

NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 235 JANUARY 2018



KEY CLICKS

- **SPRINT AUTOLOGGER UNDERGOES MAJOR UPDATE.** For the past several months Andy, N2CN, with help from Tom, WB7EUX, and additional support from several other NAQCC volunteers has been working on a major update to our database structure that will streamline our sprint log processing and provide a foundation for many current and future website enhancements. Countless hours have been put into this project and the results are starting to roll out with the sprints this month. Sprinters will notice some significant changes to our Autologger page including some very robust automatic error trapping that includes instructions on how to correct these errors. Please be sure to read all about these changes in the *New Database Project* article in this issue of the newsletter. **On behalf of all of the members of the NAQCC we want to offer Andy and his team a giant THANK YOU for all of the time and energy that they have put into this project.**
- **PLEASE BE PATIENT.** There will undoubtedly be a few “bumps in the road” as we transition into the new Autologger described above, as well as a number of related things that will be implemented in the coming months. Please let us know if you come across any problems and be patient with us as we work on getting these very complicated things in place. Thank you.
- **NO MORE EMAILED SPRINT LOGS.** Connected with the changes that are being made with our database and autologger, a decision has been made to no longer accept directly emailed sprint logs. All sprint submissions must now be posted through our Autologger. The occasional email logs that our processors used to receive always added to their work because, in all honesty, they frequently contained numerous errors. Frankly we think that just about everyone with email access probably also has internet access and can use the Autologger. With the enhancements that have been made to that page it should be easy for anyone to use. If this creates a genuine hardship for anyone I personally offer to let you email your log to me (N8XMS) and I will enter it into the autologger for you.
- **NEW NAQCC SPRINTLOGGER NOW AVAILABLE.** Also related to our monthly sprints, but completely independent from the previous announcement about the autologger, is the availability of a new freeware logging program for our sprints written by Ron, AC2C. This Windows based software is similar to the very popular logger that Ron wrote for the SKCC, with modifications designed to meet the needs of our sprints. The program is jam-packed with features and is definitely something that you will want to check out. You can read more about it in the feature article in this issue of the newsletter. **We certainly want to thank Ron for making this great tool available to our membership!**

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- **SPRINT MEMBERSHIP DATA FILES HAVE BEEN MOVED.** The location where you can download the current membership data files for your supported sprint logging software has changed. You can now find links to those downloads at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html>. Please be sure to update your logger each month with the latest data file.
- **WB9HFK IS THE 2017 SILVER LOG WINNER.** Of the many members who entered all 12 regular monthly sprints during 2017, there was a three-way tie between K3WWP, KC7DM, and WB9HFK, for the largest number of perfectly formatted logs (11 perfect entries). K3WWP was the sponsor of this award and withdrew from the drawing and Mark, WB9HFK ended up as the winner of the ARRL publication "Even More Wire Antenna Classics." Congratulations to Mark for a "job well done" with his accurate log submissions. It should be noted that with the changes to the database and Autologger mentioned above, 2017 is the last year that this prize will be awarded.
- **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.
- **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."

Happy
2018



NEW DATABASE PROJECT

BY ANDY, N2CN

Over the next few months, you will start to notice changes on the NAQCC website and in the sprint log submission process. These changes are part of a long term project to revamp both the website and the underlying database that records member and sprint information.

Why change something that works? Mostly, it's to reduce the amount of effort it takes to prepare for, score, and cross-check each sprint. Right now, it takes at least three volunteers to run each sprint. We're aiming to reduce that to two, or even to a single person. The other reason we're undertaking this project is to create a foundation for new features, a new look, and for meeting the future needs of the NAQCC and its sprints and challenges. More about all of these below.

The New Database

The database as it stands now is actually an amalgamation of a centrally-maintained database and a number of spreadsheets and flat files that are maintained by volunteers on their own PCs. Being divided as it is, there are many functions that one should be able to perform, such as looking up a member's preferred on-air name by his or her call, but which are not possible without a great deal of file reading and programming.

We have designed and are putting together a unified database that ties together all of our data, past and present, and makes it easy to write code to extract that data. One of the primary goals for the new database is to be able to display any sprint, current or past, with calls and QTHs that reflect the call and QTH that each member used at the time of that sprint. Specifically, we want to accommodate:

- Changes in call or QTH for a particular member over time.
- A member's temporary operation under a different call.
- Reassignment of member calls to non-members.
- Reassignment of calls from one member to another.
- Members who are not licensed and do not have calls.
- Non-member sprint participants known only by call, who may show up in one log in one sprint, and then disappear.
- Non-member participants who submit a log.
- Non-members who transition into membership.
- A member possessing more than one call (i.e. aliases).
- Re-use of a call among multiple members over time (N1A, N2A, etc).

It turns out that doing all of this is not so simple. Tom Bingham, WB7EUX, and I spent two months on a design, soliciting suggestions from many of the other NAQCC volunteers and officers. At this point, we think we have all of our (data)bases covered.

The New Autologger

I'm lazy. While I enjoy my volunteer work with the NAQCC, I have to admit that I find scoring the sprints to be, at times, tedious and time-consuming. And though I haven't (yet) cross-checked a sprint, I am pretty sure that this is the most tedious and time-consuming task of all. One characteristic that these two tedious tasks have in common is the need for the NAQCC volunteers to hand correct any formatting errors and inconsistencies in the submitted logs. In the past, the golden log and silver log programs have been put forth to encourage higher quality logs. While there has been some improvement, we still see a significant fraction of submitted logs that contain errors.

To address this issue, we will be introducing a new autologger page with some smarts behind it. The main area in which smarts come into play is in error-checking the data that you've entered. The autologger will be much stricter about what it will accept. All form inputs that involve free-form text entry, but that require accuracy, will be subject to detailed error checking. For example: calls and email addresses must be correctly formatted, and member number and power output must both be expressed as numbers and must be within their respective ranges. Most importantly, the pasted-in logs must adhere to the standard eight-field NAQCC format. (The logs won't have to be semantically correct, just syntactically correct.)

The smarts behind the new autologger will also be used to derive more information from the pasted-in log. For example, QSO count, member QSOs, and multiplier count can all be determined by examining the log; having the sprint participant enter them as separate figures is unnecessary, and will be eliminated. In fact, several of the fields in the log itself can also be eliminated: in the near future, we will offer the choice of a simpler five-field log format (band, time, call, QTH, number) as an alternative to the traditional eight-field format.

The new autologger page has a streamlined appearance, with a column on the right side of the page for error messages. There is a development version of it available for testing at <http://naqcc.info/autotest.php>. It will change periodically. Give it a try and let me know what you think (see below).

The bottom line is this: to reduce their workload, the volunteers are asking, through the use of the new autologger, that sprint participants take on the task of correcting their own log submission errors.

What's in it for you?

So what do you, the member and sprint participant, get out of all this? What incentive can we offer you so that you'll tolerate the potential bugs, disruption, and confusion of such an upgrade? The short answer: new features.

Here are a few of the new features that we expect will appear over the next couple of years, once the new database and autologger are in place:

Simplified Autologger

As mentioned above, the new autologger page will be cleaner, give better error messages (and lots of them), and derive as much data as possible from the pasted-in log. You should expect to see the new autologger introduced in time for the January or February sprints.

Immediate score posting

With the new autologger increasing the accuracy of log submissions, we can route your scores directly to the sprint score page, rather than have to wait for a sprint scorer like yours truly to get home from work and put together that day's scores. We expect that this will happen in the first half of 2018.

Alternative score page display

Don't like the current format of the score page? Want to see the entries sorted by absolute score, or raw QSO count, or without being broken out into keying or SWA/Gain categories? Select an alternative format. We'll provide a number of preset formats, and we'll solicit suggestions for additional formats. This will probably happen sometime in 2018.

Statistics

Similar to the alternative score display, we will offer statistics by call, member number, state/province, band, multiplier count, etc. Look for this in the second half of 2018.

Website Cosmetic Enhancements

We want to give the website a cleaner, more consistent look, and make it easier to maintain. I think this would roll out in late 2018 or early 2019.

Geographical mapping functions

This will be a visualization of the QSOs from a given sprint similar to the point-to-point QSO propagation maps published occasionally in QST (The World Above 50 MHz), or the display shown at the PSK Automatic Propagation Reporter website (<https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>). This is a far-future enhancement.

