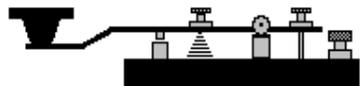


# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 205 JULY 2015



## KEY CLICKS

- **NAQCC SWAP & SHOP OFF TO A GOOD START.** Our first Swap & Shop posting was emailed out to the membership on the 25th of last month with about a dozen items on it. That's a great start and we hope to continue it on or about the 25th of each month. So if you have a QRP or CW related item that you would like to sell or trade, or if you would like to have a "wanted" listing, send your posting to VP John, N8ZYA, (see the last page for his email). Please include your name, call, NAQCC membership number, and complete contact information. We cannot include pictures. The NAQCC is not be responsible for any claims that are made in the postings and we reserve the right to reject a submitted item if it is deemed to be inappropriate.
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR N#A OPERATIONS.** Our anniversary activities will be here before you know it and we need volunteers to put our N#A special event callsigns on the air during the celebration October 12-18. 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.
- **PRIZE ELIGIBILITY REQUIRES PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.** Once again some great prizes will be given away to members participating in our 11th anniversary sprint in October, and just like last year there is a throughout-the-year participation requirement to be eligible for the top tier of prizes. The requirements are not excessive, just a few sprints and/or challenges through the year will do it. Complete details can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).
- **CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY POLLS.** Jerry, VE6CPP, puts up an interesting poll on our club website each month. 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.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Key Clicks	1
Multi-Key Box	3
A/B Antenna Test	5
The Magic Band	6
Member Spotlight	8
Sprints	10
Challenges	14
Awards	16
QRS Nets	17
Help For Beginners	22
Ham Quips	23
Chapter News	24
Member Submissions	42
About The NAQCC	47
Contacts	48

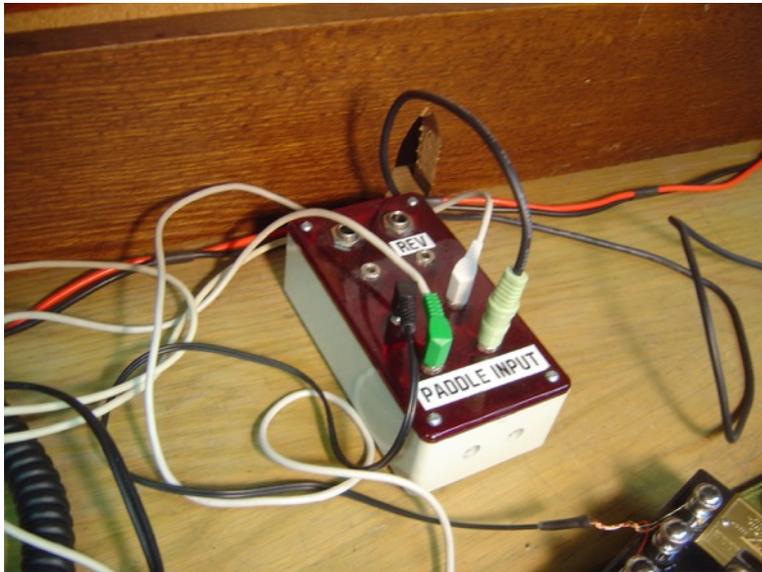
- **EUROPEAN CHAPTER ANNOUNCES GREAT PRIZE!** Be sure to check out the great prize that is being offered by the NAQCC European chapter for participation in their challenges this year. It's not too late to get into the ruling for the prize so go to the *Chapter News* section of this newsletter for complete information.
- **NEW ILLOWA CHAPTER CONTACT PERSON.** The Illowa chapter of the NAQCC has a new contact person - Pete, NN9K. You can find his email listed on the last page of this newsletter.
- **2015 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.** We want to encourage all of you to "talk up" the NAQCC and as an incentive we will be offering a prize each quarter of 2015 to the person responsible for the most new membership applications during that quarter. (The application form includes a field where the person can indicate how they heard about the NAQCC.) The prize will be a gift certificate for 100 free QSL cards from <http://cheapqsls.com/naqcc.html>.
- **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."



# MULTI-KEY BOX

BY GREGG, WB8LZG

As a Morse Code aficionado, key collector and restorer, and QRP operator, there are many times when it's nice to be able to plug in more than one key at a time. The need became even more apparent after refurbishing several Vibroplex keys. I wanted to get "side by side" comparisons of many keys without the need to plug and unplug them. I had some old jacks in the "junkbox" and after finding a used box to drill some more holes into, the Multi-Key-Box was born.

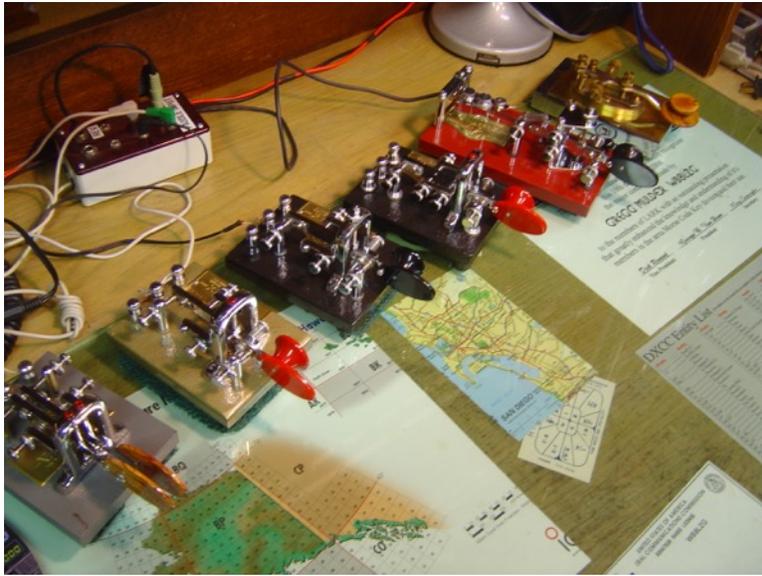


With a bunch of new "refurbs" to compare, it sure is a handy shack accessory. It has eight inputs for a variety of plugs on most common keys: five jacks for 1/8" sub-mini stereo plugs, one reverse 1/8" jack, one jack for 1/4" stereo, and one reverse 1/4" jack. I can also plug in a straight key. It is just what I needed to do quick "on the fly" key swaps.

The best part was that I already had all of the parts so I didn't have to buy anything. Even the input cord was scrounged from an old computer speaker. Here are some more photos so you can see how simple it is.



All of the jacks are "daisy chained" in parallel but for the two "reverse" ones. The result is a compact input box for as many keys as you can crowd onto an operating desk.



Now I can plug away from keyer to bug to straight key, all the while just moving my hand from one key to the next for true high speed switching. I liked it so much, that I made another for the W8SH shack at Michigan State University. Perhaps you can find a use for such a gadget. It's got all the main requirements of the QRPers wish list, simple, useful, and cheap! You probably have the parts in your junkbox too. Go ahead and melt some solder !



# A/B ANTENNA TEST

BY ED, K8SZN

I like to operate portable on the 40 through 10 meter bands, using very simple, lightweight antennas. Recently, I tested a 41' end fed random wire against a 44' NorCal doublet. I chose a 41' length for the random wire because it loads quite well on all bands from 40 through 10. I chose the Norcal doublet because it has roughly the same overall length and carries a good reputation for its performance. Also, either antenna can be installed in approximately the same space. The rig was my KX3, which has an excellent internal tuner. The setup was as follows:

**Random Wire**—connected directly to the KX3; first 13' was generally vertical, the remaining 28' was horizontal at only 13 feet above ground level; counterpoise wires of varying lengths were connected to the ground side of the KX3 output, depending on the band. The KX3 internal tuner was able to achieve a 1:1 match on all bands except 12 meters, where it provided a 2:1 SWR.

**Norcal Doublet**—connected to an Elecraft BL2 balun, which was connected to the KX3 with a very short piece of 50 ohm coax. The feedline was about 28' of 300 ohm twin lead. This antenna was installed at the same height and with the same compass orientation as the straight section of the random wire. The KX3's tuner was able to achieve a 1:1 match on all bands.

**Test Procedure**—using a manual “quick disconnect” process, I tuned signals on one antenna and then switched to the other, going back and forth a number of times on each signal, matching the connected antenna each time, noting the relative signal strengths and noise levels. Tests were conducted over the course of one afternoon.

**Results**—the NorCal doublet was the clear winner on all bands except 40 meters, where it was probably a draw (some signals were louder on either antenna here). The random wire had a much higher noise level on the higher bands, probably due to its vertical section, but the signals were nevertheless weaker on all bands other than 40. The noise was probably coming from our home (I was operating outside, but nearby). Both antennas are workable (I've used them in portable operations), but in the side-by-side testing signals were often 2 S-units stronger on the doublet.

**Caveat**—these are just results from my particular location, over soil of very low conductivity, in the woods on the shore of Lake Michigan, and with both antennas at a low elevation. Still, I'm inclined to go with the doublet whenever I can. Of course, I'll always be traveling with the random wire and some counterpoise wire, just in case.

Ed Ketterer, K8SZN

[edkett@gmail.com](mailto:edkett@gmail.com)



# THE MAGIC BAND

BY JOHN, K3WWP

Six Meters is nicknamed "The Magic Band". I don't know just where that came from, but it is very appropriate. Signals can pop up on the band like a magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat. After a while (short or long) they disappear again just as suddenly like the same magician snapping his fingers to make a coin disappear.

I have not used six meters all that much to learn all its tricks of the trade. Originally I did not have any way to get on, or even listen to, the band. My homebrew gear didn't cover it, nor did my Kenwood TS-570D. I was first exposed to it when my friend Mike (KC2EGL) got an Elecraft K2 and subsequently loaned me his Kenwood TS-480SAT which did cover six meters. However that led to another problem - TVI. Even using a power output of 5 watts or less, I was getting into my neighbor's TV and really annoying him. Now that should have been the cable company's problem since it is a closed carrier system, but I never really pursued the matter. Since digital TV came along, I haven't heard from the neighbor, so I guess (and hope) TVI is a thing of the past and I can operate the band more often.

I got started on six in a funny way. When I first got the rig from Mike, we set all bands to 5 watts output since as you know I am a CW/QRP only operator. However we never thought that the rig had separate segments for six meters, and we only set one of the segments. So my very first six meter QSO was unintentionally with QRO power working a VE2 station very easily. I thought it was strange that the light in my shack flickered slightly when I transmitted. Then I noticed the power meter was peaking way over 5 watts. I quickly corrected that, and went on from there.

