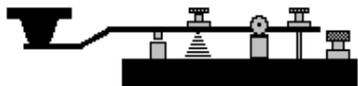


# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 199 JANUARY 2015



## KEY CLICKS

- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR 11TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.** Plans are already in the works for our week long 11th anniversary celebration **October 12-18, 2015**. Special event stations will be operating from all over the country, opportunities for earning certificates and QSL cards will be available, and some great prizes will be given away. If you have participated in some of our past anniversary celebrations you already know how much fun it can be. But if you haven't, take a look at the summaries from past years at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) and you will be "itching" to get started. (More information about the event can be found in additional items below.)
- **MAKE SURE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE BIG PRIZES!** Once again there will be some great prizes given away to member participants in our anniversary week sprint on October 14, 2015. And just like we did in 2014, eligibility for the top prizes will include a throughout-the-year participation requirement. This year the requirement will be to accumulate at least 9 participation points from January through September. Each regular monthly sprint is worth a point, each monthly challenge is worth a point, and if you do both in the same month there is a bonus point awarded. So you can qualify for the top level prize drawing in October by participating in any combination of one sprint or challenge each month, or by participating in both for 3 of the months. If you think that you still might fall short of the 9-point level we have an additional option. Participation points can be made-up by earning and applying for NAQCC awards or award endorsements before the end of September - 1 point per award with a maximum of 2 make-up points possible. (These make-up points do not apply to our annual Participation Award.) *See the next item for information about our awards program.* (Prizes have not yet been determined but you can go to [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_10th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_10th_anniv.html) to see the extensive list of prizes that were awarded in 2014.)
- **DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR AWARDS PROGRAM?** The NAQCC has an extensive list of operating awards that can be earned by members, but we suspect that many of you are not really familiar with them. Of course everyone knows about our 1000 MPW, WAS, or DXCC awards, but what about ones like our 30-30, or Suffix Words awards? So starting this month we are going to feature one new award each month on the *Awards* page of the newsletter with a little description of what the award is about and what you can do to earn it. Remember that earning an award is not just a way to get some "wallpaper." It's the fun of working toward a challenging goal, and every minute that you are on the air with CW and QRP you are promoting them to the ham radio community at large. A complete list of our current operating awards can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_current.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_current.html).

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- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR N#A OPERATIONS.** Yes, it's early, but you know what they say about the "early bird." We need volunteers to put our N#A special event call signs on the air during our anniversary celebration in October. It's a lot of fun, no special equipment or skills are needed, and your operating schedule is completely flexible. If you are interested in being an N#A operator please contact club President Paul, N8XMS (email on last page). There is no limit to the number of operators that we can have so "the more the merrier." If you would like to be the one from your district that uses the special call during the sprint please indicate that as well (first come first served). *If you have already signed up to be an operator but find that your schedule has changed and you now need to opt out please let us know.* (Having someone on the operator list who doesn't actually operate complicates our record keeping and wrap-up work at the end of the week.) Detailed instructions for special event operators will be sent out by the end of September but if you have any questions just ask.
- **IMPORTANT SPRINT CHANGES MADE.** Starting this month we are changing the way that sprint scores are reported. This is being done in an effort to make competition a little more fair for participants and at the same time maintain the status quo for those that only compete with themselves. Please see the article in this newsletter for full details.
- **CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY POLLS.** Jerry, VE6CPP, puts up an interesting poll on our club website each month. This month's poll is especially interesting and asks you about your results in the ARRL's W1AW/p operations as part of their Centennial Celebration. You can cast your vote in the current poll and see past poll results using the links on the main club page <http://www.naqcc.info/>. The more people that cast a vote, the more interesting the results.
- **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big "THANK YOU" goes out to everyone who has made a recent donation to the NAQCC treasury. The NAQCC has no membership dues and we depend on your generous donations to cover our operating expenses. 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 Club Vice President John, N8ZYA, using the email found on the last page of this newsletter. To avoid any additional fees please 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 a donation to the NAQCC and include your call sign. The second way to make a donation is to mail a check or money order made out to *The North American QRP CW Club* and send it to *John Smithson, 1529 Virginia St E, Charleston, WV 25311*. 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."



# MYSTERY KEY

BY PAUL, N8XMS

Several people have asked me about the picture of a special key that I own that appears on page 87 of the December 2014 issue of QST. I use this key every January 1st for the ARRL's Straight Key Night and a couple of months ago QST asked me for permission to use the picture in their promotional for the upcoming SKN. Of course I readily agreed. A picture of my key has been in the newsletter before but according to the inquiries that I have received, you might enjoy learning a little bit more about it.



*Mystery Strap Key owned by N8XMS*

This type of key is called a "strap key" because its arm is made from a strap of spring brass that also provides the tensioning for the key. It has both "make" and "break" contacts that appear to be made from nickel silver. The wooden base of the key is 5.5" by 2.5". Two mounting holes are drilled through the base in diagonal corners. Workmanship is of a very high "professional" quality. For a key that has absolutely no adjustable parts, it has a remarkably good "feel" and it makes almost a musical clackity-clack sound during use.

The most interesting feature of this key is the little brass plaque that is attached to the base. It says...



*Tag from the Mystery Key*

So where did this key come from? Well, I purchased it from an online auction in 2006 for \$17.49 plus shipping. Although the auction was on eBay, the key was actually located just a few miles from me. It was being sold as part of the stock liquidation process at an old radio store on Hoover Street in Ann Arbor, MI called "Purchase Radio." Purchase Radio was a dusty old store that catered to the vintage radio and electronics crowd. The store was in the process of closing and some of its remaining old-stock was being sold online. The store was first opened by Roy Purchase, W8RP, in 1930. Roy's son-in-law Dan McCollough, WB8UXO, eventually took over the business. The person who posted the key on behalf of Dan on eBay said that it had been in the store since the late 1950's but no other information was available.



*Purchase*



*West Engineering circa 1920*

Obviously, the key was made in the "Engineering Shops" at the University of Michigan. These shops were located in "West Engineering", which is now called "West Hall", on South University street. West Engineering was built in 1904 and housed both the school of engineering and the school of architecture for many years. It still contains some facilities used for naval and marine engineering research but the engineering shops no longer exist. The shops were a place where students and faculty could purchase supplies and have custom items fabricated for various projects that they were working on. It is my understanding that the shops were also open to the public and that they were still there in the early 70's.

I once showed some pictures of this key to noted key collector and author Dave Ingram, K4TWJ. (Dave is now a Silent Key.) He offered me an educated guess, based on the materials and style of the key, that it dated to somewhere between 1910 and 1920. Because of the "make" and "break" contacts he also thought that it might have been used by lineman to test telegraph lines. I was a little bit skeptical of this dating. I thought that the key was most certainly pre-WW2, but it seemed to be in too good of a condition to be almost one hundred years old.