Real-time logging

Instead of using GenLog or paper to log your sprint QSOs, you'll log directly on the website during a sprint. Your score would update in real-time on the score page. This feature is what my old boss used to call a "WIBNI" (Wouldn't It Be Nice If...), and so if it is done at all, would be a far-future enhancement.

What's in it for the Volunteers?

The volunteers save time and labor. By using the new autologger and correcting your own submission errors, you are essentially giving me and my fellow volunteers a bit of our lives back. (Thanks!) And the new database will eliminate many of the behind-the-scenes tasks that we currently perform.

Acknowledgements/Feedback

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that, in having the opportunity to make these improvements, I stand on the shoulders of giants -- or rather, giant: our vice president emeritus, John Shannon, K3WWP, who built this organization and the infrastructure and procedures that support it, and who, until his recent retirement, shouldered a great deal of the effort of running our sprints, building our website, and entertaining and informing us with his writings and blogging. Thank you, John!

I'd also like to thank our current president, Paul Huff, N8XMS, for his support and encouragement in this project, and all of the other NAQCC volunteers who offered their time and expertise to me to help bring this project to fruition.

I'd be interested in hearing any comments that you might have regarding this project. I'm good on qrz.com; feel free to email me at the address there.

73, and see you next sprint!



NEW SPRINT LOGGER

BY JERRY, K4KBL

Ron, AC2C, has generously donated his time and talent to modify his very popular SKCC logging software, for use in our monthly sprints. Jerry, K4KBL, was one of the beta testers for this software and I asked him to write up a little “how to” article for us. As Jerry states in his article, this is not a replacement for the documentation that is included with the logger. That documentation should be carefully studied to really learn how to use the program.

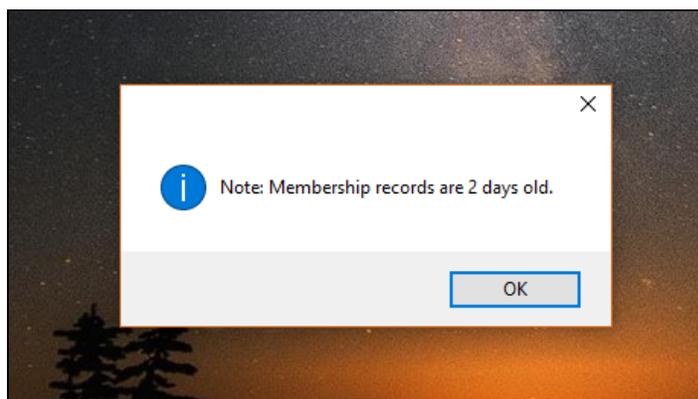
*To clarify a point, you do not have to use this software to participate in our sprints. If your current sprint logging (GenLog for example) works for you and you are happy with it you can keep on using it. But this really is an outstanding piece of software and includes some great features like rig control from the software for many supported radios. So you might want to take a good look at this program. The logger will run on any recent Windows platform but my sources tell me that **a Macintosh version might be available soon**. Information on where to download the program and how to get started can be found at the end of this article. - Editor*

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This “hands on” review is not intended to replace the NAQCC SprintLogger Quick Start Guide dated 12/20/2017 by Ron Bower, AC2C, but rather a users perspective once the logger is downloaded and running.

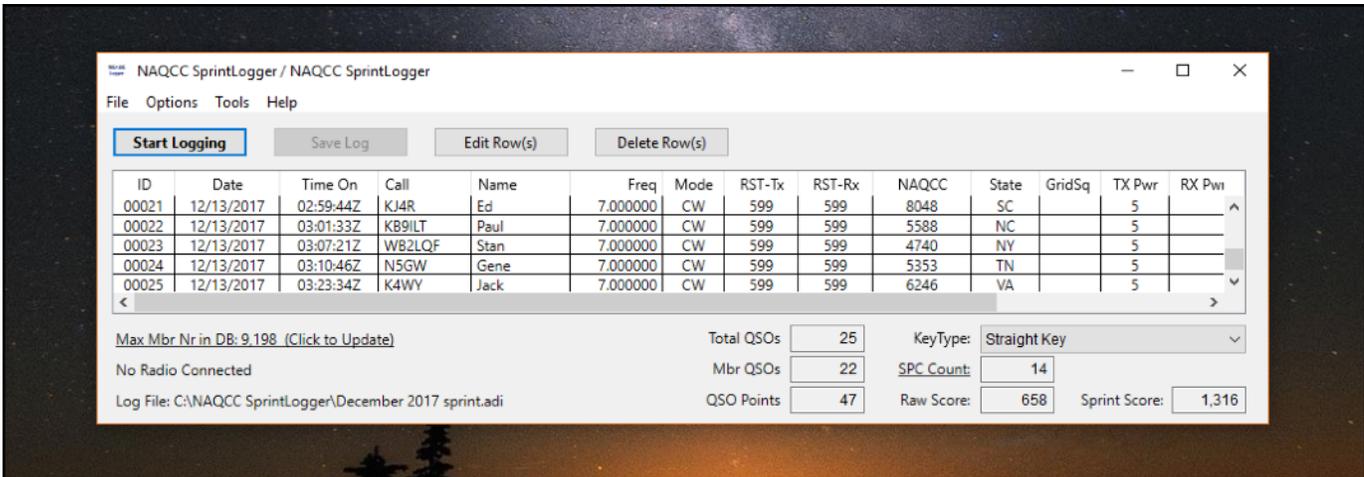
The first small but very important detail is to be sure your membership database has been updated. This should be done before any NAQCC Sprint to be sure that the most recent data is available in your logger. (*The updated database files are usually available each month by the morning of the sprint at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html>. - Editor*)

Your NAQCC logger will enter all member NAQCC numbers automatically **IF** your data is up to date. Sure saves a great deal of time on the back end of the Sprint.



Once the logger icon is selected the program should indicate that your membership database hasn't been undated in “X” number of days. **Update now**. If you don't see that prompt, You will see the “Click to Update” just below the screen where your contacts are listed and above the “radio connection” notice.

Once the logger icon is selected the program should indicate that your membership database hasn't been updated in "X" number of days. **Update now.** If you don't see that prompt, You will see the "Click to Update" just below the screen where your contacts are listed and above the "radio connection" notice.



Another very important factor that should be completed after each logged QSO is "SAVE LOG" seen next to the START LOGGING option. This doesn't have to be done after each QSO logged but if its forgotten you could lose data. The logger may remind you to save before exit but its recommended to save as you go.

A QSO may be edited by first highlighting the QSO to be changed then select "Edit Row". You can also delete the entire row as indicated.

As you continue to add QSO's the logger will clearly indicate the number of QSO's, and SPC count as well.

Once you select the "START LOGGING" option the following screen will appear: *(next page)*

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Add Log Entry - K4KBL - NAQCC: 8806". The window contains several sections:

- Shortcuts:** Includes a "Now" button, a checked "Use PC Time" checkbox, an unchecked "Read VFO" checkbox, and an unchecked "Auto Clear" checkbox.
- Date and Time:** "Date:" is 12/14/2017, "Time:" is 15:59:58Z.
- Frequency and Band:** "Freq:" is a red box, "Band:" is a red box, and "QSY" is a button.
- Call Sign and NAQCC:** "Call:" is a red box, "Check" and "QRZ" are buttons, "NAQCC:" is an empty field, and another "Check" button is present.
- RST and Auto-Fill:** "RST Tx:" and "RST Rx:" are empty fields, "Run" is a button, "Auto-Fill" is checked, and "QSO Notes" is a button.
- Location:** "City:", "State:", and "Country:" are empty fields.
- Name and Grid Square:** "Name:" and "GridSquare:" are empty fields.
- Power and Time End:** "TX Pwr:" and "RX Pwr:" are empty fields, "Time End:" is an empty field, and "Now" is a button.
- Comment:** A large empty text area, with an unchecked "Time End When Logged, If Blank" checkbox.
- Previous QSOs:** "Previous QSOs:" is a label, "Show Partial Matches" and "Auto Log" are checked checkboxes, and "Log It" is a button.
- Bottom Buttons:** "Clear All", "Save Log", and "Close" buttons.

The current date and time as per the computer can be used or you can uncheck that option and list the date and time manually.