One of the prime modes of propagation on six is sporadic-E, another very appropriate name because it is very sporadic. It can happen unexpectedly any time of day or night, and can range from weak, short duration openings to strong, long lasting ones. Naturally it is very similar to the situation when one chases DX on the broadcast TV channels. Or at least was until the advent of cable/satellite digital TV in effect nowadays. Back in the 50s and 60s we had an outdoor TV antenna on the roof to receive the Pittsburgh, PA stations some 40-50 miles distant. It worked pretty well as intended, but it had a great side effect. When sporadic-E struck, stations from several hundred or more miles away would virtually wipe out the Pittsburgh stations as if they had signed off the air. The telltale sign of an impending opening was often the doubling of the scan lines of the TV picture followed by some ghostly images 'behind' the images from the Pittsburgh stations. Then if it was a good opening, the distant stations gradually took over completely. I thought that was one of the most exciting forms of any kind of "DXing". The same thing happened with the broadcast FM stations, but not as often. Sporadic-E seems to peak around 50 MHz so Channel 2 was the first to show any signs of it, and it took a quite strong opening to reach up to Channels 5 and 6, then to FM.

I mention that because of the similarity of TV DX to six meters work. In TV the strongest signals came from the Gulf Coast states and the states in the W0 ham call area. I find what I work on six meters also follows that pattern, although like TV, there can also be good signals from other areas as well. I've worked CA on six, but WY is about my most distant TV DX.

Six can also be frustrating as well as exciting. With my simple attic dipole for the band, I find there are a lot of stations I just can't work, and I'm sure there are a lot I can't even hear whereas someone with a good beam antenna on a tower can both hear and work them easily. Also the vast majority of six meter ops do seem to use those kind of big antennas, and it is hard to compete against them when trying to work someone. Still I have managed to work 18 different states and at least a couple dozen grid squares.

Grid Squares? You may ask if you are not familiar with VHF operation. They are not used all that much on HF. Basically they divide the world into squares. My square here in Kittanning and surrounding area is FN00. Or more precisely, FN00ft. To not re-invent the wheel by describing them more thoroughly here, I refer you to this excellent source - <http://www.arrl.org/grid-squares>.

There is not a lot of rag-chewing on six meters since the openings are often so brief. Mostly QSOs just involve an exchange of RST and Grid Square, e.g. 579 FN00 in my case. I have found that most CW QSOs take place between 50090 and 50100 or perhaps a bit beyond in both directions.

There are also a lot of six meter beacon stations which seem to be in the 50060-50080 range.

Keep in mind that I am just a six meter novice for the most part here and just really starting to learn all the little nuances of this wonderful band. So excuse me if some of the above info might not be exact to a seasoned pro six meter operator.

I wrote this simply because I would like you to get on six meters if you haven't already and ENJOY THE MAGIC!



# 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.

## MIKE MANER, WI5H, #7128



My first introduction to ham radio was when I was a SWL many years ago. I eventually decided that the QSOs were more interesting than SWLing.

I have now been a ham for 30 years and spent most of those years operating from EM13. My Novice call was KA5UXU. My Technician through Advanced call was N5IIF. When I passed the Extra exam, I requested a new call and the FCC responded with WI5H. I have been asked a few times if my call is a "vanity" call, but it was just the next 2 by 1 call in the 5th call district.

I was a SkyWarn weather spotter and a member of the local Red Cross disaster team for a number of years.

My favorite aspects of ham radio and SWLing have always been equipment and antenna construction. Over the years, much of my operation has been with homebrewed QRP gear and transverters interfaced with older Kenwood transceivers.

My wife Barbara (N5VLD) and I are now retired and we have relocated to DM91. After about eight years QRT, I returned to the air in January 2013. My first HF contact was with FG5FR on 17 meters. What a nice way to get back on the air! That contact was made with a Kenwood TS-130S and a portable dipole hanging between my porch and a nearby tree. I think I only received about a 539 report, but I had worked France! My first HF contact since 2005. During the next few days, I got back on the popular data modes as well. I then started planning a more efficient HF antenna.

Now my primary HF antenna is a fixed wire loop using about 90 feet of #14 insulated copper wire tuned by a SG-237 remote antenna coupler. The SG-237 is powered over the coax via a pair of homebrewed Bias"T" devices. The loop is oriented broadside to the east and west.

Today, I operate mostly QRP CW using homebrewed gear including a homebrewed ball-bearing straight key. Once in a while, I work a little QRO CW or SSB, but no data modes lately.

We also have an End-Fed Wire and homebrewed tuner for 40, 20 and 17 meters. The EFW is made from aluminum electric fence wire because we had a partial spool available. The aluminum wire works pretty well, and is relatively cheap compared to copper. The wire is available from any store that sells electric fence supplies. I hope to build and install separate 160 meter RX and TX antennas before winter comes and goes. I am thinking a vertical for TX and a flag for RX.

Lately I have been using a CW-only, homebrewed, QRP multi-band transceiver for most of my operating, including the NAQCC Sprints. The QRP transceiver is my current HF project. It is still under development and has resulted in several spin-off projects to develop modules and features for the transceiver. Receive is from LF to above 20 meters. TX is currently limited to 40, 30 and 20 meters. Whenever I get the filter modules built, 160 through 80 meters will be available. Later an additional amp section will add a QRO option of 25-50 watts depending on the band selected and power supply/battery pack capability.

My other hobbies include playing cornet in a band called Ice House Brass, playing trumpet in the San Angelo Community Band, amateur astronomy and model railroading (especially narrow gauge).

I usually hang out on 20 meters and I try to work at least part of each NAQCC Sprint.

If you hear me on the air, please give me a call.



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** Our July sprint will be on the 16th, 0030-0230 UTC. Of course that's the evening of the 15th here in North America. Details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201507.html>.

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>.

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

We occasionally get questions from sprint participants about how to use the GenLog software to log and report their contacts. Most of the time the answers to these questions can be found in the excellent illustrated tutorial written by KB8FE and found at [http://www.naqcc.info/sprint\\_genlog\\_tutorial.html](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_genlog_tutorial.html).

**LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:** Our June sprint continued our excellent participation streak with 124 logs submitted and a total of 208 participants showing up in those logs. It sure would be nice if all of those participants would submit a log! It's really easy to do and if you have any questions about it just ask and we will certainly give you some help.

For the mW QRPp sprint we had some outstanding participation with 81 submitted logs. This is our second highest mW sprint and is only beaten by our June 2012 participation with 85 submitted logs!

Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201506.html> and <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201506mw.html> and summary information can be seen in the tables on the following pages.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time log reporters. We hope that you had a great time and will return often: VE6BIR AC2C AA2EA WS1K AK4YS N3NFL KE6EE WQ2E KI4WFJ W0JEK AC9GT(nm) G3RSP

**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 [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) for the details.*

## REGULAR SPRINT

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N1JI	N1IMW	
W2	K2YGM	W2SH	WA2NYY
W3	KQ3Z	AB3RU	
W4	K2UFT	N4SX	WH6LE
W5	W5TVW	WA5SAT	
W6	KR5RR	K6MGO	
W7	KF7WNS	AA7VW	K9JWV
W8	NF8M	WA8AXF	
W9	AA9L		
W0	N0TA	N8LA	
VE	VE2TH	VE3DVC	
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2			
W3	K3WWP		
W4	AK4NY		
W5			
W6			
W7			
W8	AB8FJ		
W9			
W0	WD0K		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K4RHG		
W2	N2ESE		
W3	N8XEE		
W4	WB4OMM	KU4A	
W5	N5GW		
W6	KG6UBG		
W7	N0DA		
W8	N8ZYA		
W9	K9EYT		
W0	N0WKZ		
VE	VE6BIR		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K4BAI		

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	AC2C		VE6BIR
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
AA0W			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
<b>Logs</b>	124	122	194	2/13
<b>Participants</b>	208	183	269	2/13
<b>Total QSOs</b>	2047	2166	2804	2/13
<b>Hour 1 QSOs</b>	1140	1109	1468	2/13
<b>Hour 2 QSOs</b>	906	1057	1334	2/13
<b>20m QSOs</b>	976	980	1232	8/13
<b>40m QSOs</b>	1058	1122	1534	4/12
<b>80m QSOs</b>	12	63	1417	2/13
<b>Avg QSOs/Station</b>	16.5	17.8	19.3	9/11

**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+	WA8SAN VE5BCS KC2EGL WD0K WX4RM K6CSL N0TA K4KRW N8QY NQ2W NO2D W4DUK KB8FE KE5YUM AA9L WY3H KQ1P WB8ENE WA2JSG N4FI K1IEE VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG NU7T
75+	K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN N8XMS K4NVJ KD2MX K4BAI WB8LZG
100+	W2SH W9CC W2JEK KA2KGP
125+	K3WWP

## mW SPRINT

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1IH	KB1PBA	
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	
W3	N3HEE		
W4	N4SX	WG8Y	
W5	W5TVW		
W6	WK6L		
W7	KF7WNS	K9JWV	
W8	N8XMS	K8AG	
W9	W9CC		
W0	K0ALN		
VE	VE2TH		
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2			
W3	K3WWP		
W4			
W5	WI5H		
W6			
W7	AL7KJ		
W8	AB8FJ		
W9	W9ILF		
W0			
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1QO		
W2	WA1GWH	N2ESE	
W3	KB3AAG		
W4	KK4UGD		
W5	N5GW		
W6	KR5RR		
W7			
W8	N8ZYA		
W9			
W0	NO2D		
VE	VE6BIR		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	NQ2W		N1IX

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	N3HEE		N8XEE
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
VE3FUJ			



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** Our challenge this month celebrates Independence Day with a quintessential American pyrotechnical display. It's an alphabet challenge working with words that describe different kinds of fireworks. The complete list of words and challenge details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201507.html>.

The European alphabet challenge works with a couple of pangrams. Details at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/july-2015-challenge>.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** In August we will be working on our antenna farms with an interesting scrambled word alphabet challenge. Details can be seen at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/july-2015-challenge>.

The European challenge in August has not yet been posted as of this writing date.

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 June challenges (Field Day and an Alphabet Challenge) is still a few days away so final results are not yet available. You can go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201506.html> and <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201506fd.html> to see what has been posted so far. The final results will be posted there shortly after the 10th of the month.

The results for the June European challenge are at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/june-2015-challenge>.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Recently we have been receiving entries to our alphabet challenges in non-standard formats that complicate the processing of the submission. Please use a simple text report (the actual email or an attached file) where each word is listed on a separate line with the callsigns that form that word listed horizontally across that same line. For example...

WORD - K3WWP CO8CL W3WMR KD9QS

NEXT - N8XMS K1EIR N8XMS N5PHT

etc.

**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 [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) for the details.*

**CHALLENGE HONOR ROLL:** We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our monthly challenges. Exact counts can be seen at [http://www.naqcc.info/challenges\\_schedule.html](http://www.naqcc.info/challenges_schedule.html).

