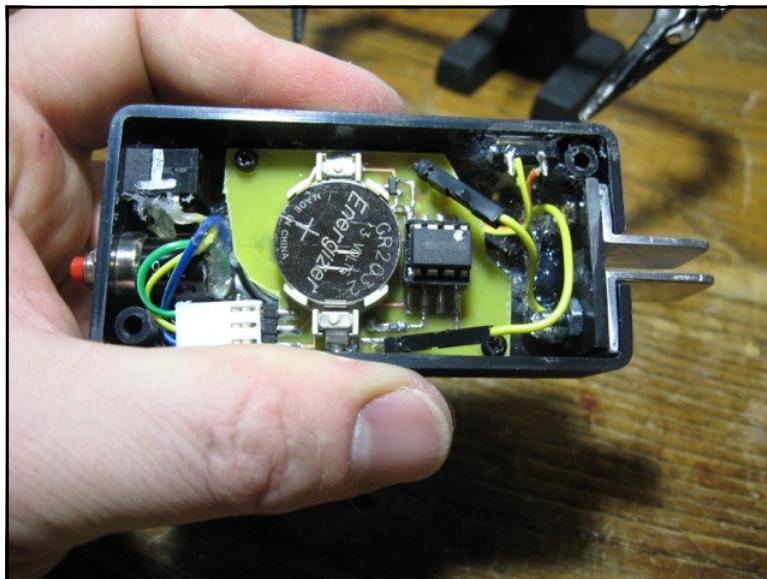


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A close-up of the all-in-one rig, with tuner and self-contained LiFePo4 battery:



And the touch-keyer, with lid removed. I've never really grown comfortable with iambic keying, so I usually leave the keyer function disabled and use it as a sideswiper.



Thanks,
Hoss, N2GDS

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From Mike, N2COD, #5554 --

Here is a photo of John, K3WWP and my brother Tom, KA2KGP (0555) at the Butler Hamfest NAQCC Booth (photo taken by Mike, KC2EGL).



Tom is a deaf QRP CW operator and has participated in 106+ NAQCC Monthly Sprints, second only to John's sprint total. Tom has only partial hearing in one ear, which is assisted with a hearing aid to help him copy CW. He hangs in there during QRN, QRM & other interference when other non-hearing impaired hams would hang it up.

When not pounding brass on the air, Tom enjoys home-brewing gear and antennas. He loves attending hamfests and is an active member of SKCC, Flying Pigs and other CW clubs.

From Paul, N8XMS, #0675 --

The ARRL's Centennial QSO Party continues to be a real challenge and a ton of fun for me. The week in the middle of June that offered W1AW/7 in MT and W1AW/KL7 in AK has turned out to be my greatest challenge so far. Montana was relatively easy and I was able to work them on several different bands within the first two days, but Alaska was a very different story. I never even heard a trace of them for the first 3 days, other than one 30-meter pile-up where I could hear the stations that they were working but could not hear them. Then on Friday night I found the KL7 with a strong signal on 20-meters. They were of course working split but with the skip conditions I couldn't hear the stations that they were working so I could only guess at where they were actually listening. To add to the situation there were several DX stations working contest pile-ups all around the same frequency. After more than an hour of complete frustration they went QRT and I still had nothing in the log. On Saturday night I came across them with a rather weak signal on 17-meters but this time I was able to hear the stations in the pile-up to get an idea of where the KL7 was listening. After about a half hour of trying to get their attention, and with the band starting to show some significant QSB, I was beginning to think that I was going to miss them again, but then I heard "XMS?" It took three tries for him to get my full callsign and I sure am glad that he was willing to stick with it - W1AW/KL7 was now in the log! As I recorded the contact in my computer logging program I noticed that

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the DX spots window in the software was showing a listing for W1AW/KL7 on 20 meters as well. I tuned to the frequency and heard nothing but a lot of QRN. The spot had been listed by an Alaska ham so I guessed that it was possible that this was a self-spot and that he was still getting everything at his station setup to start operating. I set my rig for a split of 1 KHz and just sat there listening to the noise. After about 10 minutes I heard "CQ CQ DE W1AW/KL7 W1AW/KL7 UP 1 K" through the noise. I quickly sent my call and he came back with "MS?" Two repeats of my call gave me a second confirmation from Alaska and then the pile-up exploded! In 12 years of QRPing I only have about 5 other Alaska QSOs in my log so getting W1AW/KL7 on two bands within about 12 minutes of each other was a real thrill! I'm still pumped two days later!

From Allen, KA5TJS, #4512 --

Hi,

I am Allen KA5TJS and I run the NAQCC Texas QRS net on Monday nights at 07:00CDT on 7.065 Mhz. We had to move due to QRM from automated robot traffic and if you have not filed a comment with the FCC on RM-11708, you should. This rule making will allow automated wide band robots for exchanging email in the CW portion of the band legal. It could be very bad for all users of the lower portion of the ham bands. The website to see is www.SaveCW.com

Off the soap box! I have been running the net for about 3 years now and enjoy the fun of talking to regular check ins and new folks who just drop by. We usually have about 3 to 5 folks so it is not a slam bam thank you ma'm group most of the time.