Once the frequency is entered the band is selected as well. The exact frequency is not necessary unless desired. 7 MHz works as well a 7.035 MHz.

After entering the call sign of the worked station, select "**CHECK**" and that stations information will be listed if a NAQCC member. Entering the power and RST will still be needed to complete the log entry (optional). **If the station is not a NAQCC member, obtain his state and power.**

Once all the data is entered, the "**LOG IT**" option **MUST** be selected to allow the logger to save the data to the second screen above.

It is recommended to create a separate log for each event using the "**FILE**" option listed in the screen above. (ex: dec2017 sprint). This saves the cut and paste option if only one log is maintained for all or several events.

The "**FILE**" option also allows for printing log data **NOT** to be confused with AUTOLOGGER submission

and other file related options. The print option would be for personal use only and not a submission to NAQCC.

After the specific event has ended an Autologger report should be completed. This is outlined in the AC2C Quick Start Guide and easy to follow.

I have used this logger in the past and find it more user friendly than GenLog primarily since the program is specifically tailored for NAQCC needs.

I have used this logging format with many SKCC events and more recently with NAQCC Sprints. I have found it to be easy to use and allows for quick submission to the Autologger.

I know that others have been beta testing this logger and from all reports, it has been an overwhelming success.

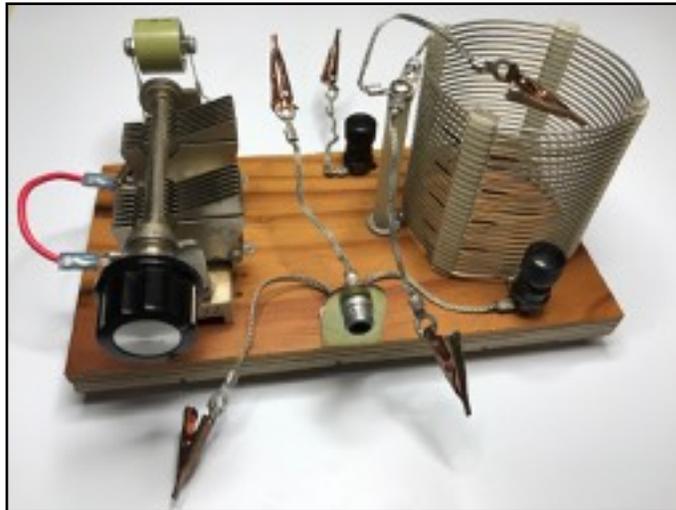
Best 73'
Jerry - K4KBL - 8806

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The NAQCC SprintLogger and all the related documentation files can be found on our club website at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_ac2clogger.html. A special forum group has been created where users of this software can share questions and answers with each other. It is highly recommended that you join this forum. You will find a link to it on that same club webpage. - Editor



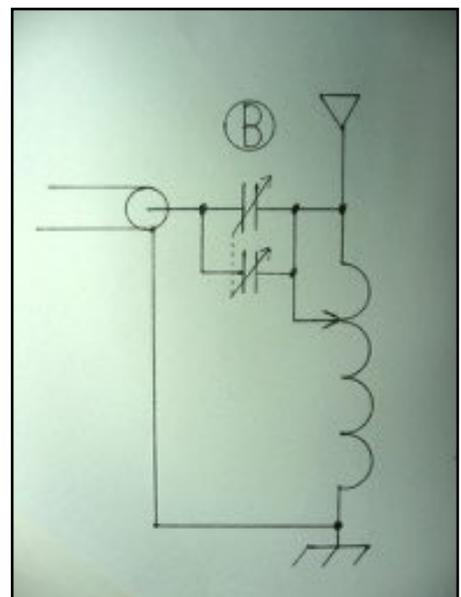
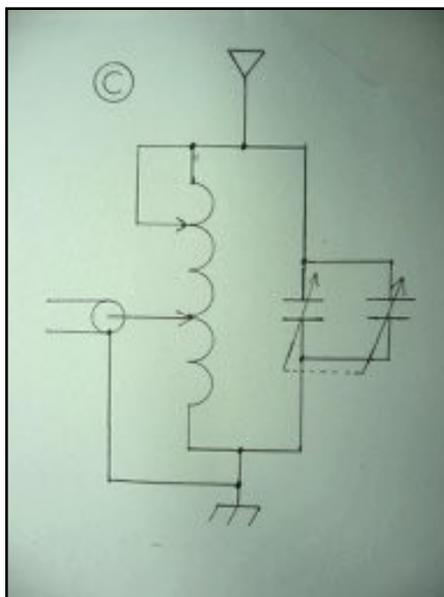
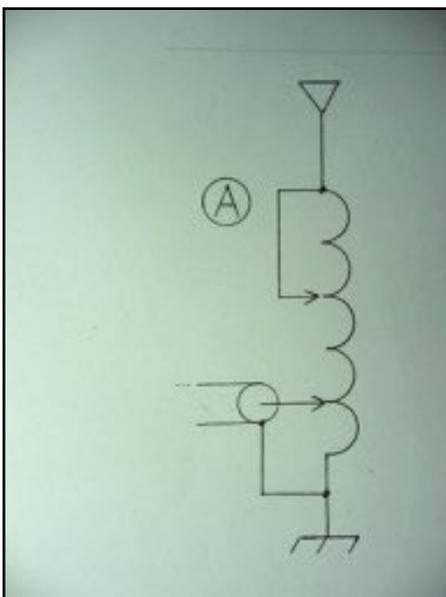
RANDOM WIRE TUNER BY GENE, N5GW



The first pic shows the tuner which consists of a variable inductor, a split stator variable capacitor, clip leads and two binding posts for antenna and ground. By changing the configuration of C and L with the clip leads, different tuning circuits can be obtained. These are described in the ARRL antenna books.

The inductor can be varied from less than one μH to 27 μH by moving the tap clips. Every fifth turn is marked to facilitate counting turns. The capacitors can be used in parallel for a range of 12 to 200 pF; singly for 6 to 100 pF; or in series for 3 to 50 pF.

The second, third and fourth pics show hand drawings of three of the possible circuits. To simplify things I elected to permanently ground the base of the inductor, but this is not really necessary. Circuit "B" is the most commonly used, consisting of a step-up L network. Since antenna input impedances are likely to be greater than 50 ohms, this circuit will handle most random wires or whatever you chose to load up as an antenna. If the load is less than 50 ohms, the L network can be reversed by swapping the antenna and coax input connections.



Occasionally a load will be encountered that the L network will not match satisfactorily. In this case the parallel tuned circuit "C" will usually work OK.

Circuit "A" is useful for tuning wires that are less than one quarter wavelength. The upper tap sets the resonant frequency of the inductor/antenna combination, and the lower tap sets the 50 ohm feed point. The capacitor is not used.

Another possibility is placing a capacitor between the inductor and antenna in "A" which will allow tuning a wire that is greater than a quarter wavelength but less than a half wavelength. Also if an end fed wire is about 5% longer than a quarter wavelength, a capacitor alone can be used in series to tune out inductive reactance, leaving a 50 ohm match.

Using such a variety of hookups can be confusing. However it is simplified by first unclipping all connections and then referring to the appropriate diagram as each connection is made. Circuit diagrams and tuner settings can be attached to the underside of the tuner.

Using a choke balun at the input of the tuner will help to isolate the transceiver from any high impedance at the tuner.

I have used this matcher successfully with various random wires as well as unlikely antennas such as metal roofs, gutter downspouts and even large window or porch screens. Admittedly some such antennas are not the best, but a suboptimal antenna is better than no antenna!



FAREWELL ADDRESS

BY JOHN, K3WWP

As has already been announced, John, K3WWP, has now completed the final phase of his retirement from club work with the end of the December sprint processing and cross-checking. It is not an exaggeration to say that the NAQCC would not exist without the countless hours of work that John has dedicated to it and we all owe him a huge debt of gratitude. He will be missed but he has certainly earned a rest. - Editor

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On the day before Christmas, I sent the following on the NAQCC email list. I am leaving it verbatim even though a couple statements have become dated since then.

FAREWELL ADDRESS TO THE TROOPS:

After my initial retirement as Vice President of the NAQCC a couple years ago, I agreed to stay on, mostly strictly in the background (except for log cross-checking which was out in the open) as sort of a general advisor, a prize mailer, and some other things I won't mention.