NUMBER OF CHALLENGES	MEMBERS
25+	KD2MX N1LU KD0V K9OSC VE3HUR KU4A WY3H K1YAN
50+	VE3FUJ NU7T K1IEE
75+	N8XMS W2JEK
100+	
125+	K3WWP



# 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: 1000 MPW and KMPW 100

Our 1000 Miles per Watt award is simple to understand and fairly simple to complete. Just make a CW QRP or QRPp QSO where the value of Distance/Watts gives an answer of greater than 1000 and you have it. If that is not enough of a challenge we also offer the KMPW 100 award that requires you to make 100 such 1000 mi/w QSOs. You can find complete details about these awards including links to useful distance calculators at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_1000mpwsa.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_1000mpwsa.html) and [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_kmpwcenturyswa.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_kmpwcenturyswa.html).

## AWARDS ISSUED RECENTLY (MAY AND JUNE):

### 1000 MPW AWARD

0477	NV1W	KH7XX	-	1,016	06/21/15	"end fed dipole"
0476	WD0K	K1IX	-	1,207	06/19/15	delta loop
0475	K3BDQ	LZ2RS	-	1,240	06/15/15	random wire @25'
0474	W4TYD	OH6MW	-	1,014	06/15/15	random wire @35'
0473	- WI5H	K3SEW	-	5,685	05/21/15	loop @20'
0472	- K4ARQ	HB9DAX	-	2,110	05/19/15	EF Zepp @50'
0472	- N8NK	JM7OLW	-	5,166	05/19/15	Indoor dipole

### DXCC AWARD

0016 - VE3EBN 06/15/15 Windom

### WAS AWARD

0030 - VE3EBN 05/19/15

### ALPHABET PREFIX AWARD HONOR ROLL (USA: 50 prefixes minimum)

K0FNR 81 6/19/15



# NAQCC QRS/QRQ NETS



We have a number of nets (QRS = slow speed, QRQ = higher speed) designed to help people build up their CW operating skills. Complete information about these nets can be found at [http://naqcc.info/cw\\_nets.html](http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html). Questions should be directed to Net Manager Scotty, NU0S.

## NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7065 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Farnsworth 80 m QRQ Net (FRN80)	Sun 8 PM PT	Mon 0300 Z	3574 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN40)	Mon 8 PM PT	Tues 0300 Z	7123.5 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)
Midwest Net QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 9 PM CT	Tuesday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	Scotty, NU0S (in NE)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2200 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4:30 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2230 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0100 Z	7117 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PT	Friday 0200 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Great Lakes QRS Net (GLN)	Thursday 9 PM ET	Friday 0100 Z	7117 KHz	David, WA8AXF (in MI)

*Hey Folks thank you for checking into the NAQCC Nets. First my apologies for missing call signs during the Midwest nets. The QSB/QRN and my bad hearing made for hard copy some evenings. Please don't give up and if you don't catch me please try again the following weeks. We had a nice rag chew quick round table net between Dave KB7KY, and Ken N7ADA and I, both from Arizona at the end of the net on June 16, 2015, Dave and Ken are always strong signals into Nebraska. Two plus hours of CW was great and it was fun to meet up with friends... Dave said they had 108F so won't complain about our 80F or so high here in Nebraska that evening... They have dry heat though Hee Hee... Hope to have the new/new dipole antenna up next week, long story involving my yellow lab chewing up coax... Anyone want a free dog... Just kidding she's my baby can't blame the dog for doing what she does best... I should have protected the coax better... I'm putting up a DX Engineering 300 ohm ladder line fed non resonant 40-10m dipole... Dog protected of course... The Hustler BTV4 and long wire have been working but it will be great to have a dipole antenna up again; wish I had the room for a loop antenna... I hope everybody had a wonderful ARRL Field Day event; sounds like for the most part everybody had great weather. Just a note please see the hangout frequencies at the bottom of the comment sections. Hey follow me on Twitter @NU0Slong for live net updates and QRP CW in the field... Please contact me anytime with questions or concerns with any of our NAQCC Scheduled Nets... 72/73 Scotty Long NU0S NAQCC 3715 MWN NCS / Nets Manager-Coordinator.*

### **Quick Notes from our Net Control Station Professional Ops!!!**

#### **June 01, 2015 80m Net: James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN)**

Thanks Everyone!

Topics tonight, mostly noise, QRN, Sunday night FRN NCS change, J-Pole 2m antennas, and getting old tube boat anchors back to life, and our first few tube rigs, all kits BTW. Interesting experiment this morning sort of proved and early AM 80m net won't fly. Danny/n6drg & I had an email session going on, didn't realize I copied most everyone – sorry about that - but we could not make contact. Someone did try to answer my 21h00 PDT CQ but I just could not copy.

Thanks for your participation and 72/3 de JB.KR5RR

#### **June 01, 2015 40m Net: J.B. KR5RR California NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN)**

Main topic? Noise. Some really hard copy at times. Rick/7 reported it was dumping heavy rain on him the whole time. Doug also mentioned stormy weather. That's quite likely the noise source. Much like last night on 80m, the background noise was S8 or S9 for most people. Most dialed in filters, noise limiters, and DSP - only Rick/7 was happy with his setup and copy. Some notes; Rick/6 got a DSP from Mike to try - Mike says good luck figuring it out. Mark's YouKits rig did as good as his QRO rig, less than an S unit improvement, but R5 copy. Good to hear AI from NM - both Rick/7 and Mark had good copy on him. The difference between AI's QRP and QRO moved him from R4 to R5. Pretty much the same for Doug, going from 5 watts to 25 watts. Likewise, first time for Wyatt in a very long time - keep the new lures coming and maybe they'll catch a fish. Rick N6IET tried the ARCI QRP sprint but couldn't find anyone one - had a good QSO anyway. Just goes to show how neat our NAQCC sprints are with lots of participation. Oh, neither Mike nor I are getting enough radio time other than FRN - got to work on that. I got two more half pages of stuff - - - but I can't read my notes. **Look for Rick N6IET mornings and evenings around QRP frequencies. You can find which band he's on using the RBN spotter.** Thanks for your participation. 72/3 de JB.KR5RR

#### **June 08, 2015 40m Net: J.B. KR5RR California NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN)**

OH MY GOSH! WHAT AN ENJOYABLE, FUN NIGHT!!! Our longest session yet at just over two hours!

Band conditions were AWESOME! Everyone had good copy for all two hours. Way too many topics to recap them all - you just gotta be here. First, congrats to Rick/n6iet on achieving CW Ops, #1466, with help from Mark/wu7f, Doug/k7ky, Rick/n7hrk, and all of us here on the FRN net. Next, **NAQCC SPRINT** tonight! 17h30 PDT (02h30z) to 19h30 PDT (04h30z). Rick/6, Mike, & JB will all be straight keys from W6 land. Then, WX! Yesterday at ~5pm it was 104f here in Benicia - 12 hours later it is 54f. Gotta love this place. Today's high predicted at 71f. Topics: Soccer, USA women's 3-1 win over AUS; CW Ops; **NAQCC Sprint**; WX; band conditions; really strong S9 signals tonight with low power; rag chewing; filters; gardening, especially beets and carrots (really Mike? No strawberries or tomatoes?); computers; logging with computers; computers at the ops station; paper logs, really old paper logs (Mike & Chas); old computers; CPM (Mark & Mike); digital modes; and that was just the first 90 minutes. Topics #2: about 21h30, Rick/6, Rick/7, and Mark and JB went 25 wpm, QSK/full break-in; that was a blast! Almost all head copy so really no notes; W6JL, we've all worked him and he insists (demands?) you operate QSK, check QRZ for an education; finally, there's sort of QSK, quasi QSK, and full break in, used at different times in different situations. Thanks everyone for a really great evening! 72/3 de JB.KR5RR

#### **June 16, 2015 40m Net: J.B. KR5RR California NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN)**

Everyone had pretty good signals tonight, which is to say that they were at least slightly above noise to maybe a couple S-units above. Scotty mentioned in an earlier email today that bad weather was expected in the Midwest, and we could hear it. I was late because family discovered water heater didn't work five minutes before net. Randy is canning sour pie cherries for jam. Didn't believe there was such a thing, but yep, wiki say there is. And he says there's a lot around his neighborhood. Rick/S thought he sent tomatoes but Randy says does not get hot enough for tomatoes. Rick/K says they can grow 'em but they taste like yuck. Really good head copy with these old vets, so not much else for notes, or memory. Going to try the NAQCC milliwatt sprint Wednesday evening with my one watt SDR 30/20/17 rig on 20m. That is, if I can get the convoluted software to cooperate. 7046 is pretty much becoming the place to find FRN'ers. I've had QSO with Rob, Mark, Wyatt, Rick/S, and Rick/K just within the last few days. Likewise, others have reported good QSOs also. Rick/K & I had a good long QRP session last night, FT817 to IC703, trouble shooting a funny loading problem on my antenna. Worked normally tonight though. First time he's operated from the shack instead of his car is quite a while. Next get together is the Friday 7amP 7046 QSK free-for-all sort of hosted by Rick/S. Join in for a few minutes if you can. 72/3 de JB.KR5RR

WOW! The band was weird tonight! Chas posted earlier that there was a solar/magnetic storm messing things up and sure could hear something going on. The low level background SSB QRM we often hear was sounding like the shortwave broadcasts I used to hear in the novice band as a kid. Not quite like Radio Moscow, more like Radio Bucharest or Radio Prague. Rick/7 we could barely hear, I had less than 50% copy. Mike and Rick/6 would occasionally have echo like, ringing sound, almost a goofy stereo ring. Mark was the only one sounding normal. And of course after I commented about the funny sounding signals he just had to say we always sound weird. Tonight was mostly about Rick/6 and his new FT857, batteries, chargers, and getting it set up. Didn't have any 1/8" stereo plug in the house for his paddle so had to use a straight key. Since he's been an ICOM man with all 1/4" plugs, getting used to that little bitty 857 is going to be a challenge. I had the reverse problem last year when I was testing an IC730 for a Field Day GOTA station - I didn't have a single 1/4" stereo plug or adapter in the house. By the way, Rick sounds like W1AW at 17 WPM on a straight key. I spent \$18 at the local (1/4 mile) Radio Shack closure sale (7 days to the end) and bought a bag full of cables and patch cords, soldering iron, crimper and stuff. Almost all at a 90% discount. Got one RS about 10 miles that is going to be a Sprint/Radio shack combo store, so not completely going away, just don't know what all they are going to carry. Mike is restarting rebuilding his secret new radio, won't tell us what it is until complete. Says he's been working of it for about two years and we've inspired him to finally complete. Field Day: Dick/K2GMY & I will operate KB6EOC on CW (20/40/80) Saturday night from about 11pm to about 6am - we're the only two CW ops in a club of more than 50 hams. I'll try to run a frequency around 7046 or 3574. Mark will be in the mountains, above 10k feet, so listen for wu7f/p. Rick/6 will be battery powered with his new FT857 in the LA Mountains above 6k feet, so listen also for n6iet/p. Mike is unsure what he'll do. I'll also sneak in some 20/15/10 ops as kr5rr/pm sometime Saturday afternoon. As far as hangouts go, we seem to be migrating to the Polar Bear Den on 7046. As Rick posted from last night, several of us have had good QSO in and around there or down 10 or so, both in the early morning and late evening/night. OK, 'nuff from here, THANKS everyone! 72/3 de JB.KR5RR