Why would someone custom manufacture this key? There were certainly many commercial keys manufactured with "make" and "break" contacts for use by telegraph lineman. My first thought was that it might have been used for some kind of demonstration in an engineering class, but I did not have an actual answer to this question until very recently, and what I now know still has plenty of mystery to it!

About a year and a half ago I sent a letter to Dan McCullough, the last owner of Purchase Radio, asking him about the key, and he responded with a phone call. Dan told me that he thinks the key came into his store as part of the estate of a ham who had passed away. He didn't remember specifically who it was, nor could he remember exactly when he got it. Dan guessed that it was in the late 90's or early 2000's. (Or was it the late 50's as the eBay listing indicated???) He told me that it was his understanding that this key was custom made by some unknown person or persons and given as a presentation, possibly attached to a plaque, to some unknown recipient in commemoration for some unknown honor. He specifically thought that it might have been given to an engineering professor at

U of M who was also a ham. This would explain the near perfect condition of such an old key – it was never actually used for anything other than a “show piece.”

All of the “unknowns” in Dan’s statement just adds to the mystery of this great old key. Here is my very imaginative hypothesis... I think that this key might have been custom ordered from the engineering shops by student members of the University of Michigan Amateur Radio Club (now W8UM but originally 8XA), probably before WW2. I think that it was mounted to a presentation plaque and given to their faculty sponsor, probably an engineering professor, on the occasion of his retirement. I think that somewhere along the line this plaque got into the hands of some geeky “radio kid” who trashed the plaque and kept the key. (Sad to say that this is something that I would have done!) It then found its way to Purchase Radio and eventually into my hands.

The true story of this key will probably never be known, but I do know one thing for sure. – This old strap key will be staying with this U of M alumnus for a very long time before it takes its next step along the path of history!



# SPRINT SCORING CHANGES

I get a lot of emails from members. I mean I get **A LOT** of emails from members and many of them deal with our sprints. I get emails about problems with sprint log reporting. I get emails asking us to change the exchange that we use. I get emails suggesting ways to amp-up the competition. I get emails thanking me for providing an easy-going low-competition kind of sprint to participate in. I get emails pointing out the “unfairness” of our bonus multiplier scheme. I get emails from people who would like to participate in our sprints but are prevented from doing so because of medical conditions. I get emails ... well, you get the idea.

Recently a thoughtful email arrived that I circulated among our NAQCC volunteers (with the permission of the sender). It generated a lot of good discussion that has led to the changes that you are about to see. Now I know that it is impossible to “please all of the people all of the time” but as much as possible I would like to be able to “please most of the people most of the time” and I think that these changes have a good chance of accomplishing that. (They might even reduce the size of my email inbox!)

Going into this process I had several priority goals. I won't go into all of the details but here are the major ones...

1. Minimize the work-load increase on our sprint processing volunteers. At least three different people are involved in the processing of each one of our sprints and the total number of man-hours required is already significant. All of our volunteers have active lives outside of the club and there is only so much that they can be expected to do. This would include keeping our current scoring and cross-checking routines because rewriting them would be a very big job that probably no one would want to take on.
2. Continue to offer an activity that has a relaxed friendly feel to it and that is welcoming to both CW beginners and noncompetitive types who just want to have some fun.
3. Deal with the competitive “advantage” that the x1.5 multiplier for bug users and the x2 multiplier for straight key users gives over keyer and keyboard operators. Related to this is the desire to provide a valid way for people with medical issues that prevent them from using a straight key to participate in the sprints.
4. Continue to promote QRP and CW operating with more or less traditional technology while acknowledging that, as a group, we techie hams really do enjoy playing with new technology as well.

“OK,” you say, “so what are the changes and how will they tick me off?” (That's a little sarcastic humor. I really don't think that anyone will be upset with this.) Here they are...

1. Create three keying device categories that operate under our currently existing “Simple Wire Antenna” (SWA) and “Gain Antenna” (Gain) categories. The new subcategories are “Straight Key” (SK), “Bug” (Bug), and “Keyer/Keyboard” (K/K). Submitted logs will be sorted and results displayed in these categories. That way you will be able to compare your score with and “compete” against people in the same category. (Goals 3 and 4 above with some negative impact to goal 1.)
2. Keep the current bonus multiplier values. This will of course mean that cross-category “competition” is still “unfair” but removing the multipliers would also be “unfair” with, for example, straight key ops going up directly against keyboard ops. Keeping the multipliers does give us two important things. First, we can continue to use our established scoring and cross-checking methods. (Goal 1.) Secondly, and probably more important for the majority of our participants, ops who just like to have fun competing against their own old scores will still be able to do that with a numerical scoring scale that is consistent over the years. For example, your score this month can be compared with one from 2 years ago as long as you were using the same keying device. (Goal 2.)

3. Top score certificates will be issued in all of the keying device subcategories as well as by region. For example there will be “winners” in the SWA category in the 8th district in device subcategories SK, Bug, and K/K. The same will hold for the other districts. The Gain Antenna category will also have the keying device subcategories but they will not be broken up into call districts until such time as increased participation warrants it. Certificates to first-time participants will also be issued in all three keying device categories if there are entrants in them. (This is contrary to goal 1 but fits goals 2, 3, and 4.)
4. Keyer/Keyboard ops are encouraged to keep their speeds down and to always QRS to match the speed of the one that they are working. (Goal 2.)

There is one major drawback to this system. There will definitely be some subcategories that have little or no participants in them. For example we currently only have a few participants each month who use a bug. It is possible that this setup will encourage some to actually change their current keying device. (I think that this will definitely happen with paddle users in the K/K category.) But there is something that you can do to help - talk up our sprints and get others to join in on the fun. If you don't want to “win” a top-score certificate in a category where you were the only participant then go recruit some competition for yourself!

Work is already taking place to have all of this ready for our first sprint of the year (the special 160-meter sprint on January 16) and a HUGE THANK YOU goes out to the ones involved in that work. There will undoubtedly be bugs that pop up along the way and I would ask for your patience as we deal with them.

Let me close by saying that I always welcome comments, ideas, and constructive criticism. But I will also add that it's very easy to throw out an idea, but it's a whole other thing to be willing to help implement that idea! I'm speaking from experience on this. Several years ago I suggested to the NAQCC leadership that “they” should have a Member Spotlight feature in the newsletter and look at where that took me! ... So does anyone want to be our Sprint Czar? ;-)



# 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.

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.

## SCOTT ANDERSON, W1ZU, 7122



I'm a fairly recent addition to the Amateur Radio community, getting my Technician license in December of 2012, followed quickly by my General then Extra. I would like to thank all the members of NAQCC for welcoming me to the community and for their patience as I have begun to learn CW.

I have always had an interest in amateur radio, but life was always busy, so I never really pursued it. When my father got his license in 2012, I thought it would be a good way to have a hobby together. This has proven to be true and although he is in California and I'm in Vermont, we are able to connect over this common hobby.