However now as of December 31, I am making my retirement complete. Before that, I want to take care of a couple final things.

1. I want to thank each and every club member for the multitude of fine comments you have made to me about the club. I tried to address each and every one personally, but due to the vast number, I'm sure I missed some along the way. If you were one who was missed, THANK YOU. Even if I did get back to you personally, THANK YOU again.
2. From this point on though, I will not have anything to do with the running of the club. Your comments must be addressed to our president Paul N8XMS, vice president John N8ZYA, and all the volunteers who are and will be handling the club tasks. I especially want to make it clear that I will not be involved in any changes in how our sprints are handled. Being involved with them in many different capacities over the years, especially the log cross-checking, has been a real joy the vast majority of the time. I hope they continue to be the most popular 2 hour weekday sprints in ham radio.
3. I will continue one duty that doesn't really count as club work in a way. I'll continue my work with our WPA Chapter in planning our parkpeditions, subpeditions, hamfest visits, and so forth. Of course I'll still be a participant, but nothing more, in our club activities.
4. The naqcc33 @ Windstream.net email address I used for club business will cease to exist when my retirement is complete on December 31. See the web site for a new such email address.
5. Finally a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.

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The email generated a great outpouring of comments from members, and Paul and I want to present those comments here in the newsletter. So, without further ado, here we go in the order received with NAQCC# added:

VE9VIC 9124: Thank for all the work, wish you the very best, 73. Rino...VE9VIC

KONIA 8207: Thanks John, for all you have done for the club, for QRP and for ham radio. I reached out to you at the very beginning of my ham radio adventure, and found you to be receptive and willing to help and encourage me. NAQCC is a great organization, and I'm proud to be a member. I appreciate all you have done to make it so. You just cannot possibly know the impact you are having on new hams and individuals exploring the possibilities of becoming a new ham. I point new folks to your website all the time-- there's just so much there for all of us to learn from. Take care. I'll be looking for you on air-- hope to work you again soon!

73 and Merry Christmas!
Mark, KONIA

K4EQ 0439: Hi John,
I just read your email announcing your well-earned retirement from NAQCC. Thank you for all the incredible work you have done through the years to make the club the success it is. Without you and your efforts, I doubt the club would even exist today. Enjoy your extra free time. You deserve it. And may you have a blessed and very Merry Christmas.
Dale Holloway, K4EQ

KE3V 0855: Thank you for your service to this group and to the hobby we all love, John.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you!
72, Kevin, KE3V

K0FNR 6852: Thank you John !!!
Jim K0FNR

KD0DK 8432: Thank you for your dedication and service to the NAQCC John. You will certainly be missed. All the best and Merry Christmas.
72/73 Dave KD0DK

KC0DD 3998: thanks JOHN for your years of work sure the pay was not that good hi hi ! you have always been there to ans. my ????. 73 and GOD BLESS merry CHRISTmas
jim kc0dd # 3998

N3TQV 3305: THREE CHEERS for a job well done. HIP HIP Hooray! HIP HIP Hooray! HIP HIP Hooray! Enjoy your retirement!
73 de N3TQV

K4PQC 2335: Thank you John for all of your hard work to make this organization really function well. You will be missed! Merry Christmas and have a happy and healthy retirement... again,
Phil - K4PQC

WA5LOU 5997: Thank you, John. You are certainly appreciated. Your loyalty and support has been totally AWESOME. Thank you.
Lou WA5LOU

W4BWS 8173: Sorry to see you go but congrats on finally being able to enjoy your retirement without the pressures of being Pres. (VP - js) Thank you for all the time you have devoted to NAQCC and for the members. May God bless you and your family and 73 for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.
Dr. Don Sanders W4BWS

NQ1A 9226: Enjoy your retirement friend. Best Regards,
Robert Rush NQ1A

KA3D 7262: John,
Thank you for all you have done. Congratulations on all your accomplishments. Enjoy retirement. I heard you work some DX early in the AM the other day.(it may have been 2,3am). I thought, what is John doing up so late/early? Then I thought oh, what am I doing up? 73,72, all the best for the future to you!
Dan KA3D

KH2EE 7904: Wishing you Fair Winds and Following Seas, John with your retirement on December 31st.
73's
Richard KH2EE

N5WVR 1525: But we hope to still hear you on the air! Long live K3WWP, QRP, and CW!
Merry Christmas, John.
Cathy N5WVR

W0ITT 9113: John,
Best wishes and enjoy your "retirement" / return to normal life. I look forward to seeing you on the air.
72 de Gary Freeman W0ITT (#9113)

W4HH 3938: Thank you , John, for everything you have done for NAQCC and for Amateur Radio. The QST article describing your streak was a real celebration of Amateur Radio. Of course, we all trust The Streak will continue!!! 73 es Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Relaxing New Year.
Joe W4HH

W6YY 4011: Thanks for making cw GREAT again.
Sanford W6YY

NU6I 1380: Thank you for the great things you did for the NAQCC John. Merry Christmas and happy new Year to you and your family.
73, Yvon NU6I

KC2MJT 1476: God speed. Hope to work in the sprints
73 KC2MJT

W6HO 1956: Good man. You will be missed.
Scott W6HO

NF5U 0142: Thank you for all your efforts, enjoy your retirement and Merry Christmas!
Jerry Nicholson

KB7TD 7509: Hello John, It is people like you that have always encouraged us and made ham radio the awesome hobby (or should I say vocation) that challenges and thrills us all. I just want to thank you for your long service and also wish you a very Merry Christmas.
Eric KB7TD

K2UFT 2069: It's a great occupation, been doing it for years! I'll never forget the day when you retired from running the CW County Hunters Net, leaving it to Fred K2VGR and myself, cranking out the net newsletter on one of those old fanged mimeograph machines! Enjoy some leisure! Merry Christmas and a great New Year!
Dick. K2UFT

K4BAI 0644: Thanks for all you have done, John. We will miss you, I am sure. But hope your on-the-air activity will continue or even expand as you have more time available. Seasons Greetings to you and your family. 73/72, John, K4BAI.

KC4URI 0535: John It is a well-deserved retirement. Saying Thank You falls very short of what I would like to express.
73 Hope to hear you on 30 meters.
KC4URI NAQCC #0535

KB3DRW 0237: John, Merry Christmas to you and thanks for all the work over the years for the good of the club. I still remember fondly when I visited you and your mom. Thanks for encouraging me when I was starting out. I learned most of my operating technic from your website. I am not so active today with work and family and other demands. But I still have some elecraft QRP equipment and Ten Tec equipment that I hope to get active with in the coming years.
Wishing you a most wonderful season of Christmas,
73, Don KB3DRW

WD4OHD 0522: Thanks, John, for all you've done over the years for NAQCC, which is a great organization that you can be justifiably proud of. It's guys like you who make amateur radio what it is. It's been a pleasure working you in the monthly Sprints, and I hope to do so again many times in the future. Best holiday wishes to you and yours.
Bob WD4OHD Hixson, TN

KB2HUK 6307: Thank you for all the work and many hours making this one of the most fun things that I have done in Amateur radio ! Merry Christmas 73s
John Molenda kb2huk

W2JAZ 7593: Thanks for all that you've done for NAQCC! It's not been unappreciated.
Happy holidays
Rick, W2JAZ

KQ1P 3113: John- I remember our first QSO when you invited me to join NAQCC (how many years ago!). You will remain my most desired contact in a sprint. Well done, you have started a great club. Best of the Christmas Season and New Year to you.
73 John KQ1P

K2HN 8793: John, Thanks for all the great contributions for CW and QRP. Now there's a lot of big fish left to catch!
Regards,
Jim/k2hn

N8ZYA 2279: Hello John, I hope you enjoy your retirement. You've done a remarkable job getting the NAQC club on the straight and narrow path of success. I'll do my very best to keep the ship on the right course but this will not be an easy task. lol Thank you for everything you've done for us. I'll be listening for you on the bands, especially from the Submarine. Being a Navy Vet, I always enjoy working stuff on the water...
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
73's John Smithson N8ZYA

W7AMR 9248: Dear John, Wishing you a very Merry Christmas.
Attila / W7AMR

W9CBT 2062: Hi John Good luck on your retirement. You have had a great career with NAQCC. I have enjoyed working with you over the years. Stay well and Happy Holidays to you ad your family
Best 72,72 Dick Sylvan W9CBT

K8JD 0501: John, Thanks for your efforts in this club. Folks like you who are ready to grab the ropes and pull the rest of us along are worthy of much praise. Enjoy your retirement and I hope I will have more QSOs with you as the years go by.
My radio is Ham Radio...CW is Real Radio 73, John...K8JD

W4DUK 0617: John, Thank you so much for your service to the club over these many years. Enjoy your retirement! I look forward to continuing working you in upcoming Sprints and in your "peditions". Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you, my friend!
Dave W4DUK

IU3CEA 8763: (from my guestbook at k3wwp.com) Hi thank you for your service at NAQCC and for spreading your knowledge with passion.