#### **June 30, 2015 40m Net: J.B. KR5RR California NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN)**

Great session tonight! And no surprise, it was all about Field Day. Most everyone did something somewhere. Good stories, good learning experiences. And some HOT weather! I just discovered I did net tonight on my 135' twin lead fed doublet! Must not made much difference as ya'll got most of that stuff I sent. Had some difficulty at first adjusting to different key and different rig from the weekend, surprised me. Thanks everyone for your participation! 72/3 de JB.KR5RR

**June 02, 2015 40m Net: Allen Matthews KA5TJS, NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)**

The band was in good shape after all the rain and thunder storms of the last month. All but one station were QRP. Allen KA5TJS

**June 09, 2015 40m Net: Allen Matthews KA5TJS, NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)**

We had some SSB QRM at first and there was some QSB but copy was good thru out the net. 4 of 5 stations were QRP. Allen KA5TJS

**June 16, 2015 40m Net: Allen Matthews KA5TJS, NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)**

All stations were had good signals last night even with the QRN/QRM. Allen KA5TJS

**June 23, 2015 40m Net: Allen Matthews KA5TJS, NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)**

The band was in great shape and all stations were 599. Allen KA5TJS

**June 04, 2015 40m Net: John Smithson N8ZYA, NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN)**

It was great to hear you this evening Scotty. Thanks for checking in from Nebraska. Much of the conversation was about the weather warming up in different parts of the country and also about our club member KC4URI who is still in the hospital going on two months now. I visited him today at the hospital and he hopes to come home in just a few more weeks. Glad to hear the weather in Nebraska is warmer at 80 degrees. Jeff Davis (KE9V) says it was a nice day in Muncie Indiana and finally not freezing any more. I met Jeff at the Dayton Hamvention this year so good to hear him. Jim (K4AXF) in net control for the Sunrise net and was glad to hear about Steve (KC4URI) making slow progress and returning home soon. My other two check-ins were local with Joe (WA8SIE) using 5 watts tonight, and John (W8GDP) checking in with his Ten-Tec which had been in the shop for a few days. It was a beautiful day today in Charleston with a spectacular sunset. I'm looking forward to another nice campfire this weekend with my son Mike. It will be his birthday and we will be celebrating at an old camping lodge in Kanawha State Forest near here. That's me on the far left with the Ukulele. I play it much differently than most people. I've become very fond of it because it's easily transported and very easy to play. (No Tiny Tim music coming out of MY Uke) Hi Hi...Happy Trails, John N8ZYA

**June 18, 2015 40m Net: John Smithson N8ZYA, NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN)**

Nothing much tonight due to thunderstorms and the MW Sprint. 72's John N8ZYA

**June 11, 2015 40m Net: John Smithson N8ZYA, NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN)**

Slow tonight with three check-ins of local people. Maybe the Sprint last night thinned the crowd out a bit. Band conditions certainly different from last night, KA8SYV- WA8SIE- W8GDP. We had a morning breakfast today and talked a bit about the gathering and hopes of another Saturday breakfast coming soon. Frank (KA8SYV) was using a little OHR 40 meter rig which sounded fantastic here in Charleston; (Scotty NU0S: I enjoy my 20m OHR100A rig very stable VFO once warmed up very little drift great kit). As always, most kits drift a little but that's part of the fun of building them. I think it adds a little charm to the hobby. Hi Hi. Some sprint last night here in WV....worked 20 stations in 17 different states. My best yet for a sprint. (Scotty NU0S great fun/work John I wish I could work more sprints). Happy Trails, John N8ZYA

**June 25, 2015 40m Net: John Smithson N8ZYA, NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN)**

There's 20,000 people without water in the Charleston area this evening. Not very good band conditions to add to the misery. However, my friend John (W8GDP) and I talked for over an hour about the upcoming FD event. I plan to work 20 states for the "challenge" and then help the local club out at their site. John and I talked about the great location of the local club. I have permission to use it afterward for whenever I want it. There is a nice shelter there and a great view of the Charleston airport. 72's John N8ZYA

**June 08, 2015 80m Net Rick Stutsman N6IET, NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN)**

Great net this evening, fellas! Despite the QRN, we were all able to copy each other most of the time - with the sad exception of Stewart, who was heard by either JB or Rob trying to check in. I heard nothing! Then neither JB nor Rob could copy him after the first try, so we gave up on poor Stewart. Sorry Stewart! Maybe next time! Mort made a surprise appearance this evening from his summer job site as Park Ranger at Mesa Verde, CO. His permanent home is still Tucson, AZ. He had a great signal with his K3, although I think he might have had some glitch in his keying that he should investigate. It was as if we were hearing the amp kick in right after the exciter stage, so like a double 'make' on certain code elements. Chas was at his vacation resort in Lake Wildwood, CA. His IC-746 sounded great with that Hy-Tower vertical antenna! But his lot has a large beehive in an oak tree, and I think he said that they were swarming around a knot hole. He called a beekeeper in hopes of having them removed. The beekeeper wasn't interested. I think most would be! He was attending a high school graduation, but I missed whose it was. Doug was 599 to everybody but me, and his signal did finally come up to S9. But there was rapid and deep QSB on everybody and especially Doug from my QTH. I want to thank Doug for nominating for CW Ops after our 25 wpm QSO the other day. I did get in. My new CW Ops number is 1466. And I also want to thank Doug for turning me on to MFSK modes of HF communication. He runs the ORCA MFSK net on Tuesday evenings at 3595 kHz. (See <http://ferrycreek.com/wordpress/> for more information.)

It seemed that KR5RR and N6KIX checked in primarily to inform me that KE7LKW was trying to check in. I got confused at first, since I couldn't hear Stewart at all and wondered who they were talking to during my net! But we got that straightened out, and both had good signals. Rob is about to send some of us pix of his bug collection. I always liked butterfly collections! Mark, emailed me his regrets, saying a phone call delayed him and that he couldn't hear us - especially me - very well, so he decided not to QNI, this evening. I also want to thank Mark for helping me get nominated to CW Ops. We had a nice fast QSO the other morning. He has a great fist. I have not yet deployed the MFJ-1026 Noise eliminator and signal enhancer that Mike, KE6EE kindly sent me. I need to couple one of my antenna masts to my station as an auxiliary receiving antenna for it to work, and even then I don't think (from what I've read about phasing systems) that it can eliminate Omni-directional atmospheric white noise, which is primarily what keeps me from hearing weak signals on 80m and 40m. I'm sure it can eliminate those loud bursts of "arcing" noise that plague me. Intermittently, though. Those originate nearby! Oh, and BTW, I successfully installed a new 250 Hz narrow CW filter into my IC-735 last week, bringing new life to this old rig. That's the rig I used this evening, as my IC-761 has a bad habit of going bonkers on the lower bands when it gets warm. It works great for short stints and forever above 10 MHz, but it wouldn't last the hour of me calling FRN on 80m. 73/72 to all! C U next Sunday (and maybe tomorrow evening at 7123.5 kHz)! Rick, N6IET

**June 15, 2015 80m Net Rick Stutsman N6IET, NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN)**

You talk about noise!! My S-meter was wiggling at S-8.5 with occasional 10db/S9 bursts lasting 15 seconds or so. The usual. And signals were rather weak, especially from Montana. Doug (K7KY) tried to check in, and I imagined I heard something down in the noise but couldn't decipher it at all. Then Mike (KE6EE) checked in and relayed Doug's check-in. Doug reported that my RST was only 229. I believe

Doug was QRP. Mike could have chatted with Doug, and I invited him to do so for a few rounds, but by that time Doug must have decided to QRT, and I don't blame him! Mike and I had a great QSO for about half an hour when Rob checked in. Both had fairly good signals, but both were plagued (at my end) by deep and fairly rapid QSB. They, of course, could hear each other quite well, being only about 80 miles apart. We talked about QSK, QRP, the SKCC Weekend Sprint, the poor band conditions, and the weather. I mentioned how I took my IC-735 out on my balcony and operated about half of the Sprint under battery power (recently purchased 80 Amp-hour deep cycle SLA). I mentioned to Mike at the one-hour point that I expected my IC-761 to start sounding fuzzy any second. And before I even finished that sentence I could hear the hum on my signal via my monitoring receiver. It gets worse and worse over the next few minutes until the whole thing goes silent. Rob had checked out by then (to water some "things" outside), so I signed with Mike and went QRT before I earned an FCC citation for using spark! So now Mike has heard exactly what I'm talking about w.r.t. my signal getting the "fuzzies". Its corroded trimmer caps, and I really do need to fix the problem. But it's easy to procrastinate, when the rig works fine above 10 MHz and works well below 10 MHz for the first hour after I turn it on.

Thanks guys for hanging in there! I look forward to the 40m net Tomorrow evening. 72/73 de Rick, N6IET

#### **June 22, 2015 80m Net Rick Stutsman N6IET, NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN)**

We all ended up going QRO in order to hear each other. But JB (KR5RR) and Mike (KE6EE) had good signals here in West LA. The main topic was Field Day and portable/QRP operation. JB has his Mt. Diablo at 3850 ft elevation, and here in Los Angeles we have numerous peaks to choose from. I mentioned planning to set up on San Gabriel Peak at 6161 ft elevation. I can see this pyramidal peak easily from my balcony over and above my commanding view of the UCLA campus. We'll see if I get my LiFePO4 10-14 Amp-Hour motorcycle battery in time for Field Day. It shipped this morning from Indiana. Mark (WU7F) will be accompanied by his son and spouse on Field Day and will also take his radio on his vacation (can't remember where he said that was going to be). He hopes to work us then. Mike said something about 5000 feet (Corrected by J.B. at 3.8K? hey what's a thousand feet plus difference make anyway hee hee Scotty NU0S). Was that where his club was going to do Field Day, or was he talking about some other summit nearby? Well, that's what happens when an old fart relies on head copy and memory. I probably got some things wrong as I didn't take many notes, this time. Mark, JB, and I sped it up a little after an hour (Mike had checked out) and did a little QSK. It was a good net, despite poor band conditions. I've been running into Rick (N7HRK/M), Mike, Wyatt, JB, and Rob (N6KIX) on 40 meter CW in the mornings. Mark and I usually find copy difficult at 1000 miles that time of morning. Wyatt and Mike always boom in, and JB has a very credible signal from his mobile en route to work. I caught Wyatt and Rob exchanging fish stories Thursday morning. I had no fish stories to relate and so left them alone. 72/73 all de Rick, N6IET