After hearing good things about Elecraft gear, I purchased a KX3, not even really knowing what QRP was, and started my HF journey. One of the best things that happened to me as I entered the hobby was not hearing that life is too short for QRP. I just figured I'd put up a wire and see what happens. In the beginning, it was all SSB and PSK. I was amazed at how far I could get with low power levels. Since then, I've discovered the power of CW and have really enjoyed learning it.

I have always enjoyed the outdoors, and when I discovered Summits on the Air (SOTA), I found the perfect combination of amateur radio, QRP, CW, and hiking. I could not have been happier. It is always fun to see how much can be done with a minimal setup. How many more ounces can be removed from the pack? Do I need a mast and an end-fed or can I make it work with a wire and a tree? The SOTA community has been very welcoming and I have to say a huge thank you to all the chasers who find me and my QRP signal from the top of a mountain, big or little.

In the small amount of time that I have been an active ham, I've met so many great people. Everybody has been always willing to lend a hand, or offer advice, or listen patiently to my erratic dits and dahs. I feel very fortunate to have finally arrived.



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** We have two sprints scheduled for January. First up is our special annual 160-meter sprint on Jan 16, 0130-0330Z (the evening of the 15th in North America). Our regular monthly sprint is scheduled for Jan 22, 0130-0330Z (the evening of the 21st 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>. *We need to announce that the process for keeping track of Silver Logs and for awarding a prize at the end of the year has been adjusted and streamlined for 2015.* These changes really don't have a direct impact on sprint operators. The details have been posted at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_giveaways.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_giveaways.html) in the Silver Log section of the page.

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

**LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:** Our 122nd regular sprint on December 10 presented a number of challenges to the operators, not the least of which were the poor band conditions that were experienced almost everywhere. In spite of that we had 106 submitted logs and there are plenty of "great time" kinds of comments in the soapbox postings.

We had a glitch with the autologger and at least one log that was submitted on time actually arrived late so here is a reminder to carefully follow the submission instructions and to read through the information that is shown after clicking the "submit" button.

We also had a situation where a brand new member who did not yet know his membership number participated in the sprint as a non-member, giving out a power value instead of a membership number. People who worked him had their scores adjusted to reflect the fact that he was indeed a member.

Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201412.html> and summary information can be seen in the tables at the end of this section.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time log reporters. We hope that you had a great time and will return often: W2JAZ, W4XR, VE6CPP, W9OOO

In the year-long race for perfectly formatted Silver Logs we ended up with a 10-way tie with 12 Silver Logs submitted by each member for the year: AA7CU, K4KRW, KU4A, N2ESE, N8XMS, NQ2W, W2JEK, W4DUK, WA2JSG, WG8Y. Thank you for your outstanding record keeping accuracy! N2QW, W4DUK, and WA2JSG are past winners of this annual award. A random drawing was held for the other operators and the winner of the Silver Log award for 2014 is KU4A. He will receive an ARRL wire antenna book as a prize. Congratulations Chris!

While we are talking about the overall year let me share a few interesting sprint facts with you. We averaged 113.2 log submissions in our 2014 sprints and only once did we slip below the 100-log mark. That was last January with 97 logs. (Hopefully this January will be better!) It's no surprise that our highest month, with 125 logs, was for our anniversary celebration in October but that's not significantly higher than our average so people weren't just going for the prizes. 366 different operators participated throughout the year so that means that each person participated in an average of 3.7 sprints.

December also featured one of our semiannual QRPp sprints where courageous operators dial down their power to less than one watt and proceed to do the “impossible” - make contacts, and have fun. Once again conditions were challenging but 77 logs were submitted which is our 3rd highest milliwatt sprint participation. We do not cross check special sprint logs. A complete report including interesting soapbox comments can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201412mw.html>. The individual section leaders are...

- SWA W1: N2CN & KN1H (tie)
- SWA W2: WA2NYY
- SWA W3: KD3CA
- SWA W4: WH6LE
- SWA W5: N5GW
- SWA W6: WK6L
- SWA W7: KF7WNS
- SWA W8: AC8LJ
- SWA W9: N9SE
- SWA W0: K9OSC
- SWA Canada: VE2TH
- SWA DX: N/A
- Gain: K4BAI

**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](http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html).

NUMBER OF SPRINTS	MEMBERS
50+	W4DUK NO2D KC2EGL KB8FE K6CSL KE5YUM KQ1P N8QY K1IEE WA2JSG WB8ENE AA9L VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG WY3H N4FI K3RLL NF8M KU4A NU7T
75+	K4JPN N8XMS WB8LZG K4BAI KD2MX K4NVJ W2SH W9CC
100+	W2JEK KA2KGP K3WWP
125+	

**PARTICIPATION REMINDER:** *Please remember that there is a sprint/challenge participation requirement to be eligible for the top-tier prizes that will be given away during our anniversary celebration in October. See the “Key Clicks” section of this newsletter or go to [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) for the details.*

**BREAKING NEWS...** *Some significant scoring changes will be implemented starting with our January sprints. Please see the item earlier in this newsletter for full details.*

SWA CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN	KN1H	
W2	WA2NYY	NQ2W	
W3	KD3CA		
W4	K4BAI	K4ORD	W4UX
W5	NF5U		
W6	WK6L		
W7	WD7Y		
W8	K8TJ	K8AG	
W9	AA9L		
W0	N0TA		
VE	VE2TH		
DX	-		
KEY CATEGORIES			
Straight Key (x2)	K4BAI		
Bug (x1.5)	W2JAZ		
Keyer (x1)	K4ORD		
OTHER CATEGORIES			
Gain	AB1VL		
First-Time Logger High Score	W2JAZ		
Prize Drawing	W3TTT		

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	106	114	194	2/13
Participants	165	165	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1262	1393	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	733	721	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	529	672	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	50	81	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	783	690	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	429	622	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	12.3	12.2	19.3	9/11



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** For this first month of 2015 we want to wish everybody a very Happy New Year. As a matter of fact, we want to do it in seven different languages with another fun alphabet challenge. You can find the list of new-years greetings at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201501.html>.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** In February we will have our traditional alphabet challenge celebrating groundhogs day with a list of friendly weather rodents from around the country. See <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201502.html> for the complete list.

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

**LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The deadline for submitting entries for the December Marconi Challenge is still a few days away so final results are not yet available. You can go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201412.html> to see what has been posted so far and the final results will be posted there shortly after the 10th of the month.

**PARTICIPATION REMINDER:** *Please remember that there is a sprint/challenge participation requirement to be eligible for the top-tier prizes that will be given away during our anniversary celebration in October. See the "Key Clicks" section of this newsletter or go to [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) for the details.*



# NAQCC AWARDS

We have an extensive list of awards that you can earn. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>.