I try to answer folks at the speed that they check in at and we go from about 8 to 12 wpm most of the time. I may seem to send the characters a bit fast but the spacing gets bigger the slower you go. This is to help you hear the character and not the dots and dashes. I learned the wrong way and hope I can help a little to keep others from doing the same.

I will call the net most of the time at a QRP level unless the QRN is real bad. Then I will crank it up to about 50 watts. We have quite a few QRP check ins.

For those of you who need a higher speed practice the Sun Rise Net on 7.123kc at 13:00Z is a great place to hear a lot of varied fists. They are in the Eastern US and have a different NCS each day of the week. Check them out.

HamCom in Plano, Texas was great this year on June 13/14 and I got to meet some of our members from the Austin area. N5DRG and K5BRY were there and I got a new IC 7410 by the way. It goes down to 2 watts and I called the net with it tonight. Also got a Rig Blaster Power Poll distribution box to hook everything up with. It makes the table a lot neater looking!

I guess that is enough for the first try from TX so 73's and CU on the air, I hope.

Allen KA5TJS

From Arnold, KA0TPZ, #7347 --

By Arnold CW Timm

Listen up & down the bands,
Squeeze your paddle proud;
An optimistic "show of hands",
Stands out among the crowd!

Favorite feats - a fevers pitch,
Never mind the likes;
How they get their jolly/nitch,
By modulating mics!

Classic tube-ulation (yes),
Straight and narrow key;
Continent (divided cress),
Next to nothing but their glee!

Telegraphic tensile strength,
Seething signals mesh;
Low power -- at the brink,
Make pimples of our flesh!

Porch antenna nimble/norm,
Clinging to its whip;
Moisture soaked coil form,
Shooting from the hip!

KA0TPZ/qrp

From Peter, AA2VG, #6563 --

So You Want to Go to Heard Island and Operate CW? -

After 20 years of contacting and reading about those far away Dxpeditions, it seems only natural to want to become a team member of the Heard Island sub-antarctic adventure. The XYL, who I agree with most of the time, thinks that traveling to the bottom of the earth to play radio is an example of irrational thinking! Our last big disagreement was about my old 50-foot backyard tower. I thought it was beautiful and she thought it was a real eyesore. I know... I should just be thankful that she allowed me to put it up (yes, honey, thank you).

We are always asking ourselves, "How do I get there from here?". As my son always says, "just google it Dad". Google Maps will tell you how to get to most places but it was certainly not applicable to my planned destination. I very quickly realized that even if Google Maps could get me there, being able to send my call sign at 25 words a minute to a DX station was not going to do the job. OK then, perhaps contesting? Starting from basics and enjoying QRP CW I joined the North American QRP CW Club (NAQCC). It's a

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wonderful group of CW ops who love QRP. The monthly NAQCC two-hour sprints were just what I needed; no pressure, CW speed 15 wpm or slower and lots of fun. My CW copying improved but more importantly it introduced me to contesting, taught me that accuracy is more important than speed and that it's not about winning but more about personal achievement and just having fun.

When the opportunity arose to represent W1AW/2 for New York, I quickly jumped at the chance. The opportunity to be on "the other side of the pile up" was both exciting and frightening. Could I take my QRP NAQCC sprint skills and apply them to W1AW/2? As most people would, today in the computer age, I divided the challenge into two parts. First, there was a hardware issue (my equipment) and then the software issue (my brain). How was I going to use my trusted 20-year-old Kenwood TS-850S that, to my knowledge, was not going to connect to my computer. Could I really use my Bencher paddle to send all the call signs by hand? Could I use my Elecraft KX3 QRP rig? Would 12 watts do the job?

After some internet searching and calls to Elecraft and Alpha, I realized that I could run my KX3 12-watts into my old trusty Alpha 91b amplifier and get out about 250 watts. I was also able to get my KX3 to connect to my computer. OK, I'm all set! Well, not really.

When I listened to W1AW/4 on January 1st it became very clear that my brain was not up to the task of copying a pile up. I had 28 days to remedy that situation. Taking my son's advice, I turned to my iPhone and my computer. I used the iPhone app "AA9PW Ham Morse" to send call signs at 24 wpm which I would type into my computer. I would practice whenever I had the time. This meant practicing at my work desk in my office. My office staff finally asked me about those strange beeping sounds emanating from my consult room. I needed to explain to them that it was CW practice for the pile up I will manage for the W1AW/2 ARRL Centennial QSO Party..... "What?" I tried my best to explain as they all just smiled and said "That's great". I solved the problem by using my iPhone earphones.

My CW W1AW/2 five-hour time slot arrived. I was pumped and ready to go. Although I was competing with the first day of the FT5ZM (Amsterdam Island DXpedition), my hardware and brain worked well. I finally found my opening on the WARC bands and had a blast making 264 contacts. Had I known that FT5ZM was going to be on the air, I probably would have contacted their North American pilot and asked them to hold off until my W1AW/2 stint was finished!