#### **June 29, 2015 80m Net Rick Stutsman N6IET, NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN)**

The 40 and 80 meter bands were quiet until about 7:30pm PDT. By net time all Hell had broken loose w.r.t. both local QRN and static crashes. With QSB Doug's lone signal was 449 (with my attenuator ON\*). Doug needed to check out early. I called CQ FRN for a few more minutes and sent QNF at 0318z. With my new FT-857D it's difficult to know which of three RF sensitivity settings to use for signal reports. I generally consider No Pre-Amp and No Attenuator to provide somewhat generous signal reports on 80, 40, and 30 meters, compared to what others generally give. But with the noise I find another 10-20 dB attenuation to be easier to listen to, in which case the noise was only averaging S5, not S9. Without attenuation Doug's RST would have been 489. So I think on 80 meters I'll start basing my signal reports on S meter readings WITH front end attenuation, a stingier and possibly more realistic reading. I suspect several regulars were recovering from Field Day exercises. I did hear Wyatt (KF7YHB) strongly on 40 meters about half an hour earlier. He is such a denizen of 40m CW! I enjoyed working Field Day on Saturday with my club, Westside ARC, using WA6RC as the call sign on the nearby Veterans Administration property about a mile from home. I tried out my new "breadboard" rig and fan dipole (up 35' at center using 7 telescoping 6' aluminum tubes). It all worked great! I made 74 contacts on 40, 20, and 15 meter CW. Congrats to JB for completing the NAQCC Field Day Challenge (working 20 states QRP)! Our other club station was running 100 watts (SSB), so I decided not to go QRP, this time. So no Challenge for me. I ran 20 watts most of the day. 72/73 de Rick, N6IET

#### **NAQCC Great Lakes Net 40M (GLN) David Moss WA8AXF, Michigan**

Thanks to Ray K9EYT for helping out with the NCS duties a couple times this month. I monitor 7117 10116 and 14060 mostly depending on what bands are open or which antenna I am playing with. A few of us locally in in SW Michigan meet Wednesday nights when we can at 9pm ET for an informal round table on 3534 kHz and would welcome anyone that would want to join in there as well. 73, Dave WA8AXF

#### **NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) Dale Putnam WC7S, Wyoming**

Here it is... sure can see the CME disruption... wow!  
Now... I have a different antenna up... still improving it... right now it is a 700 ft loop at 35-60 ft.  
but it doesn't let me operate when it is lightning. :( But, it does hear quieter... :-)  
Have a Happy and Safe 4th!! Have a great day, --... -- Dale - WC7S in WY

#### **NAQCC net control station/operators hangout frequencies:**

KE7LKW, Stewart 80m regional nets HF QRP frequencies.  
KR5RR, JB around the SKCC and QRP after work and nights mostly 40m and 20m.  
N6IET, Rick: 7046 kHz, SKCC and QRP mornings and late evenings any band.  
N5DRG, Danny: 7065  
N7HRK, Rick: 7046  
K7KY, Doug: 7112  
WU7F, Mark: 7112  
WC7S, Dale: 14062.5 kHz, 7062.5 kHz  
WA8AXF, Dave: 14060 kHz, 7117 kHz, 10110 kHz, 3534 kHz  
NU0S, Scotty: 7065 kHz, 7117 kHz, 7122 kHz, 10118 kHz, most evenings and weekends. I monitor 10118 kHz on weekends due to contests going on. I'm available anytime for scheduled rag chews. QRV 160m through 6m. Please send me an email for schedule. I'm a rookie CW op licensed as a no code op so please don't be bashful please contact me for schedule and we all can learn and improve our speed and copy...

**NAQCC CW Net QNI Reports All Stations  
June/2015 Please note: Dates are in UTC**

**NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California - 80M, 3.574 MHz**

06-01-2015 QNI (4) NCS KR5RR (JB), N6IET, K7KY, KW6G  
 06-08-2015 QNI (7) NCS N6IET, KW6G, K7KY, KR5RR, K6KIX, KE7LKW, N7NLN  
 06-15-2015 QNI (4) NCS N6IET, K7KY, KE6EE, N6KIX  
 06-22-2015 QNI (4) NCS N6IET, WU7F, KE6EE, KR5RR  
 06-29-2015 QNI (2) NCS N6IET, K7KY

**NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California - 40M, 7.123.5 MHz**

06-01-2015 QNI (8) NCS KR5RR, N6IET, WU7F, N7HRK/M, K7KY, NM5S, KE6EE, KF7YHB  
 06-08-2015 QNI (9) NCS KR5RR, N6KIX, N6IET, WU7F, KE6EE, K7KY, WB4SPB, KW6G, N7HTK/M  
 06-16-2015 QNI (5) NCS KR5RR, WB4SPB, N6IET, N7HRK/M, N6KIX  
 06-23-2015 QNI (5) NCS KR5RR, WU7F, N6IET, N7HRK/M, KE6EE  
 06-30-2015 QNI (8) NCS KR5RR, K6KIX, KF7YHB, K7HRK/M, N6IET, KE6EE, K7KY, WB4SPB

**NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas - 40M, 7.065 MHz**

06-02-2015 QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, N5DRG, KE5YGA, N7NET  
 06-09-2015 QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N5RWB, N5DRG  
 06-16-2015 QNI (6) NCS KA5TJS, N5DRG, KE5YGA, K5BRY, N7NET, KG0YR  
 06-23-2015 QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, N5DRG, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, W5IQS  
 06-30-2015 QNI (1) NCS KA5TJS No net due to weather

**NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska - 40M, 7.117 MHz**

06-02-2015 QNI (6) NCS NU0S, AC8JW, N5DRG, WW7Z, WB0QQT, KB7KY (Nice net lower QRN, but high QSB)  
 06-09-2015 QNI (5) NCS NU0S, N5DRG, AC8JW, KB7KY, N8ZYA  
 06-16-2015 QNI (9) NCS NU0S, WA2DWB, KB0ETU, KB7KY, KD0WF, NQ7K, WD8DEU, A7ADA, K0NG  
 06-23-2015 QNI (4) NCS NU0S, KB7KY, K0JFJ, KA4WJB  
 06-30-2015 QNI (5) NCS NU0S, KB7KY, N7ADA, WB0QQT, N0FY

**NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) Dale Putnam WC7S, Wyoming - 20M, 14.062.5 MHz and 40M, 7.062.5 MHz**

06-04-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, N7GES  
 06-04-2015 QNI (6) NCS WC7S, N6IET, AA7CU, WA2DWB, KF7WNS, NE5DL  
 06-09-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, N7GES  
 06-09-2015 QNI (5) NCS WC7S, N6IET, K4QQ, W5TVW, WB6FBB  
 06-11-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, KA5T  
 06-11-2015 QNI (5) NCS WC7S, AA7CU, N6IET, K4QQ, KE6OIO  
 06-16-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, N7GES  
 06-16-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, KE6OIO, N6IET  
 06-23-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, AA7CU, N7GES  
 06-23-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
 06-28-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
 06-28-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
 06-30-2015 QNI (4) NCS WC7S, N7GES, KF7WNS, AA7CU  
 06-30-2015 QNI (4) NCS WC7S, N6IET, WA2DWB, KE6OIO

**NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia - 40M, 7.117 MHz**

06-04-2015 QNI (6) NCS N8ZYA, NU0S, KE9V, K4AXF, WA8SIE, W8GDP  
 06-11-2015 QNI (4) NCS N8ZYA, KA8SYV, WA8SIE, W8GDP  
 06-18-2015 QNI (3) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP, WM4G  
 06-25-2015 QNI (2) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP

**NAQCC Pacific North West QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) Stewart Fletcher KE7LKW, Washington State - 80M, 3.574 MHz**

06-05-2015 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, N6KIX, W7ANM, AD7BP, WB4SPB, K7JUV, N7QR  
 06-12-2015 QNI (9) NCS KE7LKW, N6KIX, W7ANM, AD7BP, WB4SPB, K7JUV, N7QR, KG7IXT, KG7HCA  
 06-19-2015 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, K6KIX, W7ANM, AD7BP, WB4SPB, K7JUV, K7VEW  
 06-26-2015 QNI (3) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, K7JUV

**NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss WA8AXF, Michigan - 40M, 7.117 MHz**

06-05-2015 QNI (7) NCS K9EYT, KB9BN, KE9V, WA2DWB, W3HI, KE4YVR, K1NAJ  
 06-12-2015 QNI (4) NCS WA8AXF, K9EYT, WE8UPJ, KD2FVG  
 06-19-2015 QNI (4) NCS K9EYT, AC8JW, KD5VGB, KA4WJB  
 06-26-2015 QNI (4) NCS WA8AXF, K9EYT, WB0QQT, K3NLT



# 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>.

## Keying and Key's.

This is another reader suggested article.

One very important thing when using a key's with metal-contacts is to keep the contacts aligned and clean from dirt and smut. The other is the finger touch key where the importance of clean contact shifts to your fingers. Clean contacts can not be stressed enough.

It surprising how few hams actually give this seemingly small item any thought until it becomes an audible problem. Clean contacts and proper alignment whatever their size provides at least one important step in flawless keying. Also I've noticed that some key's have very small contacts and some with excessively large contacts. That's neither here nor there. My old straight Key dating from the 1960's has large ( near 1/4" ) silvered contacts designed to pass a lot of current, which was often required back then, as much as perhaps 700 mA --- or more. Silvered contacts are relatively easy to keep clean as a bit of tarnish doesn't bother them. Then there is my J-38 type Key with contacts just slightly over 1/16" obviously not designed to pass a lot of Current.

With todays rigs the key being able to pass a lot of current is no longer of any importance as we are now dealing with only a few mA's. However keeping the contacts clean and aligned is still very important. And the smaller the contact the more importance alignment becomes. Smut and dirt does not allow the contacts to come as close to ground potential as is required by the keying circuit that may result in erratic keying. This may or may not have the same effect upon the side-tone that you hear, but it's obvious to the chap at the other end.

So keep the contacts clean on whatever Key you are using. And happy QSO'ing.

72 Brion



# 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

## "Deviled Ham"



"Satan, In Sorry To Say That This Key You Gave Me Is Not Really Flameproof"



# 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 Vice President John, N8ZYA, at the email address listed on the last page about a week before the operation. Please be sure to include the UTC time for the event and not just the local time.

A report about your chapter activity should appear here. Please send them to KD2MX or N8XMS at the email addresses listed on the last page.

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

Greetings from Texas.

Hope all had a great Field Day and a Safe and Happy Fourth of July.

The Central Texas Chapter of the NAQCC participated in two separate Field Day sites as noted in last month's newsletter. The WA5GC, Chaparral A.R.C. & KK5E- Ham-Buds A.R.C.