WA0YFB 0561: So long, John and thanks for everything. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to have a QSO with you someday. 73's Herb WA0YFB

WA5KBH 8955: Thank you for your unselfish service
George WA5KBH

WA8SAN 0792: John I wanted to add my thanks for all the time and work you have put in over the years for the club. It's a great club and your the one who made it so. Hope to see you at the Butler ham fest next summer. 72. Mike / WA8SAN

NQ0RP 0759: Hello John, I am sorry to see you go completely from the organization aspect of the club but that said I wish you a long and happy "retirement", time now to enjoy fully that wonderful past time we call ham radio. Just wanted you to know that you have always inspired and encouraged me to do better in my endeavors. My new years resolution is... at least 1 QSO per day, let's see how long a run I can make? Be blessed my friend and may the good Lord continue to pour out His blessings on you and yours.
Vy 72/3 until we meet again on the air,
Wayne - NQ0RP

W0CC 5363: John, There is not sufficient words (or watts) to express my appreciation as a member for all that you have done for this club! One of my most cherished QSL cards is the one that I received from you.
73, Bob W0CC

KK1X 2198: Hi, John - I didn't get a chance to reply to your farewell over the weekend, but I wanted to thank you for all the support you showed me initially, and I want to thank you for starting such a fun club. Now you know I'm just rubbish at CW (practice time always takes a back seat, it seems), but I support the use of the mode and enjoy working to help the club, CW, and QRP in general. (I'm also membership manager and webmaster for New England QRP Club). You and Tom started a great club, and did a wonderful job of handing it off to new management to keep it going. In Navy terms, that's a Bravo Zulu - a job well done. I hope you enjoy your second retirement. Happy New Year, Sir!
72/73, John KK1X

N0MII 7878: Hello John, I just wanted to send a personal "thank you" for all you've done for NAQCC and its members. I've enjoyed operating in the club sprints -- that's how I got my feet wet with CW contesting. My logs wouldn't be very burdensome to cross-check (!) but the overall task is a big one, so I salute your efforts. I bet you're looking forward to turning your attention to getting on the air! Enjoy!
72, Jeff N0MII

CO8CML 3908: Hi, John. I wish a very Happy New Year for you and your family. Thanks for all your activities as Club Vice President. Best for you and yours.
Carlos, Co8CML NAQCC member Nr. 3908

K2HAT 8514: Hello Mr John, My best wishes for you in your future. In regards to your signature, being a newer Amateur Radio enthusiast, I sincerely suggest that you look at some of the other modes besides CW. I have been chasing DXCC and DX for just a few years now and have found the joy of using multiple Modes to contact other Stations. The new FT8 mode helped me to get 30m DXCC recently. I am not a huge QRP enthusiast but my most memorable QSO so far has been to KC4AAA QRP using my G5RV on 20m SSB. I got a proud 32 signal report. I have 5BDXCC, 10-80, Phone, CW, Digital, and Mixed. 10-80 WAS. It is all fun for me!
Best 73 HNY 2018 de K2HAT
(NOTE from K3WWP: HI HI I guess the sentence that starts with "In regards..." was meant as a joke since I have no desire to ever do anything but QRP/CW. That's what heaven is for me and I ain't gonna change a thing.)

KB4HG 0765: John, Will certainly miss you taking care of so many activities for the team. Really enjoy watching your personal logbook progress and reading your personal site. Hope you can keep that going. Great big "Thank you" from down south in central NC.
Happy New Year to you!
72, Rhett, KB4HG

N4MJ 6587: John, Thank you for all you have done for AR. WoW!!! what a career (your bio). So many accomplishments !!! Most of us only dream about working DX or working WAC, etc using QRP, you've done that and much, much more. Accomplishing goals for ourselves is important however displaying the end result is motivating for other in our shadow. In your case you have motivated thousands of hams to try/use QRP for their personal goals. That puts you in a senior position of leadership. You've done well and so many of us out here appreciate what you've done. The success of NAQCC rests on the shoulders of new leaders and I have no doubt you'll be in the background for a while providing guidance as requested/needed. Enjoy our great hobby and keep writing and working the bands.
Thanks from this ol' ham.
73 de n4mj//glenn

K9EW 0345: Hi John, I missed your retirement announcement, so I'm glad I caught this email. I've always admired your enthusiasm for our hobby, and I've described your 'contact a day' activity to many of my friends. I've missed not crossing paths with you lately; I've always enjoyed our QSO's in past years.
73 and I'll be lookin' for you on the bands.
-ed, k9ew

K8LJG 0308: John, Congratulations on your retirement! I appreciate all you have done for not only QRP, but for CW as well. Hoping this will free more time for you to enjoy more time for your favorites, QRP and CW.
73.....John, K8LJG

W4TOL 8786: Dear John, I just recently ran across your website and column. I have found you very informative in the articles you've written, and you have really inspired me to try QRP. Glad for your retirement, you will enjoy that. Your passion for amateur radio and QRP has inspired many I'm sure. Your articles will always remain a source of encouragement to me. Thank you. I'm glad I found SKCC!
A very 72,73 to you,
Stephen Tolbert W4TOL

KQ3Z 3702: John, Saying thanks for all that you have done for QRP Ham Radio just doesn't seem like enough. Your drive to keep the daily QRP contacts going for years really is proof that QRP does work. I'd like to thank you for your help and guidance in getting me started into QRP and actively back on the air and enjoying every contacts that I make. I especially like the Sprints. It's a great event made up of great hams in a really friendly atmosphere. Enjoy your retirement and know that you have helped and inspired many hams. I still think we should petition the ARRL to change it from QRP to WWP. HI HI
Thanks
Bernie, KQ3Z

KB8AMZ 6668: Farwell. Thanks for your service. Hope to catch you on air again someday. 72/73
Terry - KB8AMZ Brimfield Twp, OH

N8PZR 9254: TU JOHN GB ES 73 WALT N8PZR

N9RLO 4687: Thank you John! You've gone above and beyond the call of duty. I always look forward to contacting you on the sprints.

73, John N9RLO

N2EI 3317: Thanks for all you did to build up the club John. I will keep an ear out for you on the air.

T.J. "SKIP" AREY N2EI

ARRL Section Manager

Southern New Jersey

WA2FBN 3054: John Thanks for all the work you have done for the NAQCC group. As a 99% QRP CW operator I really enjoy the activities of the NAQCC group. Thanks again and enjoy your retirement from your very active role in the NAQCC group. Looking forward to more contacts with you in NAQCC events and your WPA chapter events.

72 Ken WA2FBN #3054

N9SE 7425: John, I want to thank you not only for the many years of work you have put into the NAQCC, but also for your dedication to showing what is possible using low power and compromise antennas. You have set a great example over the years, inspiring countless amateur radio operators to get on the air and enjoy the magic for themselves.

Regards,

Marty N9SE

N3UFJ 5942: John, Congratulations on "Retirement"! You are one of the strong heartbeats of the CW community! You are an inspiration to many to pick up the art of CW with the RARE style of "Follow me" here is how it's done along with the data, diagrams, and logs to show it can be done, simply, easily with just personal "dedication" to the art. Many people are afraid to jump in and try their fists until people like you come along and actually ENCOURAGE and work with the new operators. Many thanks for the work you have done in the community and here is to wishing you great propagation & great DX!

73 OM, Tom French N3UFJ NAQCC # 5942

WU7F 0257: John, I wish you a very happy new year, and best wishes to you as you move into "full retirement." I hope to work you on the bands soon.