As a follow up to my W1AW/2 stint, I found a Windows-based program that is great practice for CW and contesting. It's called Morse Runner and can be downloaded free from Afreet Software, Inc, www.dxatlas.com. Follow the link to downloads and then Morse Runner 1.67. My interest in working W1AW/2 also led me to building my very first solder board project. I was told that my old Kenwood TS-850S would not connect to my Windows 7 computer. With some research I found that I could build an interface between my computer and the CW input to the Kenwood. So, I soldered a transistor, a diode, a capacitor and a resistor on a Radio Shack project board to produce a working interface. For a first time builder, I found it to be Electrical Magic!

So, I may never get to Heard Island, but any good hobby should be filled with challenges, goals and dreams. Amateur radio has been doing all that for me.

From Dejan, SA3BOW, #6935 --

A non-electrogadget "add on" improving audio on Yaesu FT-817.

Some years ago I happened to notice that the sound quality was improved when holding my logbook at an angle above the FT-817 speaker. Now, after the little grey ones have had time to process it, I have capitalized on that observation. I bought an "el cheapo" 50 millimeter X 87.5° plastic sewage bend. Then I (and this is a smart move!) asked my beautiful XYL to cut off both ends and spray it with a grey-brown-green colour that I have a weak spot for. On my own I took a "bungy" from something and added shrink tube on the end to prevent "fluffing".

The photos give the other details. I am not the person to explain the cause of audio improvement. But when it is processed through the bend it becomes noticeably better. It is not just a matter of being able to use a lower setting on the volume knob. The direction adjustment feature is just another benefit and well worth the trouble on its own.

This contraption is so rigid one can shake the whole shebang. The little strap thingy? Not needed, but I am a sucker for grey-brown-green!



From Paul, KD2MX, #1091 --

Learn CW the US Army Way

A friend sent me a link to this CW training video. Some of you may have seen it, possibly while being

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trained as operators, but I never did. It has drama, humor, rhythm, and even some excellent hints on sending good CW with the trusty J-38 (and writing letters in proper military style).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQj74Y2H8xQ>

From John, K3WWP, #0002 --

Most of my memorable June activities took place as a WPA Chapter member and hence are written up in that section of the newsletter.

Otherwise, I again enjoyed our two alphabet challenges and completed them rather quickly although the letters R and T held me up a bit in both our D-Day challenge and the European Chapter challenge of very small European countries and their approximate area. I worked J48TSL to finish the European challenge on the 14th. The next day W3MWR gave me the R to finish the D-Day challenge.

Of course there was also the FD challenge this month which again was a WPA Chapter effort written up above. I worked 40 states to double the requirement of 20 for mastering the challenge.

Our two sprints were not that great this month although I did finish in the top 5 overall in the regular sprint. The mW sprint was a real flop here with just too much QRN to copy other mW signals. I quit after a half hour with just 4 QSOs.

I did manage to get all the W1AW states during June although W1AW/KL7 came down virtually to the last day. So now only IN RI and ME remain for my W1AW WAS. Those states won't be activated for the first time for a few weeks yet, so now it's waiting time.

I worked one memorable special event call during the month in EF6. That's right, no suffix, just EF6. That was in honor of the new Spanish King Felipe VI. Hence the F6 in the call. I can't recall any other calls without a suffix save for the late King of Jordan who held the call JY1 for many years.

Another good DX station was ZA/ON4CCV. I always enjoy working that country because it was the last country one prominent DXer (W9KNI) worked to have 'worked them all'. That was back when ham radio was very restricted in that country though. I see I have 7 Albanian QSOs from 6 different stations, but until this month, the last one was 10 1/2 years ago.

I downloaded a new computer program in June called Pileup Runner. It puts the user in position of being a rare DX station having to deal with the huge pileups they have. A lot of variables can be adjusted to make it as hard as desired - the size of the pileup, conditions, etc. It sure gives one more respect for those DXpedition operators to see what they go through. About the best I have done so far is only a rate of about 180 per hour for a 10 minute run during which my rate peaked around 220 or so. Just do a Bing search for Pileup Runner if it sounds like something you'd be interested in trying.

I also did some analysis of QSLs from various countries. Actually LotW matches, to be precise. Of the 18 countries from which I have 300 or more QSOs, the tops in LotW percentage are Spain with 45.6 percent verified followed by Poland with 44.8 percent. The bottom are Slovak Republic with only 9.0 percent and then Serbia with 13.1 percent. The USA is in the middle along with Canada at 22.3 and 29.8 respectively. It's easy and quick to do such stats with my Microsoft Access log.

Well, enough for now. If for whatever reason you may be interested in more of my exploits, visit my web site at <http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/> and read my diary there as well as browsing the rest of my site if you've never done so. A lot of good QRP/CW info can be found there.





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.



The NAQCC Newsletter is edited by Paul Huff, N8XMS. You may contact him at Paul142857@gmail.com