A good time was had by all, and look forward to next year's Field Day, just wish it could be held in April or May, instead of late June, it gets a little warm here in Texas this time of year.

At The KK5E Site Larry WB5BEK, NAQCC Member # 7534 was one of the two CW ops who made over 400 CW contacts.

At WA5GC, Danny, N5DRG NAQCC Member # 5861 did not fare as well but still had 110 CW Contacts with the assistance of Max KD5SFK, NAQCC Member # 7536 doing the logging for Danny. This was Danny's first ever Field Day to be a CW only Op so at times the contest speed where a little difficult, but well worth the effort. Great Training for the next event.

Steve KF5OYI, was also in attendance but chose to help out with the Digital Station.

Lester WD4IFU, NAQCC Member # 7676 made the trip down to the WA5GC Field day site in support role, as he and his YL was passing through that part of South Texas.



*KK5E- Ham Buds ARC Setting Up the Cushcraft A-4 Tribander*



*Max KD5SFK*



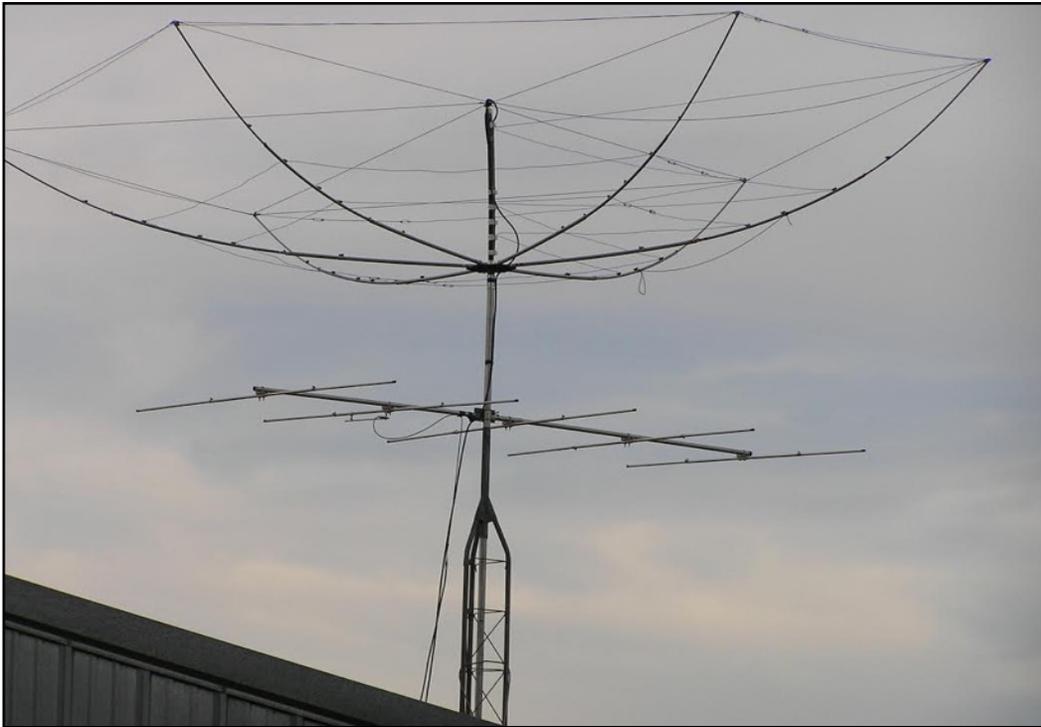
*Steve KF5OYI*



*Lester WD4IFU and Better Half, Margret*



*Texas Sunrise Sunday Morning*



*N5DRG - Hex Beam, KD5SFK 6-meter Beam with only wires for 20, 15, & 10 meters installed.*



*G5RV Antenna & N5DRG Mobil Tower Platform for Hex Beam and 6-meter Beam.*



*KF5OYI 40-Meter EFHW Array.*

The Temps were in the mid 90's with High Humidity, but we trudged along with the assistance of lots of Cool Drinks a Evaporative Fan minus the water, and plenty of great Food. Chicken and Beef Fajitas, Steve KF5OYI brought out his Dutch Over and baked an very tasty Peach Cobbler, Breakfast on Sunday morning was scrambled eggs with Chicken Fajitas, Flour Tortillas , Hot Coffee and a perfect Texas Sunrise.

Until next month,

Keep Calm  
&  
QRP On

Danny Goodrum, N5DRG  
NAQCC Central Texas Chapter

## 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.

### ***Upcoming activity day***

The chapter's next activity day is coming up on Wednesday, 19th August. The activity days are an excellent opportunity for members to meet each other on the air, and are based around a friendly competition. They are fun, informal events designed to be enjoyable to radio amateurs with all degrees of CW experience. The goal is to boost CW/QRP activity and awareness, whilst enjoying ourselves at the same time! As with all chapter activities, the activity days are open to every NAQCC member, so stations outside of Europe are most welcome to participate and make contacts with those in Europe!

The activity days are a proposed a 24 hour period (0000Z-2359Z on 19th August), in which members can spend as much or as little time operating as is convenient and enjoyable. We award points for QSOs based on the distance between the two stations, and normalise scores based on how much time in that 24 hour period you have spent operating. The idea is to facilitate a convenient opportunity for member-member contacts whilst being flexible to allow for the many commitments that members have outside of the hobby.

The results of the activity day will be published immediately after the two week deadline for submitting entries has passed. Please join us on the 19th of August, no matter where you are located, to help keep our chapter activity days growing! Full details are available on the chapter website.

### ***Prize announcement***

An exquisite, beautifully-crafted Kent KT-1 straight key has been donated to the chapter. It will be awarded to the station, excluding club officers, who achieves the most European participation points over the year of 2015.



European participation points are awarded for entries in chapter challenges and activity days. For more information, please see: <http://naqcc-eu.org/prizes>

### ***Current challenge***

The premise of the current challenge is to construct two particular pangrams using the letters from callsigns of stations that you work. We are grateful to Peter, G3JFS, for suggesting this premise.

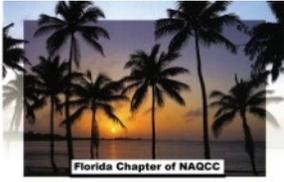
Full details of the challenge are available at: <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/july-2015-challenge>

### ***June challenge***

We have so far had 5 successful entries for the June challenge: from G3XOB, K1IEE, K3WWP, PA0XAW, RW3AI and SM5ELV. The premise of the challenge was to construct, from the letters and numbers in the callsigns of stations that you work, the top 7 winners of the Eurovision Song Contest 2015 and their total score. It seemed to be a tough month to work Europe from the USA, with both K1IEE and K3WWP reporting difficulties. PA0XAW completed the challenge whilst on holiday in Holland, with two dipole antennas that he made specially for the trip.

Congratulations to all who completed the challenge! There are still a few days left to submit your entries, if you have not done so already.

## 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 Pete, NN9K.

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

The NAQCC Illowa Chapter has had a change in member responsibilities and Peter, NN9K has assumed the role of contact person for the chapter.

Our June meeting was held on Wednesday, June 17th with Tim, N9BIL, Tony, N9YPN and I attending. Graduation ceremonies and other evens prevented some other members from attending.

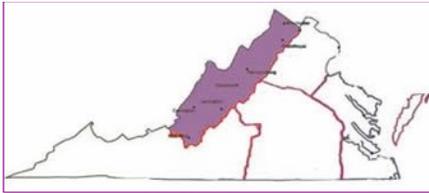
Discussion revolved around various antenna topics, Buddipoles, G5RV Jr's, construction of multiband dipoles, paint sticks and so forth. In addition we started planning for a chapter outing to the Mississippi Palisades Park about an hour north of the Quad Cities. The park is on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River with lots of areas to erect antennas and operate. The outing will take place in July with a final date yet to be determined. Of course we will let the NAQCC membership know of the final date and what bands will be planning to use during our adventure.

Some of you probably know that the Village Inn restaurant chain has Free Pie Wednesdays so we closed out our discussion and enjoyed our free pie and beverages.

Till next month--73 and 72,

Peter, NN9K  
NAQCC # 6887

## 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.

June 2015 report from Shenandoah Valley NAQCC Chapter.

Another Valley ham has become the newest member of Shenandoah Valley QRP Club, AC4RN, Dave DuPuy, #7701, in NAQCC and has been in regular random contact with Howard, K4LXY, #7398. Dave lives near Lexington, VA, which is at the South end of the Valley. Dave has a K-1 and a KX-1, and recently received an end fed multiband antenna which Steve, W1SFR sells, but was not getting it to tune for the bands Dave is interested in operating. Instead of making a "big" Field Day effort, we got together at my son's farm and wrung out some antenna problems, and achieved a modicum of success. At the very least, it is tunable by the K-1 tuner.



We achieved a 1:1 match and received a 559 report from a station in Chicago before the start of FD. Originally that operator gave Dave a 599 report, but after Dave gave his station information the operator adjusted his report! (Like always, the 1 KW station couldn't stand letting Dave have such a good report when he was getting perfect copy of a five watt signal.) The 559 report was probably the more correct one, but it is funny sometimes the way a good five watt signal puts higher power to shame. The Chicago station was using a vertical, so probably needed the power for us to hear him well. This took most of the morning, and by then we were waterlogged and went to lunch and to dry off.

In the photo, the operator is Dave, AC4BN, and the observer is Russ, K3NLT, on the front porch of the farmhouse due to rain. Howard, K4LXY was the photographer.

All three of us did a little operating and in all made about a dozen QSOs during FD, from Kansas to the West, Western NY, to the North and Central FL to the South, and in between. Next year we hope we will be prepared to make an all-out effort for Field Day 2016.

It was a soggy day here, but the results were very well accepted.

We are planning to make several “to the mountain” excursions this summer and into the fall to sharpen our setting up and operating from sites similar to FD. There are many nice locations on the sides of the Valley that are calling for us to try our hands often.

Russ K3NLT #2906

## 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.



The news in West Virginia this month revolves around two things. Number one is the weather; number two is the June FD Challenge.

The terrible weather last month stopped any outside activities. Temperatures in the 90's, strong winds, and dangerous lightening make it nearly impossible to plan an outdoor event. To make matters worse; I've needed to devote more time to my father, who will be 95 years old on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. He can no longer drive his car due to his eyesight. That crisis and another 4 days without water in his city demanded more and more of my time. Our valley is MORE than frustrated with the lack of potable water. The use of the word "angry" isn't a strong enough term.

On the positive side;

In addition to our regular WV Chapter breakfast meetings, I'm eating breakfast with a Saturday morning group of the local [radio club](#). I like net-working and see this as an opportunity to talk about the CW and QRP modes. This is a difficult task but I'm willing to do it. I'm hopeful of moving a few of those folks into the CW QRP ranks.