## FEATURED AWARD: WAVE (Worked All VE) SWA AWARD

We thought that we would start off our featured awards item with one that has not been earned by very many members but that is ironically one of the easier ones to complete - Worked All Canada. This award only requires 8 QRP QSOs using "Simple Wire Antennas" with the following regions of Canada: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Maritimes, Newfoundland, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. Notice that the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island have been grouped together into the Maritimes region. Also the really challenging regions in Canada - Yukon, Northwest, and Nunavut Territories - are not required for this award but can be worked for an added endorsement. There are two categories for the award - QRP and 2xQRP. In addition to the Territories endorsement, there are also endorsements for Single Band and QRPP. Only QSOs made since March 1, 2011 can be applied and as with all of our awards, we take your word for it - QSLs are not required. Complete details on the WAVE award and how to apply for it can be seen at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_waveswa.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_waveswa.html).

*(Editor - After writing up this item for the newsletter I was curious and decided to check my log. Sure enough, my application for the WAVE award has been sent in! It's very possible that you already have the QSOs in your log as well.)*

## AWARDS ISSUED LAST MONTH:

### FRIENDSHIP CLUB AWARD - 200 PTS

0020 - K0ALN 300 12/14/14

### FRIENDSHIP CLUB AWARD - 300 PTS

0020 - K0ALN 300 12/14/14

### 30-30 AWARD

0033 - G3JFS Nov 2014 12/06/14

### DXCC AWARD - CATEGORY A (QRP)

0014 - AC8LJ 12/17/14

### DXCC AWARD - CATEGORY A (QRP), SINGLE BAND ENDORSEMENT

0001 - K3WWP 12/23/14 10m

### SUFFIX WORDS AWARD

0008 - K0ALN 12/15/14

### WAS AWARD - CATEGORY A (QRP)

0028 - K0ALN 12/14/14

1000 MPW AWARD

0458 - WH6LE	N7WM	-	1,939	12/19/14	215' Horizontal loop @45'
0457 - WH6LE	VE2TH	-	1,060	12/19/14	215' Horizontal loop @45'
0456 - WA2FBN	RI1ANR	-	1,858	12/17/14	Dipole @30'
0455 - N3CU	WX0B	-	1,233,000	12/14/14	Center-fed Zepp@50'
0454 - W8NNC	S51WO	-	1,127	12/14/14	Attic dipole
0453 - KM7Q	JF2QNM	-	9,972	12/14/14	Inv Fan dipole @20'
0452 - VA2SNL	3B8MU	-	1,809	12/14/14	42' sloper @30'
0451 - N5DRG	OE7WRH	-	1,092	12/14/14	Wire loop
0450 - K4ARQ	HA4AA	-	1,051	12/06/14	EF Zepp@50'
0449 - AD0IV	K6III	-	1,839	12/06/14	"big loop, low to gnd"
0448 - KC0CCR	LW9DHR	-	1,130	12/06/14	160' LW@20'
0447 - KC0CCR	LU7HF	-	1,072	12/06/14	160' LW@20'

KMPW 100 AWARD

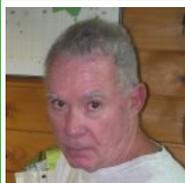
0012 - KM7Q 12/15/14

ALPHABET PREFIX AWARD HONOR ROLL (USA 50 PREFIXES)

K0ALN 51 12/14/14



# NAQCC QRS NETS



We have a number of QRS (slow speed) nets designed to help people build up their CW operating skills. Complete information about these nets can be found at [http://naqcc.info/cw\\_nets.html](http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html). Questions should be directed to Chuck, AB1VL.

## NAQCC QRS NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq	Primary NCS
East Texas (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CST	Tuesday 0100 Z	3561 KHz +/-	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Farnsword (FRN)	Sun/Mon 7 PM PST	Mon/Tues 0300 Z	3574 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)
Midwest Net (MWN)	Monday 8 PM CST	Tuesday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	Scotty, NU0S (in NE)
Northern New England (NNN)	Tuesday 7PM EST	Wednesday 0000 Z	7117 KHz	Chuck, AB1VL (in ME)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MST	Tues/Thurs 2300 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4:45 PM MST	Tues/Thurs 2345 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM EST	Thursday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PST	Friday 0300 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Great Lakes (GLN)	Thursday 9 PM EST	Friday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	David, WA8AXF (in MI)

QRS Net activity has been good up until the predictable decline over the holidays. I see many of the same calls checking into nets all over the country so propagation must be good for so far into the waning solar cycle. For some nets this seems to be coming at the expense of short distance propagation. Our revived MWN (Scotty Long NU0S) and WVN (VP John Smithson N8ZYA) QRS nets are reporting good activity so I am glad to see them return. On the flip side, Ron Silva WB1HGA has stepped down as NQN NCS, citing schedule conflicts. If you are interested in taking over the NCS chores for NQN please contact me at the email below.

Let's see what we can do to attract new ops to our QRS nets in the new year. I'm asking each of you to talk up our QRS nets with fellow ops who may be a bit shy about their CW or who just need a little coaxing to get active again.

Your comments and suggestions always welcome.

From our NCSes:

12/07/2014 KA5TJS:

...it was ruff so we moved up to 7.061 and that is where I finally heard Danny. We have had some strange conditions the last couple of weeks. Thanks to the guys who are hanging in there with me. Hoping for better conditions here soon.

12/22/2014 KR5RR

Good round table tonight, ending with Chas & I discussing mostly his Saturday morning Coffee Mug Net (9am PST, 7185 +/-). I don't do much phone so it's kinda interesting to check into a SSB net and get a signal report. Chas says ~9am PST this time of the year is the flip side of the band going short to long that we experience on our 40 meter nets, e.g., the band goes from long to short. Just before 9am we heard mostly Central US stations, then they faded fast.

12/04/2014 N8ZYA

The band was very long with a couple of stations checking in at over 800 miles.

12/24/2014 N8ZYA

F2RTA (obviously a pirate)- can't find a call on the web like this one and also heard by W8GDP and W9DLN. Had a short chat afterwards with KM4LT in Richmond VA.

01/02/2015 W7CS

A number of conflicts this month, due to the holidays... But we're recovered, and on the way again. I have a recovered K2 now.. with 100 w. Any checkin is welcome, SK, paddle, bug, or a pair of wires as long as it is cw. HOWEVER, QRP is NOT required, and cw practice is. SO check in and enjoy.

72 es HNY

Chuck AB1VL

QRS Nets Manager

=====

NAQCC Main QRS Net (NQN) - Sunday, 8:00 PM EST 7.060Mhz +/-

No nets this month. We are looking for a new NCS to run this net.