72/73,

Mark, WU7F

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Of course it goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway - Obviously I did not run the NAQCC single-handed, nor did I technically start it. It was all the idea of Tom WY3H. I just immediately jumped aboard the train before it ever left the station to help Tom as a very busy Vice President. So all comments about running the club must be shared with others. There are too many to list here, but all members know who you are.



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.

STEVE SZABO, WB4OMM, #5915



I got my start in Ham Radio like many – in the Boy Scouts. On a weekend camping trip (June 1967) in Montrose, NY, a local radio club set up for Field Day adjacent to our campsite. One of the hams showed me how to operate on 20M phone. I wound up spending the night and wee hours of the morning making contacts on the radio! I was hooked! Later that year, Santa Claus (My Dad) was generous for Christmas, as we both went to the Heathkit Store on 45th Street in New York City (we lived in Manhattan) and purchased an HW-16 for \$115.95 – quite a bit of money in 1967. Studying for the Novice License (with no help, no Elmer, no Mentor), I tested successfully in late 1970, after two tries at the CW test! Yes, I passed it the second time and I got my Novice license in February 1971 and became WN2TAW.

A Junior in High School, I soon discovered girls and money (part-time work) and while I dabbled a bit on the radio (crystal control and 40W out to a poorly constructed dipole wasn't much to brag about), I made few contacts, all in the New York City area. I really didn't get back to the hobby until after I got married and moved to the Daytona Beach, Florida area (Port Orange, just South of the World's Most Famous Beach – the City where I still live). It was now early 1975 and I was now WN4OMM; a year later the FCC sent me a new license/call out of the blue. They changed me to WB4OMM (still a Novice Class, but they did away with the "N" designator). My first ever DX was a fella in Aruba on 40M CW. I was calling CQ and he responded to me with his "PJ" call, and I must have asked him a dozen times "agn?"

because I couldn't figure out the "screwy" call. I finally realized he was DX. I have no idea who it was, as the log I had with all of maybe 20 or so QSOs from my NYC and initial FL contacts through the end of 1975 got lost.

A divorce in 1976 would sideline me for a few years until 1979 when I bought my first house. I was still using the HW-16 (now with the HG-10B VFO). Propagation was great at the time, and I loved working 15M DX on CW (novice license, remember?). Purchasing a Heathkit HW-8 in 1979 got me into QRP. (No, I don't have that radio anymore – but wish I did!). I got remarried in 1980 and bought another house in 1981. I went from the HW-16, to a Heathkit HW-100; then a Yaesu FT-101EE, and a later, a Kenwood TS-520S. All the "usual toys" of a '70s era ham!

Kids and lots of overtime sidelined me again until 1986. Then I got involved with a vengeance! I started working the Novice bands regularly, getting Worked All States on CW in 1987 with the HW-16 and a 4BTV vertical antenna (talk about doing it the hard way). Then came the TS-520S, a tower and beam, and a Commodore 64 computer! I started contesting in 1987 and still love it today (the NAQCC Sprints are my favorite ham activity!!). There's a photo of my "computer assisted" station for the CQWW Phone Contest in the Contest Report of the CQWW in CQ Magazine in 1989 – the TS-520S, the Commodore 64 and CT Contest Logging Software – contained in the caption was the phrase, "the future of contesting". Boy, were they right!

I finally upgraded to General in 1990 (yep – 19 years with a Novice License!). I purchased a new Yaesu FT-767GX, and now had a HP 8088 (IBM Clone) Computer. Wow! I was big time that year!

Now in my fourth home, I have "The Dog House" – a 12x14 shed in the backyard as my "Ham Shack" - my XYL's idea! Really!! It is all about ham radio. With the exception of Satellite (I have the antenna, and I'm now trying to make a QSO), I have pretty much worked all the modes and bands available – but I like QRP-CW the best. My home station is a Yaesu FT-2000 with all the toys, but I regularly use my Elecraft KX-3 for contests. I also have lots of "home built" kits for QRP and QRPp.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to get all of the "usual" awards (5BWAS, 5BDXCC, etc.....). I stand at 326 on the DXCC list and have many contest certificates and plaques for my finishes. My proudest – I broke the World Record in 2014 for 20M QRP Unassisted in the CQWW RTTY Contest (I still hold the US Record for that one), and still the 20M North American/US Record for 20M QRP Assisted SSB the same year. Not quite CW....but still QRP! I have lots of "top Ten" finishes and Zone/ Division/Section Contest Awards. I've been lucky enough to finish 1st in my area/category in NAQCC Sprints a few times.

The QRP CW bug got really big when I started doing the "Parkpeditions" with a few other local folks some years back – the NAQCC Florida Chapter. I have lots of fun doing this every month, and over the years have made some great "friends" on the air! I finally got to eyeball some at Dayton a few years ago (W4KRN, K4BAI, WA2JSG, N2EI - just off the top of my head – and many, many others). I particularly like to send out "custom" QSLs for some of our outings. The Parkpeditions remain my favorite "outdoor activity". I look forward to each and every one of them! My NAQCC-FL Chapter folks are the best! Every outing is an adventure!

I'm currently the NFL Section Manager for the ARRL (2nd term); an Official Observer and Volunteer Examiner, and I belong to: NAQCC, SKCC, the Flying Pigs, QCWA (Life Member), OMISS, PODXS, The Rag Chewers Club, the Old Timers Club, The Wouff Hong Society and so many other "clubs" – but I enjoy NAQCC the most. I guess the fun of CW, the thrill of QRP sometimes using stuff I built has some "magic" in it for me (I am still amazed at what QRP CW can do!) - and the great folks and activities in NAQCC are additional reasons why it is my favorite Club and on-air activities. People are everything!

I'm also blessed to have an understanding "radio-proof" XYL. I'm a "semi-retired" Police Captain for the

Daytona Beach Police Department – which means that while I did officially retire in 2010, I now only work for them 30-40 hours a week! I also teach at the University of Central Florida (Go #15 Knights!) part-time.

I have a web page at www.wb4omm.com that has most of this “stuff” on it for your enjoyment. A page is dedicated to “I Built This”, “NAQCC-FL Chapter”, and “The Dog House”. I hope you can find the time to take a look! Yes, that HW-16 is there!



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: We again have two sprints to participate in this month. First up, on Jan 18, 0130-0330 (the evening of the 17th in North America) we have our regular monthly sprint. That is followed on the 24th (23rd in North America) with our annual 160-meter sprint from 0130-0330 UTC. ***Please be sure to read through all of the information elsewhere in this newsletter about the changes to our Autologger and database.*** Complete information about the sprints can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201801.html> and http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201801_160.html.

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

LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS: Does anyone have triskaidekaphobia? Well, if you look at our regular sprint results from last month you might develop it! The sprint was held on the 13th of the month and conditions were absolutely horrible over most of the country. As a result only 99 logs were submitted showing 136 total participants. The soapbox comment from KE5YUM was fairly typical: "*The bands were in pretty bad shape tonight. I heard no signals on 20 or 80 and very few on 40.*" Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201712.html>.

In December we also had one of our semi-annual QRPP sprints. In spite of the horrible conditions experienced the week before, 50-some members turned their power down and took to the air. We can't claim that the results were "outstanding" but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves anyway. Complete results can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201712mw.html>.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: KW9E WB4M WA3VXJ K4LNN KM4THR

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE AUTOLOGGER: Some significant changes have been made to our sprint Autologger page and all sprint submissions must now be posted through it - *directly emailed logs will no longer be accepted*. Some of the changes are more cosmetic but a lot of automatic error trapping has also been added to the input fields to help all of us decrease the error rate for our submissions. **Please be sure to read about these changes in both the *Key Clicks* and feature article in this issue.**

SPRINT MEMBERSHIP DATA FILES HAVE MOVED: The location where you can download the current membership data files for your supported sprint logging software has changed. You can now find links to those downloads at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html>. Please be sure to update your logger each month with the latest data file.