In another vein; I know SSB and FM communications are NOT our forte but I've downloaded the "[Echo Link](#)" software to both my desktop and my Samsung tablet. I like it because it gives me an opportunity to talk about the NAQCC club, literally, to hams all over the world. This is a good thing. I'm making many new friends. One of my acquaintances mentioned sending modulated CW in this mode. This would be good, practical CW training on many different levels. All it takes is a simple code oscillator which can be built for a few dollars.

I worked "field day" from my [Home QTH](#) this year. My Icom 703 at 5 watts of power, running into an "indoor random wire antenna". (See video of the antenna from link) That session brought me 30 different states and 53 contacts. My goal was NOT to work as many contacts as possible, but to work those 20 different states for the 2015 Field Day Challenge.

[I want that certificate !](#)

Prior to field day weekend, I was contacted by the local radio club about using their field day station as a CW operator. I made it clear that I needed to work at least 20 states from my home station before doing anything with their group. I was able to devote an hour to them before picking my wife up at the airport on Saturday afternoon.

The local club was using a CW logging program with macros built into the system. I found it *very* difficult to grasp it in such a short time. Perhaps next year, after working those 20 different states, I'll be more help to them.

Our club member Steve Ashcraft (KC4URI) is finally home from the hospital. He's in good spirits but still months from a total recovery. On a sad note, Joe Miller (KD8SGV) is seriously ill. Our hopes and prayers are to him and his family.

Happy Trails,  
John Smithson N8ZYA

## 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.

The WPA Chapter had its best ever Field Day performance despite some of the worst weather imaginable. At first the weather was kind and the rain let up just about at the green flag and stayed away for the first 3 1/2 hours or so. Then, being well rested, it came back with a vengeance. When we got some lightning strikes within 2 miles of our site, we took a break till the lightning moved out of the area. What to do during the break? Eat, of course. More about that later. Just about the time we stepped back into the tent, the deluge started and continued for the next couple hours. It sounded like instead of rain drops, the water was simply being dumped on the tent from one huge bucket. I can't recall experiencing anything like that before. It was only rain though, and no lightning so we worked right through it. Later on around midnight, the worst of the rain was over and when we got up Sunday morning, all we had from then on were some light on/off showers. However it was very windy and we found out just how sturdy Mike's tent is. At one point though, I said, "Toto, I don't think we're in Kansas anymore." With the exception of one antenna mast listing a few degrees, our "antenna farm" stayed intact through all the wind and rain.

That concludes the weather report except for a footnote. When I got home Sunday afternoon, there was an email with a tornado warning issued for close to the time on Saturday we had our nearby lightning. A little further research and I found there was indeed a tornado touchdown only 25 or so miles from our FD site. So we were fortunate to come through the weather unscathed.

"We" are John K3WWP, Mike KC2EGL, and Tom WB3FAE. We did a 3A operation from Chicora, PA in the spacious back yard of Tom's mother-in-law's house.

OK, now to setup and then operating. We did a test of the site back in May as reported in the last newsletter and finding everything fine at that point, we decided to do our setup on the Friday before FD weekend. That went well with no real glitches other than a line that got snagged in some tree limbs. That was easily remedied with a ladder and a rake. Our antenna farm consisted of my jumper dipole set for 40, although with the KX3 it tuned well on all bands that I used or checked. It wasn't perfect on 80, but did perform well enough to make QSOs there. Then there was Mike's jumper dipole also set for 40 meters. Tom had an end fed long wire set in an inverted L configuration and a delta loop. All three of us used our KX3s and Mike in addition had his PX3 along with him. Tom and I did it the old fashioned way by just tuning and listening for stations. At one point I said, "I miss my panadapter." We all used our laptops with GenLog as the logging program. To avoid confusion, we assigned each laptop to a certain band or bands. For power, I had my 7Ah GelCell, Mike had his huge portable battery supply, and Tom had a huge battery that looked like it would be suitable to run an army tank. We probably could have run the whole operation from just that battery alone.



It's always hard to get antenna pictures, especially when trees are involved, but above left is the center of Mike's jumper inverted vee dipole, and at right is the mast for my inverted vee dipole. The antenna is up there, but hard to see against the sky which happened to be only partly cloudy during setup on Friday.

As we said in the email to our mail list, we tried to get on the air to make some QSOs from 12:30 to 1:30 PM EDT, but setup took longer than we thought, and we only had one station ready to operate - mine. Conditions were very poor and I only managed 4 QSOs, but at least we knew things were working. Tom added one QSO after he finished his setup.

After we set up Friday, we went our separate ways till Saturday morning. When Mike and I left for our site at Tom's, it was still raining, and continued to do so. It gave us a chance to enjoy the wonderful food that Tom and his wife had prepared for our weekend. There were too many items to even start to list here, and Mike and I thank Tom and Debbie very much. The pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, and chocolate chip/raisin cookies were my favorites among the wide choice available.

Earlier we decided that Mike and Tom would take 40 and 20 meters. They made the final choice of 20 for Tom, and 40 for Mike. I took the left over bands of 15, 10, 6, 80, 160 figuring except for maybe 80 in the evening, I could "take it easy". However it didn't turn out that way for me. 15 had great openings on both days that lasted way past the evening on Saturday and started up early Sunday morning. 10 didn't have much to offer on Saturday, but provided some great openings on Sunday. Ten would have been even better had more folks taken advantage of the openings. I never heard anything on 6 except for one beacon station which I think from the GS, must have been in Florida. 80 was good in the evening but was underutilized, I thought. Tom 'loaned' me his inverted L for 80, and I switched between it and my inverted V for 80 meters. I made one QSO on 160. Both 40 and 20 were open for Mike and Tom the whole time we were in the tent which was something like 1800Z Saturday to 0430Z Sunday except for the one hour or so "lightning break" early Saturday evening. Then again on Sunday from around 1200Z to 1800Z.



All three of us were so busy working stations, there wasn't much time to take pictures. Also the weather didn't help. However Mike did get a picture of Tom, Mike's station, and John, l to r above.

The QSOs came steadily for us the whole time. When we shut down Saturday, we had a total of 352 QSOs, and I suggested that we set as a goal, getting to 500. We thought it would be rough to do that because we had already worked so many of the stations. We thought we would need a good opening on 10 and openings to different areas on 20 and 15 to make it. Another goal was to work all states. I think we needed to get something like 7 or 8 on Sunday to make that goal.

An hour or so after we started up Sunday morning, I started to keep track of how we were progressing toward our 500 contacts goal. By 1320Z we had 391, 1430Z it was 417. The next hour was a good one and we had 456 at 1530Z. At 1600Z, 473 and 1630Z, 496. I said to yell out when a new QSO was added. First it was Mike, then two from me, and Tom worked #500 at 1633Z in the form of N2AM. When we closed shop at 1800Z, our total was 562 which I think is really great for our 14 1/2 hours of operating. We came up two short of our WAS though. Tom heard KL7 and tried to work them several times with no luck. He also heard DE weakly with no chance to work or even try. Neither Mike nor I heard either of those states so we wound up with 48 states, I think all but a few VE provinces, plus KP2 and KP4.

The operating time went by quickly thanks to the constant activity on the bands and the banter between we three ops in the tent. It was sad to see it come to an end, but we were proud of how well we did, and look forward to seeing how we fared among other QRP operations when the final results come out.

We tore down most of our setup right after 1800Z. Mike has to leave his tent up so it can dry out before wrapping it up, and Tom left up his antennas. Mike and I want to thank Tom for being a great and gracious host. He certainly made everything easy for us and fed us wonderfully (you know from these newsletter items and my - K3WWP - web site diary how much Mike and I enjoy eating.)

Now we look forward to some parkpeditions, the Skeeter Hunt, and perhaps the FOBB portable operations, closing out with our portable anniversary operation in October.

Earlier in the month, the WPA Chapter attended the annual Butler Breezeshooter hamfest. Here is the report I posted in my web site diary so I don't have to type the whole story again here.

The entry today is about our experience at the Breezeshooters Hamfest in Butler. We got up between 5:30 and 6:00 AM (YAWN!!) so we could get something to eat and get there early to set up our table and trasmitting equipment which consisted of Mike's KX3, PX3, and jumper dipole along with John's laptop for logging. The antenna was mounted on a field mast provided by the third member of our team, Tom WB3FAE.

Once we were set up, we started operating. 17 meter was really hot and we quickly worked CO8LY, YN5SU, and HI8V. We heard many JA stations, but they were mostly answering CQs from other DX stations. A couple did call CQ, but weren't hearing our answers.

There was a lot of background noise from vendors, LOUDspeaker announcements, and other general noise which made operating a little hectic.

Along the way we signed up four new members, AB3I, W3YJ, KA3JOU, and KB3YIS. All of them were very enthusiastic about CW. We also had many current members drop by our table to visit. They were all very happy to see us as we were to see them. Not all signed our visitors sheet, but those who did are: W3WH, W3IU, AB3RU, K3VYY, KD8RUQ, N8XEE, AA3TG. We also saw W3BBO, WC3O, KQ3Z, AA3LX.

A lot of those folks, members and non-members both, showed great interest in the KX3 and PX3 combination. Many of them were younger in their late 20s and early 30s which is a good sign for the future of CW. Several also inquired about our antenna, and were impressed with it when we showed it to them.

As far as some general info about the hamfest, we all noticed many more tailgate vendors this year than in previous years. It was nice to visit with Bob WC3O and other Skyview Radio Society members as we do every year at the hamfest. Bob took a picture of the three of us at our table. Here it is: That's Tom WB3FAE at left talking about the club with one of our visitors, me and then Mike tending to priorities - eating our snacks. I'm just about to open my big sub.



Only Tom of our group found anything that he needed from the vendors. He bought some Power Pole connectors, and when Mike and I left for home, he said he was going to look for some wire and other things before he left.

We announced an operating session for our NAQCC members to try to work us between 1500 and 1600Z. It was a bit rough because of the aforementioned noise in the building. Also there was a lot of QSB on the bands. In addition there was a steady carrier right on our announced frequency of 7041

which Tom and I thought might be coming from some equipment somewhere on the hamfest grounds. Despite all of that we did manage to make four QSOs with our members.

After that we went back to chasing some DX, and Tom managed to work OE3DXA on 17 meters. We heard many other countries, but it seems they were not hearing us.

As soon as activity at the hamfest slowed down, we decided to pack up and head for home after an enjoyable day.

Of course in addition to some great food we had at the hamfest, after it was over Mike and I stopped at one of our new-found favorite places - Clark's Landing - for a great meal.



# 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 your 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 Bruce, K3BDQ, #7835 —**

*Bruce sent me this email right after experiencing the "rush" from a great QRPp QSO. - Editor*

Hello Paul, you are not going to believe this! I just had a qso with XE1RK on 20 m and I was running 500 mW and got a rst of 449 and he is running 1kw!