NAQCC Farnsword Net 80 Meter Net (FRN) - Sunday, Monday 7:00 PM, PST, 3.527.5 MHz +/-

12-01-2014 (4) NCS KR5RR N7HRK WU7F K7KY

12-07-2014 (6) NCS KR5RR W7PAU N5DRG KE7LKW K7KY KW6G

12-08-2014 (8) NCS KR5RR N5DRG N7NLN N7HRK KE7LKW WB4SPB WU7F KW6G

12-14-2014 (7) NCS KR5RR NM5S N7HRK W7SOM K7KY WU7F KE7LKW

12-15-2014 (7) NCS KR5RR N7HRK KE7LKW W7SOM WU7F K7KY KW6G

12-21-2014 (4) NCS KR5RR WA8AXF KE7LKW N7HRK

12-22-2014 (4) NCS KR5RR KW6G KE7LKW K7KY

12-29-2014 (2) NCS KE7LKW N7HRK KR5RR/7 but not heard

12-30-2014 (2) NCS N7HRK W7SO KR5RR/7 but not heard

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) - Monday, 7:00 PM CST, 3.527.5MHz +/-

12-01-2014 (3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA N5DRG

12-08-2014 (3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA N5DRG (QSY 7.061)

12-15-2014 (3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA

12-22-2014 No report

12-29-2014 No net

## NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) - Monday, 8:00 PM CST 7.117 MHz +/-

12-01-2014 (8) NCS NU0S WB0QQT KA0ENU KA5TJS AC8JW KG0LD W2SH WA0ITP  
 12-08-2014 (12) NCS NU0S K0JFJ AB3RU W5GXV KU4GW NI2F KG0LD WB0JTM WI5H  
 W2SH WB0QQT VA3KOT  
 12-15-2014 (3) NCS NU0S WB0QQT KC0PMH  
 12-22-2014 (3) NCS NU0S NI2F AA0RQ  
 12-29-2014 (6) NCS NU0S AC8JW K0JFJ WB0QQT WA8AXF KG0LD

## NAQCC West Virginia Net (WVN) - Wednesday, 9:00 PM EST 7.117 MHz +/-

12-03-2014 (5) NCS N8ZYA N5NVPAC8JW W8GDP KA0ENU WB0QQT  
 12-10-2014 (3) NCS N8ZYA K9ESE W8GDP  
 12-17-2014 (2) NCS N8ZYA W8GDP  
 12-24-2014 (5) NCS N8ZYA W8GDP F2RTA? W9DLN KM4LT  
 12-31-2014 No net

## NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) - Tue/Th 4:00 PM MST 14.062.5 MHz 4:45 MST 7.032.5

12-02-2014 14.0625 (7) NCS WC7S AA7CU W3HZZ KA0ENU KF7WNS KK6Q  
 7.0625 (2) NCS WC7S WE8UPJ  
 12-04-2014 14.0625 (5) NCS WC7S AA7CU KA0ENU KG9DW NE5DL  
 7.0625 (4) NCS WC7S AA0RQ KA0ENU KG9DW  
 12-09-2014 14.0625 (7) NCS WC7S AA7CU W3HZZ KR5RR K9FO NI2F AB1VL  
 7.0625 (3) NCS WC7S WE8UPJ KF7WNS  
 12-11-2014 14.0625 (4) NCS WC7S K0DTJ AA7CU W7SAG  
 7.0625 (3) NCS WC7S KG9DW KF7WNS  
 12-16-2014 14.0625 (9) NCS WC7S KR5RR AA7CU KE6OIO NM5S KA4RUR W5HNS K0DTJ  
 KF7WNS  
 7.0625 (3) NCS WC7S AA7CU KG9DW  
 12-18-2014 14.062.5 (4) NCS WC7S AA7CU N6MY K0DTJ  
 7.0625 (3) NCS WC7S KC4YJQ K0DTJ  
 12-23 & 12-25 No nets

## NAQCC North New England 40 Meter QRS Net (NNN) - Tuesday, 7:00 PM EST 7.117 MHz +/-

12-02-2014 (5) NCS AB1VL W3UEC AC8JW KA0ENU NI2F  
 12-09-2014 (3) NCS AB1VL NI2F N4UVQ  
 12-16-2014 (4) NCS AB1VL W3UEC K9EYT NI2F  
 12-23-2014 (7) NCS AB1VL VE3DQN W3UEC KM1N K9EYT/4 NI2F AC8JW  
 12-30-2014 (3) NCS AB1VL NI2F K8VEE

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

12-04-2014 (4) NCS WB4SPB AD7BP K7JUV KE7LKW  
 12-11-2014 (7) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX AD7BP K7JUV N7QR N7NLN K7KY  
 12-18-2014 (7) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX AD7BP WB6SPB K7ZNP KR5RR W7MWF  
 12-25-2014 (5) NCS WB4SPB KE7LKW/7 N6KIX AD7BP N7QR

## NAQCC Great Lakes Net 40 Meter QRS Net (GLN) - Thursday, 9:00 PM EST 7.117 MHz

12-04-2014 (8) NCS WA8AXF K1IEE VA3KOT KC4URI N1GK/QRP WB0QQT U4GU NI2F  
 KO1E/M KA0ENU W3KC  
 12-11-2014 (5) NCS WA8AXF WE8UPJ K9EYT VA3KOT WB0QQT  
 12-18-2014 (5) NCS WA8AXF K9EYT/4 K1IEE KU4GW N3ADF WE8UPJ  
 12-24-2014 No net



# 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. Additional help is also available on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/cw.html>.

Below you will find the announcement for a new website that will give you some great Morse code practice. I think it's great for a beginner or intermediate to use to improve the head reading capability of the individual. When one becomes proficient at that speed there's always W1AW higher speed code practice above 15 WPM, or the various other code practice programs listed already in the CW assistance help links on NAQCC .

72,  
Brion

=====

*Announcing a new radio station - via internet streaming.  
W3TTT announces the beginning of a new internet streaming radio station.*

*You can type this URL into your browser:  
<http://w3ttt.listen2myradio.com>*

*I have decided to make it a Morse code site (at least for the present time.)*

*I wrote an app in Java to generate Morse code sounds from a text file. Then, I thought that was pretty boring. So I added a few features. The app reads a parameters file. One parameter is the URL of a web site. I chose News as my web site. The app will download the current News, filter out all those pesky "tags", and send the newsy text at 12 words per minute. So the stream is real live News sent as Morse code.*

*The purpose of the site is for Morse training, your copying of Morse code at 12 words per minute. And it is oh so much more interesting if the content is something relevant, not just Old Text from old radio magazines.*

*In my imagination, I am on a Navy ship, as the communications officer. In WWII the Navy would send world news for the ship's crew via Morse code. The news copy would be distributed among the crew. I am the one to do that job, and support the moral of the crew.*

*On the question of copyrights, the news site that I extract the news headlines from is also extracting the content from other sites on the internet. So I feel safe in what I am doing.*