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	WB1GYZ	
W2	W2SH	W2NRA	
W3	K3JZD	K2DEP	
W4	WG8Y	K4KBL	W4OEP
W5	N5GW		
W6	WK6L		
W7	KC7DM		
W8	WV8DH	K8AG	
W9	W9CC	WB9HFK	
W0	NN0SS	KE0CU	
VE	VE3EDX		
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2	WB2LQF		
W3	K3WWP		
W4	KJ4R	WZ2N	
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8			
W9			
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KC1DVT		
W2	K2YGM		
W3	W3KWH		
W4	KB9ILT	KU4A	
W5	K5MBA		
W6			
W7			
W8	WA8SAN		
W9	KW9E		
W0	W9LHG		
VE	VE3DQN		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K4BAI		NN9K

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
VE7YU			

mW SPRINT SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H		
W2	KA2KGB		
W3	KD3CA		
W4	WD4OHD	WG8Y	
W5	N5GW		
W6	NS3C		
W7	KC7DM		
W8	W3NP		
W9	WB9HFK		
W0	W0ITT		
VE			
DX			

mW SPRINT SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2			
W3			
W4			
W5			
W6			
W7			
W8			
W9			
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

mW SPRINT SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M		
W2	WA1GWH		
W3			
W4	WB4OMM	K4KRW	
W5	W5WIL		
W6			
W7			
W8	W8SAN		
W9	N9SE		
W0	N0TA		
VE			
DX			

mW SPRINT GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K4BAI		NN9K

mW SPRINT FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	KX4S		N6MRS
mW SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
KM4THR			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	99	93	217	4/17
Participants	136	120	269	2/13
Total QSOs	817	1145	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	514	604	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	303	541	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	42	16	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	517	337	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	258	792	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	8.3	12.3	19.3	9/11

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

NUMBER OF SPRINTS	MEMBERS
50+	N0TA NU7T(SK) WG8Y NA4O N8BB AA9L WD0K K6MGO KB8FE KQ1P KA9FQG NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD
75+	K1IEE K4NVJ N4FI KD0V WA2JSG KB3AAG(SK) W4DUK WB8ENE VE3FUJ KE5YUM K4KRW N2ESE WX4RM NO2D WA8SAN
100+	WB8LZG N8XMS K4BAI KU4A KD2MX NF8M K4JPN K3RLL
125+	KA2KGP W2JEK W9CC W2SH
150+	K3WWP



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: For the first month of this new year we have an alphabet challenge that works with words related to the development of our Gregorian calendar. You can find the list of words and some very interesting information about our calendar at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201801.html>.

As explained in the Chapter News, the European Challenge program has ended.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The challenge for February is an alphabet challenge with words that are all related to rotary encryption devices. You can find the list of words along with some interesting information about the history of encryption machines at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201802.html>.

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>. Detailed general rules for our challenges can be found at http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html.

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The deadline for submitting entries for the December challenge is still a few days away but you can go to <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201712.html> to see what has been posted so far, and the final results will also be posted there shortly after the 10th of the month.

The European challenge results will be available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/december-2017-challenge/>.

Here is some more information about the great old boat anchors featured in our challenge:

SPAN MASTER : Allied Radio, Knight Kit regenerative receiver kit.



SUPER SKYRIDER : Hallicrafters, receiver, the name was shared by a number of models including the SX-16 and SX-17.



GOONEY BOX : Gonset, the six meter communicator transceiver, the nick name coming from its ugly duck appearance.



MOHAWK : Heathkit, ham band receiver, model RX-1.



WORLD MASTER : National Radio, the NC-88 receiver.



NAVIGATOR : E.F. Johnson Co., a cw only, low power exciter/transmitter.



TENER : Heathkit, a ten meter transceiver with superregenerative receiver, brother to the TWOER and SIXER, aka the " Benton Harbor lunch boxes ".



SUPER PRO : Hammarlund, the SP line of receivers, including the SP-200 and SP-600.



SIGNAL SHIFTER : Meissner Co., a HF exciter/transmitter.



ZEUS : Clegg, 6 and 2 meter AM/CW transmitter.



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.

NUMBER OF CHALLENGES	MEMBERS
25+	WI5H KU4A K9OSC KD0V PA0XAW WY3H N1JI VE3HUR N9SE N1LU KD2MX WA2FBN
50+	VE3FUJ NU7T(SK)
75+	K1YAN K1IEE
100+	W2JEK N8XMS
125+	
150+	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: WAVE (Worked All VE) Simple Wire Antenna Award

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

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

none



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. Questions should be directed to Net Manager Wayne, NQ0RP.

NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
FarnsWord 40 m QRQ Round Table Net (FRN)	Sunday 4:00 PM PT	Monday 0000 Z	7056 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
FarnsWord 80 m QRQ Round Table Net (FRN)	Sunday 7:30 PM PT	Monday 0330 Z	3556 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
FarnsWord 60 m QRQ Net (53N)	Sun & Thurs 5:00 PM PT	Mon & Fri 0100 Z	5348 KHz (Ch 2)	JB, NR5NN (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0100 Z	3565 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest Net QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CT	Tuesday 0130 Z	7061 KHz	Bob, W0CC (in KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental 20/40 QRS Nets (RMRc)	Tues & Thurs 4:00/4:30 PM MT	Tues & Thurs 2300/2330 Z	14060/7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0200 Z	3556 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 5 PM PT	Friday 0100 Z	3556.5 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)

Note: On the rare occasions that there is a conflict between one of our scheduled nets and one of our regular sprints the sprint will take precedence.

NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

NAQCC FarnsWord 40 and 80 Meter QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)

Sunday evenings 4:00 PM PT, which is Monday 0000 UTC on 7056 kHz +/-
 Sunday evenings 7:30 PM PT, which is Monday 0330 UTC on 3556 kHz +/-
 Main NCS - Rick N6IET (California); Backup NCS - JB NR5NN (California)
 December NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ 40- and 80-meter Nets

FRN/40m on 7056 kHz at 4PM PST Sunday (0000 UTC Monday)

Dec 03 - QNI (8) N6IET NCS, N7HRK/m, A16SL, N2FQ, NM5S, KW6G, K6GVG, K6JJR

Dec 10 - QNI (8) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, N7HRK/m, KE6EE, KW6G, K6GVG, NR5NN, WI6O

Dec 17 - QNI (8) N6IET and NR5NN co-NCSs, N7HRK/m, WI6O, W7SAG, KE6EE, WH7TT, K9CJM

Dec 24 - QNI (8) N6IET and W7SAG co-NCSs, K6GVG, WH7TT, A16SL, KE6EE, N7HRK/m, N6KIX

Dec 31 - QNI (7) N6IET NCS, A16SL, W7SAG, JB NR5NN, KW6G, WI6O, K6GVG

FRN/80m on 3556 kHz at 6PM PST Sunday (0200 UTC Monday)

Dec 03 - QNI (4) N6IET NCS, K6GVG, W7SAG, K7KY

Dec 10 - QNI (6) N6IET NCS, A16SL, K6GVG, KE6EE, WI6O, KW6G

Dec 17 - QNI (4) N6IET NCS, A16SL, WI6O, N6KIX

Dec 24 - QNI (1) N6IET
 Dec 31 - QNI (1) N6IET

NCS Commentary

CW nets help their participants to: (1) hone their CW skills, especially w.r.t. relaying and head copy; (2) learn how to use their rigs, especially their bandpass and noise filters and R.I.T.; (3) experiment with and test various antennas for the low bands; and (4) learn first-hand the intricacies of ionospheric propagation. I hope that FRN has served all of those purposes for its participants, as it has me.

The wide geographical coverage of FRN and our undependable propagation conditions mean that we won't always all be able to copy each other, and sometimes the NCS asks somebody to relay between two or more stations (especially between the NCS and a station that's either too close or too far away to copy). Almost every regular participant has volunteered to act as a relay station from time to time. If I sent QSP? that means I'm asking a volunteer who copies a station to relay their call or traffic to me or others.

Nearly every FRN participant has fiddled with antennas as a result of wanting to be heard better by other participants on the various low bands we've experimented with, including 160 and 60 meters.

And we've all become familiar with the notion of NVIS \bar{n} near-vertical-incident skywave propagation \bar{n} which allows close stations to hear each other. Generally, this past month, all three of our nets (including JB's 60-meter 53N) have started close at the NVIS max frequency (fxF2), which then often drops below our net frequency before the end of each net.

The fxF2 frequencies as recorded by ionosondes every 15 minutes at Point Arguello are well correlated with NVIS conditions for California stations. That frequency begins dropping shortly before sunset and drops steeply thereafter till about 7pm, after which it often rebounds slightly by 8pm and stays pretty much constant the rest of the night until sunrise. Lately, that figure has been too close to each net frequency at each net's starting time, which means close stations start losing each other partway through the net. So with the sparse sunspot activity we're seeing fxF2 at 6.5, 5.0, and 3.5 MHz at 4pm, 5pm, and 6pm, respectively, just in time to thwart good communications for each of our nets. That's Murphy's Law, isn't it?