*He then followed it up with more information. - ed.*

I was trying to get my cw fix before going to work and XE1RK had a big signal on 20 and was doing short qso with all the normal stuff. So after getting up the nerve to try to make this contact I turn the rf power down to 500 milliwatts on my K1 and waited as all the big guns got in there. I was getting as much info as I could like name, his power, qth, so not to have him repeat it all over agn - the band is not in the best of shape and I didn't want to hold him up ...So there was a break in the action so a sent out my call. At first he only got part of it so I sent it again and bingo he came back to me and gave me a report of 449 and his name and that the band condition was poor on his end due to qrn. I return his report with 5nn and told him thanks for the qso and hope to work him when the bands were in better shape ...

**From John, K3WWP, #0002 —**

This month the FD operation was so enjoyable and memorable that it overrides memories of other things done during the month. The FD operation is described in the WPA Chapter news above so I won't talk more about it here.

Otherwise, I completed the challenges this month in an interesting manner. The 'USA' homebrew challenge was completed before 2 hours had passed in June. The European Chapter challenge took until the very last day of the month to complete. The FD challenge was completed easily with 40 states worked vs. the 20 needed for the challenge.

Propagation conditions were not all that great this month as we move further away from the latest sunspot cycle peak. Some days it was a struggle to keep my DX streak going, but I did manage to make it through another month to stand at 852 consecutive days as of June 30. I'm thinking it is really going to be rough to make it to 1,000 days which is my goal after which (if I do make it) I will decide whether to keep going or not. That will depend on just how hard it becomes and how much time it takes away from other interests.

Let's see what else was worthy of mention. Of course the Butler Breezeshooters hamfest on June 7 in which Mike KC2EGL, Tom WB3FAE, and I set up a NAQCC table to promote the club and sign up some new members. We were visited by perhaps a couple dozen folks who were already members and really

enjoyed chatting with them. There is more about that in both the WPA Chapter news above and in my web site diary at <http://www.k3wwp.com>. Speaking of that, I renewed my domain name of k3wwp.com for another year. I've noticed somewhat of a steady, but slow growth in visitors to my web site since obtaining k3wwp.com thanks to Bill WA4FAT about a year ago.

I received my QSL from Navassa Island (K1N) which means I now have all 50 North American entities worked and verified via QSL card. I finally got around to applying for my W1AW Centennian WAS award. I went for the Plaque instead of a certificate. Cost more, but it's a once in a lifetime thing.

From Barry, KS4RT, #2372 —

Barry sent in this link for a nice Carolina Windom antenna construction article. - Editor

<http://www.dxzone.com/dx12135/new-carolina-windom-antenna.html>

From Ron, N9EE, #6145 —

Here are some pictures of my QRP outing of May 22 from Veterans Park in Spring Hill, Florida (just north of Tampa).



My QRP rig is a FT817 with a MFJ tuner and battery in a PVC pipe frame. The antenna is a couple of HamSticks back-to-back to make a dipole for 40m & 20m.

I worked 20m and 40m CW only, except for checking in on the FL Mid-Day TFC Net, LSB 7.242 12 noon. I worked six stations, all real QSOs of five minutes or more. There were another ten or so attempts but with no response.

This event was in conjunction with the east Florida NAQCC-FL WB8OMM group's event that they hold on a Friday from 0900 to 1200 hr each month.

We are trying to start an NAQCC-west FL chapter. I was only the op this time, but did invite locals and had some interest, but my location up here north of Tampa is hard for many to get to, but we are working on it.

Next time I hope to be able to put up my 40m Windom. The HamSticks are ok, but there is lots of room for improvement. My 40m Windom works very well on 40, 20 & 10, but not on 15.

I've included a close-up of my FT817 Go-Box rig. This might be of interest for those wanting to build a pick-up-and-go box QRP rig. It has a 12V 5Ahr internal battery, but I can always plug in larger batteries if needed. The picture of the table shows a 18 Ahr battery, but I did not need it.



From Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

Two gadgets to help in the shack -

This is a twist on an old idea - using an AC outlet box as a project enclosure. The pictures show a K1EL keyer built into a very inexpensive, durable and readily obtainable metal box.

Placing the box face down onto a sheet of double-sided PC board allows an outline to be drawn on the PCB using a felt-tipped pen. Then a sheet of clear plastic can be used to mark the two screw holes which will be drilled into the front panel. A hacksaw or coping saw is used to cut out the panel which is then trimmed and sanded as needed. The panel is tinned with solder using a back and forth motion with a low wattage soldering iron.

The streaked or layered look is aesthetically pleasing, causes the front panel to match the box, and prevents later development of dark and dingy-looking oxidized copper. Internal components may be mounted on a separate board or directly soldered onto the back of the front panel using ground plane (ugly construction) style.

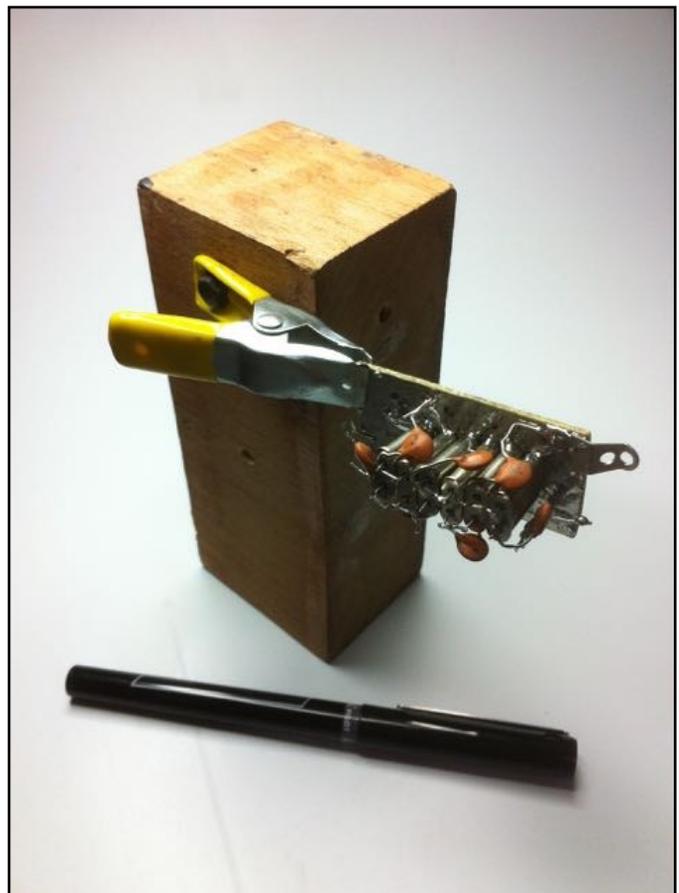
There are four mounting holes in the rear of the box, just the right size for phono jacks. Adhesive rubber feet go on the bottom, and instructions can be cellophane taped to the rear or bottom.

The finished product is a bit weighty, but this is actually an advantage, as the module tends to stay in place when the buttons are pushed by the operator's thumb.



Here's another idea that may be of interest to other NAQCCers. It is a variation on the "helping hand" theme, a device to hold and stabilize a small circuit board for soldering or other manipulation.

It consists of a simple hardwood block about 2X2X5 inches. A medium-sized alligator clip is attached by a screw which is tightened enough to prevent wobble, but loose enough to allow rotation of the clip. By changing the combination of the orientations of the board, the clip and the block, the circuit board can be approached from almost any angle. Certainly an additional clip can be added on the short face of the block adjacent to the pictured clip, but the I have not found this necessary.



From Gregg, WB8LZG, #1444 —

Ham radio contact brings unexpected fun.

I thought I'd tell you all of a very FB QSO I had the day after Field Day. I was busy putting the rig and station back together and after a quick check at 10 watts to verify a good antenna connection, I gave the dial a spin to check on the band conditions.

I heard N1IBB calling CQ, and decided to give him a buzz. Matt came back to me, with a 559 from Newton, Mass. near Boston. Here's where it gets interesting. Matt is over 60 years old and blind. That'd normally be quite interesting, but it was the rest of the conversation that was fun.

Matt had been a student of the Michigan School for the Blind (now closed) on Lansing's old north side. My family had relocated there in 1967, and my father ran the A&W root beer stand on Old Grand River and Ballard St. in the north end.

Working at the root beer stand at a young age gave me some very fond memories of some of Lansing, Michigan's best days. In the 60's & 70's, the Michigan School for the Blind was a world renowned training facility for the sightless. In fact "little Stevie Wonder", who lived right in back of the A&W for a time and was affectionately known to locals as "the blind boy from Ballard St.", was also a student there.

As our conversation toured through Lansing via our memories, it was quite delightful to reminisce about some of our now-gone businesses that were going strong back then. Companies like Knapps, Howmet, Motor Wheel, Oldsmobile, Estes Furniture, Melling, Lindell, Wards, Grinnells, Lansing Electric Motor, Wedemeyer's, Jim's Tiffany Place, Albert Pick, Casa Nova, Ramon's and of course, the A&W. Just to name a few. (sigh)

Lansing was in it's "heyday" back then. Everyone had a job, and could afford to buy the goods we made here. Our economy was in high gear, and the world was at our fingertips! This was also when I first became a ham. Happy times for me growing up in the Ol' north end. I got to relive great memories of a prosperous time in our city. All from answering a CQ from a ham far away.

It is a small world, and Ham Radio spans those distances to make it even smaller. We said our 73s and wished each other well. I smiled to myself in the silent satisfaction of having been able to be here to see all the changes.

Ours is truly a wonderful hobby. It has thrilled and fascinated me for over 40 years, and continues to do so every time I turn on the radio. Here's to even more excitement the next time I turn on the rig. Where will my signals take me tomorrow?



# 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

Club President Paul Huff, N8XMS  
9928 Eckles  
Livonia, MI 48150  
USA



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

<b>NAQCC CONTACTS</b>		
<b>NAQCC President</b> Newsletter Editor	Paul - N8XMS	paul142857@gmail.com
<b>NAQCC Vice President</b> West Virginia Chapter	John - N8ZYA	jspiker58@gmail.com
European Chapter	Matt - MW0MIE	matt@naqcc-eu.org
Florida Chapter	Steve - WB4OMM	wb4omm@arrl.org
Shenandoah Valley Chapter	Russ - K3NLT	k3nlt@comcast.net
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John - K3WWP	naqcc33@windstream.net
Central Texas Chapter	Danny - N5DRG	n5drg@naqcc-centraltexas.net
Illowa Chapter	Pete - NN9K	nn9k.peter@gmail.com
Help For Beginners	Brion - VE3FUJ	ve3fuj@wightman.ca
Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul - KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
NAQCC CW Nets	Scotty - NU0S	nu0s@hotmail.com