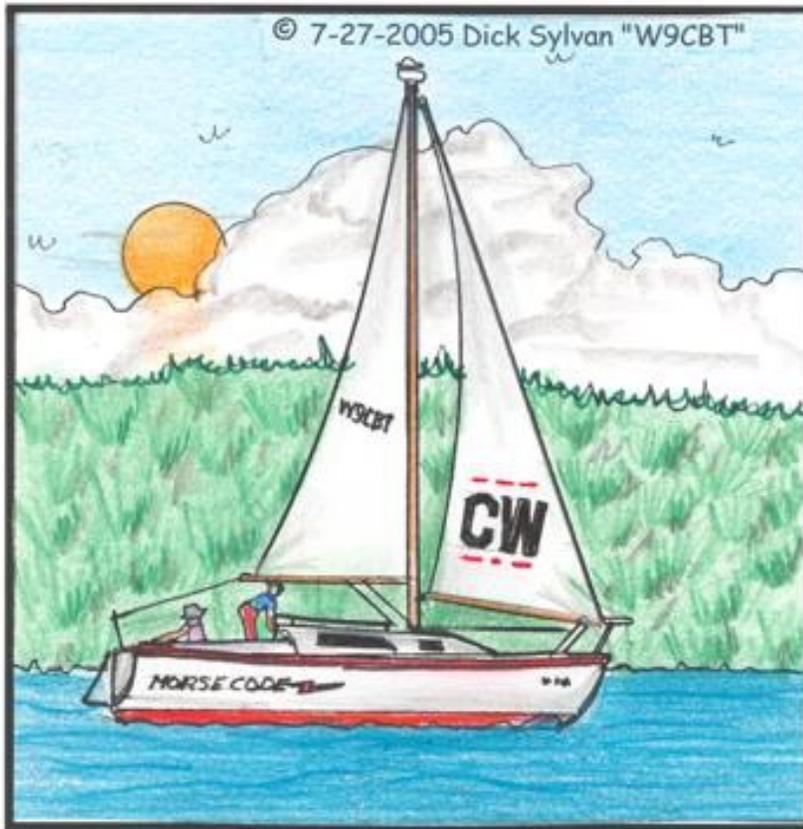


# HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #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 *KY9A 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* available at <http://www.ky9a.org/w9cbt/>.

## HAM QUIPS



"Morse Code - Antiquated Technology?"



# NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Central Texas, Illowa, and Florida - but we would be more than happy to expand on that list. Chapters are more or less independent local gatherings organized by NAQCC members in a geographical area and subject to a list of guidelines from the NAQCC. They provide opportunities to have fun and to promote our parallel passions of QRP and CW. If you are interested in forming a local chapter please contact Club President Paul, N8XMS.

If your chapter is planning a portable operation activity and would like to have it promoted on the club email list or in the newsletter, send an email with the subject "NAQCC Portable Operation" and with the exact wording of the announcement to Paul, KD2MX, about a week before the operation. Please be sure to include the UTC time for the event and not just the local time.

NAQCC chapters located in the United States are welcome to use the NAQCC Club call, N3AQC for their special operations. Please contact call sign trustee Paul, N8XMS, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

Chapter Reports Begin On The Next Page

## CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER



Items in this section are from Central Texas Chapter President Danny, N5DRG, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him.

The chapter is located in the Austin, TX area.

No real news updates from the NAQCC Central Texas Chapter events for this month.

Hope to get going with some outdoor activities soon as the weather warms up again, as warm weather is not too far away anytime here in central Texas.

So no news or events to announce really for this month.

Hope to have new events or news to announce for next month. The holidays had all spending time with family as it should be.

All the best,  
Danny  
N5DRG

## NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER



Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him. 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 members in EU, and we regularly receive challenge logs from North American participants. Please see the chapter web pages for dates and details.

### Europe 2014 challenge

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A very happy New Year to all NAQCC members from the European Chapter! There are still a few days left to submit your entries for the Europe 2014 challenge (the deadline is 10th January). If you think you've worked at least 42 European countries during the year of 2014, please do submit an entry to obtain the special certificate!

The entry count currently stands at eight: we've had successful applications from F5MNK, G3JFS, MW0MIE, K1IEE, K1YAN, K3WWP, PA0XAW and SM5MEK. Congratulations to all who have achieved the award! Most have worked many more than the minimum of 42 countries required: this is a great testament to the state of QRP/CW activity in Europe. The "Hall of Fame" so far can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/europe-2014/hall-of-fame>

### This year's annual challenge

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The "Europe 2015" challenge will be centred around working some of the rarest entities in Europe. We're still compiling a suitable list of countries to include, but for now keep the premise of this new annual challenge in mind when working European stations!

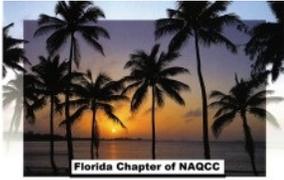
### Monthly alphabet challenges

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We received 7 entries for our seasonal December challenge, from DH0DK, F5MNK, K1IEE, K3WWP, N9SE, PA0XAW, and RW3AI. Congratulations to all! As always, we are grateful for all entries received, as taking part in the challenges is a great way to increase the CW/QRP activity in Europe. The number of entries for last month's challenge was slightly lower than normal, despite the challenge itself being somewhat easier. We hope things will be back to normal this month, now that the festive season has ended.

This month's challenge involves constructing the names and altitudes of four well-known European ski resorts. The full details can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/january-2015-challenge>.

## NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Steve, WB4OMM.

No report available.

## NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



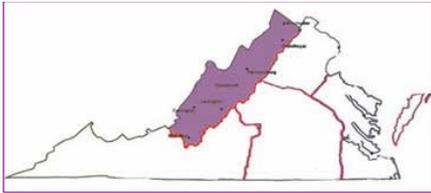
Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Bob, W9PZ.

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

Our chapter had no meeting in December due to the holidays and therefore I have no news to report. A meeting is planned in January however so a future report can be expected.

Bob W9PZ

## NAQCC SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Shenandoah Valley Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Russ, K3NLT.

We have been trying to find a regular time for the members to contact me on an as available basis, and it has improved participation 100%. I am making myself available on an 80 meter frequency every night that I am home for the fellows to call in and have a chat. Everyone's schedules are hard to work with for an every other week time for a scheduled on air net for QSOs, so this seems to be getting us started.

We are dropping one invited charter member to our club because he doesn't seem to want to participate and has not applied for membership in NAQCC, but the six of us are all members and are as follows: Andrew, N4RCE #7459; Brian, W3ATT #6282; Foster, WF4O #7389; Howard, K4LXY #7398; Phil, K4NE #2991; and myself, Russ, #2906.

We have a range of experience in our group, so we try to adjust so that all feel free to join in. Some of us are set up for mobile operation and find that is a good time to meet on the air during commuting times. Yes it is CW, but we do not always limit it to 5 watts. After all there is vehicle noise to be overcome sometimes.

With the onset of winter, and now the Holiday season, we are not doing any "to the park" types of operating, but we are getting antennas and equipment ready for the Springtime activities to start again so we can have a good start when Spring arrives. Four of us now have Elecraft KX1 self contained trail friendly radios and are using them from home as we feel inclined. We had an early snow storm with 5 inches that had to be dealt with, and for Virginia that was hard for some of us to get used to! Winters are just not that hard this early. Most of us are looking for warmer climes to dodge the stuff!

Most of the Wintertime will be inside trying to get comfortable with making CW QSOs. I am hoping to soon be more active in promoting more of the other NAQCC activities on the air.

Russ, K3NLT

## NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



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



First of all, I hope everyone had a Happy Holiday Season. December is a busy month for spending time with family, relatives, and friends. Needless to say, at least for me, I had little time for radio, and even less time for meetings and outings. The WV Chapter did not have a radio outing this month.

The highlight of the month was our breakfast meeting. Breakfast was a special gathering because Jeff Imel (**K9ESE**) was able to spend time with us. Jeff spends most of his time in the Washington DC area now. It was a Christmas gift to see him. Jeff brought his entire QRP station with him in a small day bag. I was impressed with his [Hendricks](#) three band **PFR3** radio.

A special achievement by one of our Charleston members is worth mentioning this month. Eric Lassiter (**AC8LJ**) received his **NAQCC DXCC Award**. I'm especially proud of his achievement because, now, there are two of us who've earned this award. Eric and I both live in the same city of Charleston.

**Basic Award (Category A - QRP):**

Nr	Call	Date
0001	- K3WWP	11/30/04
0002	- NU4B	12/05/05
0003	- NB4M	02/19/09
0004	- K2QPN	04/24/09
0005	- AA4W	01/22/10
0006	- G5CL	02/15/10
0007	- NU7T	03/28/10
0008	- W9UX	01/10/12
0009	- W5RID	01/31/12
0010	- N8XMS	12/04/12
0011	- K1YAN	04/29/13
0012	- N8ZYA	03/26/14
0013	- KC2EGL	04/17/14
0014	- AC8LJ	12/17/14

Eric (**AC8LJ**) also won first place in the **W8 Division** of the December MW Sprint. A good long wire can do some amazing things with less than one watt.

**SWA Category - W8 Division**

Call	QSOs	Mbrs	Pts	Mul	Sco	Bon	Final	80-40-20 Antenna
AC8LJ	10	10	20	9	180	x2	360	random wire @ 40 ft
N8XMS	10	9	19	8	152	x2	304	R7 Vertical
K8AG	7	7	14	6	84	x2	168	ZS6BKW in trees at about 35 feet
K8TJ	8	8	16	6	96		96	BENT RANDOM WIRE & FOLDED DIPOLE
AB8FJ	4	4	8	4	32	x2	64	Inverted L
N8ZYA	4	4	8	4	32	x2	64	Indoor Isotron Antenna
KB3CXQ	4	4	8	4	32	x2	64	hus 4btv@gnd, car wdm@35'
WA8SAN	5	5	10	5	50		50	G5RV @ 25 ft
W8SH	3	3	6	3	18	x2	36	dpl @ 65'
KD8FKD	2	1	3	2	6	x2	12	dpl@35'

On a personal level, I've been enjoying nice *long* QSO's with several hams and also chased a few DX stations this month. I can't count the times when there's been a moment of silence as I mentioned earning the QRP DXCC award in the same sentence with a simple wire antenna. As many members of our club know, it's quite easy to work DX with only five watts of power. I actually worked two new DXCC stations in this month. One new station was in the southern most part of Africa and the other in Greenland. Greenland marks number 107 for me. They were both nice Christmas Eve presents.



**Latest Contacts for N8ZYA @ QRZ.com**

de	date	band	mode	grid	Country	op
<a href="#">OX3XR</a>	2014-12-24	12m	CW	GP44de	 Greenland	PETER THULESEN
<a href="#">V5/DL3DXX</a>	2014-12-24	12m	CW	JG87mi	 Namibia	
<a href="#">EA4EYL</a>	2014-12-24	10m	CW	IN80dj	 Spain	Nacho Gomez
<a href="#">F5NBX</a>	2014-12-24	10m	CW	JN05rn	 France	FRED DONATI no qsl buro
<a href="#">F5PHY</a>	2014-12-24	10m	CW	JN04mw	 France	Yves ivan PRINCE
<a href="#">IZ4ZZB</a>	2014-12-24	10m	CW	JN54pm	 Italy	Michele Ortolani
<a href="#">XE3VDK</a>	2014-12-23	10m	CW	EL51ea	 Mexico	Javier Marin
<a href="#">K8EET</a>	2014-12-23	40m	CW	EN75ih	 United States	TERRY L EDGER
<a href="#">K5OO</a>	2014-12-22	30m	CW	EM35gn	 United States	MARK A GRAVES
<a href="#">W2YC</a>	2014-12-22	30m	CW	FM29mp	 United States	DAVID J STROUT SR
<a href="#">CO8LY</a>	2014-12-22	12m	CW	FL201a	 Cuba	Eduardo Somoano Cremati
<a href="#">AB7BR</a>	2014-12-22	10m	CW	CN85je	 United States	MICHAEL W VENDITTI
<a href="#">XE1XR</a>	2014-12-22	10m	CW	JJ00aa	 Mexico	David Vega Urbina
<a href="#">HC2IMP</a>	2014-12-22	10m	CW	JJ00aa	 Ecuador	Mauro Pippia
<a href="#">HK1MW</a>	2014-12-22	10m	CW	FK201t	 Colombia	BOLMAR AGUILAR

Book Totals: 1644 qso's 541 confirmed  [Get a free logbook at QRZ.COM](#)

Sometimes I take a moment and direct the conversing ham to the NAQCC web site and tell them to look at our [Awards Program](#).

Folks, there's something for everyone on this page. We're fortunate to have a great volunteer group who devote countless hours of work to make our club a success. I salute you all.

I've also been having a lot of fun with the monthly "[Challenges](#)" and have completed them for the last two months. I find myself listening for those "key" letters much like searching for DX. Sometimes it's taken a DX station or two to complete the challenge. Hi Hi

This is a short entry this month because of the busy Christmas season. The winter season is upon us and will keep us inside and in a warm place.

Perhaps January and February will bring us a few days of warm sunshine or a good indoor shelter for a club outing. We shall see.....

## NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Western Pennsylvania Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to John, K3WWP.

It was a very non-busy month for the WPA Chapter. The weather was so nice, we probably could have done a parkpedition had time permitted.

There were only two get togethers of members, when Mike KC2EGL and John K3WWP got together for their 6th annual Christmas Day event of exchanging presents, just chatting, and when darkness comes, driving around Kittanning and environs looking for what we deem to be the best Christmas lights display. There were many good ones this year but we did manage to pick out a couple that were slightly above the rest. Too bad we weren't able to take pictures and share them here. Then a second surprise get together on New Years Eve day when the two of us did some shopping, chowing, and computer games.

As is usual for a mailman in December, and more so than usual this year, Mike's month was spent mostly at work and he had virtually no time to enjoy the KX3 with the new PX3 panadapter.

Our newest WPA member, Tom WB3FAE wasn't as busy, and he did have time to work quite a bit of good DX during the month with his KX3 and new antenna.

And of course retired (doubly now) John K3WWP was on the air every day continuing his streaks of making QSOs with QRP/CW/simple wire antennas. Briefly here and more in detail in the personal ham news section below, the DX streak reached 671 days on December 31 to make it some DX every day in 2014.

Next plans for the WPA Chapter is a get together of Mike and John sometime between Jan 15 and 25 if Mike's vacation plans at the PO work out. We have some ham radio projects in mind, and possibly some astronomy as well, weather permitting. Neither of us has had much of a chance to get our scopes out recently for various reasons.



# 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 a short article dealing with some aspects of CW and QRP operation or equipment. Just about anything that would be of interest to our members would be welcomed. Send you items to our News Editor Paul, KD2MX.

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 Jerry, VE6CPP, #5697 —

Here is an interesting read from the 'very early days of Ham Radio Pioneers' ! The station listed as a 'Pirate'..kind of funny its call resembles W1AW now ! :-)

<http://w2pa.net/HRH/crossings-iii-accolades/>

*(If you are a history buff take a look at the "Content" page of this website. But watch out, you will probably end up spending a lot of time! - Editor)*

From Paul, N8XMS, #0675 —

I had some exciting QRP fun on the afternoon of December 16 at about 1935 UTC. I called CQ on 14.0605 MHz and VK4TJ in Top Camp, Australia, 9200 miles away answered my call! I've worked into Australia with QRP a couple of times before but it's rare and my last one was back in 2005. But I've never had a DX station from so far away answer my CQ. John was located on the top of an extinct volcano and was running 100 w into a Yagi. I gave him a 439. I was running my usual 5 watts from an Elecraft K2 into my old Cushcraft R7 trap vertical. John gave me a 339 - he has very good "ears." He told me that he really enjoys working weak signals and often tunes around on the common QRP frequencies. We chatted for a few minutes and right after I signed with him I received a tail-end call from F6HKA in Limoges, France, 4000 miles in almost the exact opposite direction! I'm very glad that vertical antennas "radiate equally badly in all directions!"

From Dean, NW2K, #5407 —

*Editor - Dean would like to know if there is interest amongst our sprint operators for the added challenge of doing the sprint in a minimalist style. Sprint rules would not change and the additional challenge would be purely voluntary and reported through Soapbox comments. A part of Dean's email follows with some of my thoughts after that.*

With ALL NAQCC sprint rules remaining unchanged, what if we publicized the option of operating the sprints in the following manner:

1. 100% battery power, including lights.
2. No computers or databases. Pencil and paper logging (enter paper log into computer later to facilitate proper electronic log submission).

3. Combined system weight, up to and not including the feedline, of 5 lbs or less.

Again, NO rules changes and NO additional entry categories. Ops would simply use the soapbox to tell us about their experience with simple gear in the sprint.

A twist like this would encourage:

1. Building new gear
2. Experimenting with low power consumption
3. Actually copying exchanges rather than relying on computer databases
4. Operating with more primitive gear and less than perfect filtering

Just a thought. What do you think?

73, Dean, NW2K

*Editor - I told Dean that I have doubts about the amount of interest that members would have in doing this and that my biggest concern would be with #2, no computer usage. Although this is the way that I already do my sprint logging, I'm worried that it could introduce more mistakes into our log reporting, cutting down on our Silver Logs, and creating more headaches for our sprint processors. If you go this route please triple-check those logs.*

*So, what do you think about this idea? Please send your feedback to Dean at [NW2K@arrl.net](mailto:NW2K@arrl.net) and CC me (email address on last page) a copy as well.*

From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

I suppose this would be a good time and place to do a wrapup of 2014, but there's really not a lot to say about the year out of the ordinary. Of course one thing is working some DX every day in 2014. I'm happy with that to be sure, and maybe I'll try to do it again this year, but it does involve some stress at times, and I can do without that. Maybe I'll take it to March 1st so I'll have 730 days or 24 months or two full years of DX, then think about hanging it up. I really don't know.

Of course another highlight of the year was retiring as NAQCC Vice President in mid-October. That got rid of a lot of stress in addition to giving me much more free time to pursue other things.

Buying and building the Elecraft PX3 Panadapter to replace the computer/HDSDR version was a step forward and now with the KX3/PX3 combo, I am one of many folks who have the absolute best QRP/CW setups in the world. Now if only I had a quieter environment without all the man-made QRN and some room for outdoor antennas.....

I enjoyed mastering all the NAQCC challenges ("USA" and European Chapter) during the year as well as participating in all our regular and special sprints. I am now in the process of updating my NAQCC award endorsements and honor roll listings. I hadn't done that for a while now.

I also had some really good times with my fellow hams in this area - Don K3RLL, Tom WB3FAE, and Mike KC2EGL. In fact Mike closed out the year with about a 7 hour visit on December 31 as we went to the Pittsburgh Mills where we had lunch at Chili's, did a bit of shopping, came home and just visited for a while and played some computer hidden object game.

During the year, the four of us had good times at hamfests, the Skyview Swap Shop, an operation from the sub Requin, and of course our various parkpeditions. I look forward to more of those activities in 2015. In fact the first get together with Mike will come around January 18 when we get together during his 10 day or so vacation for some radio projects and who knows what else we will get into then? HI

Of course no good ham spends 24/7 with ham radio, and I engaged in other activities as any well rounded individual should. Some things were better than others, but all were enjoyable.

It was an off-year for fishing with only a couple dozen fish caught in a like number of trips. Hopefully 2015 will provide numbers more like normal when I average over 100 fish. Of those I hope a lot will be carp.

Another interest, gardening took an off-year as well. It wasn't just me, but a lot of gardens around here didn't produce all that well. Perhaps the very long hard 2013-2014 winter had something to do with that. Also a very wet early summer followed by a dry late summer and early fall probably contributed. I did get enough tomatoes, beans, peas, and peppers to keep me going fairly well, but they ran out much earlier in the fall than usual.

It was a good year for walking, and I continued my overall average rate of around 7+ miles per day. I didn't go for any super long walks in 2014, but did maintain that average.

It was another enjoyable year with my neighbor's dog Roscoe. He is a real joy, and I take him for his last walk of just about every single day.



# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## 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 call signs 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 North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has more than 7000 members throughout the world. Membership is free and anyone interested in CW/QRP operating is welcome. Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and useful resources, can be found on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>. Inquires can also be sent to

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Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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