Things should start to get better soon, as sunset begins to occur earlier and earlier during winter and spring. But just the same I've decided to push 80-meter FRN to a later time slot to take advantage of the frequent NVIS rebound, which we CW traffic handlers have noticed for the past year. 7:30pm should enhance our signals and copy-ability on 80 meters while giving some people a chance to have dinner between the 40m or 60m net and the 80m net.

Let's hope 2018 is a better year for HF propagation!

72/73/77 de Rick N6IET

NAQCC FarnsWord 53 QRQ Net (53N)

5332 kHz (Ch 1) Sunday 18h00 PDT, which is Monday 0100 UTC
 NCS(s) - JB NR5NN (CA); Rick N6IET (CA); John W7SAG (WA);

No report

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 3561 kHz +/-
 Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

12/5/17 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS N5DRG KE5YGA

Danny checked in but lost him in the QRB. Andy was 579 most of the QSO with heavy QSB.
 Band not to hot. Had to drop down to 3 .564kc due to QRM

12/12/17 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA WI5H

Andy was 579/589 with lots of QRN. Good copy.

Mike was QRP and 339 and then got clobbered with QRM. I assume the other station could not hear him.

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 7061 kHz +/-
 Main NCS - Bob Tenny W0CC (Kansas)

2017/12/04 QNI (1) W0CC

2017/12/11 QNI (1) W0CC

QSN S-7 at 2-3 Hz. Did not hear any stations return CQ. At 0201, changed frequency, heard another station calling CQ and he immediately responded to my reply. Had the good fortune to work several DX stations over weekend all on 5 watts. It must be Monday night Football!

2017/12/18 QNI (1) W0CC

QSN S-7. Did hear KD0DK (519) but with the QSB, was not able to complete QSO. Plan to be on the air 12/25 and 1/1.

=====

NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Nets (RMRc)

Tuesday/Thursday at 4:00 PM MST, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2300 UTC, on 14060 kHz
 Tuesday/Thursday at 4:30 PM MST, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2330 UTC, on 7062.5 kHz.
 Main NCS - Dale WC7S (Wyoming)

No report

=====

NAQCC West Virginia QRS NET (WVN)

Wednesday evenings 9:00 EST, which is Thursday 0200 UTC on 7117 kHz.
 Main NCS - John N8ZYA (West Virginia)

NCS N8ZYA W8GDP

Bad conditions with QSB. I heard very little across the 80 meter band so switched to 40 meters and was able to work PV8ADI in Brazil.

NCS N8ZYA WA8SIE

Very bad band conditions. Joe WA8SIE and I talked briefly about the busy Christmas season. Heard no other signals on 80 meters and very little on 40 meters.

=====

NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 7:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0300 UTC on 3574 kHz.
 Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

2017/12/01 QNI (6) NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW/7, WB4SPB, K7JUV, AD7BP, K6KIX

2017/12/08 QNI (4) KE7LKW NCS, KG7JEB, WB4SPB, K7JUV.

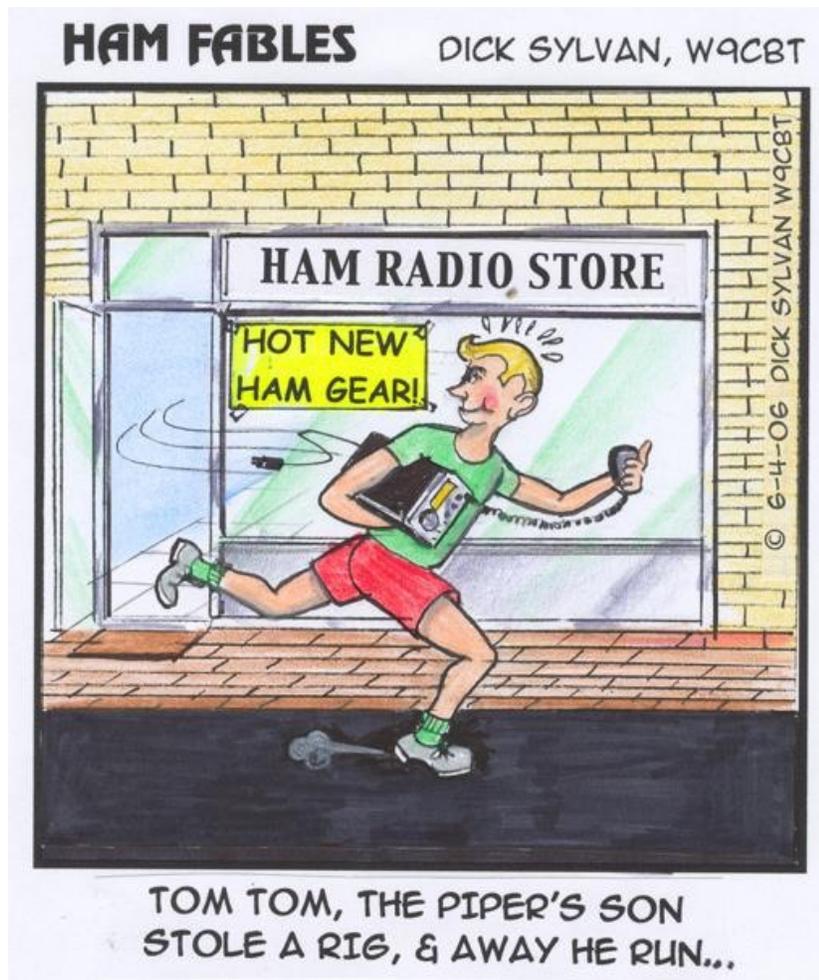
2017/12/29 QNI (5) KE7LKW NCS, KG7JEB, N7TES, AD7BP, W7OS.



HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #2062, has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very accomplished ham radio cartoonist and his work has appeared previously in the K9YA Telegraph newsletter. His book "HI HI - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons" is available at www.lulu.com.



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has eight local chapters - Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, West Florida, Central Texas, Illowa, Delmarva, 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 the Central Texas Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Danny, N5DRG.

The chapter is located in the Austin, TX area and maintains a website at <http://www.naqcc-centraltexas.net/index.html>.

No report available.

DELMARVA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Delmarva Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Bill, N3IOD.

The chapter is located in the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia area.

No report available.

DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Downeast Maine Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Jeff, KA1DBE.

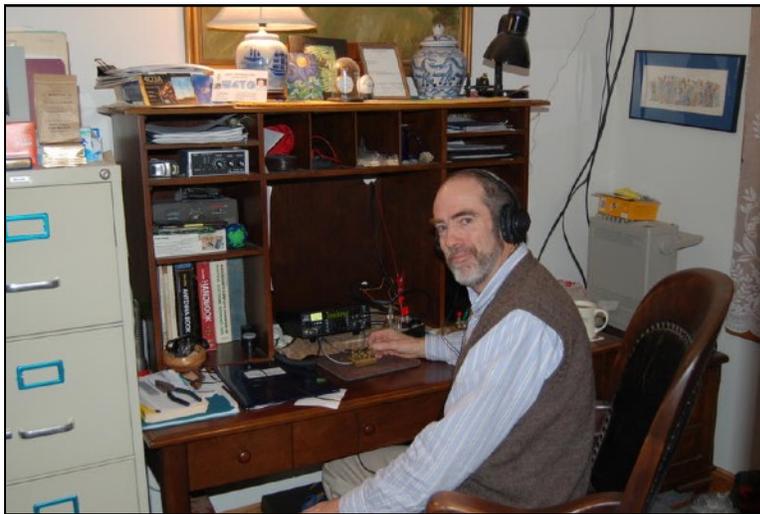
The chapter is located in the Hancock and Washington counties area of Maine.

Greetings from Downeast Maine. I hope everyone had a good holiday and rang in the new year in style.

This month I wanted to highlight working a major DX contest as a QRP station. This came up in a conversation I had with John, KQ1P (#3113) during our local radio clubs Christmas luncheon.

We were talking about the CQ World Wide DX-CW contest that had been the previous weekend. I had mentioned that I want to try one QRP one of these days and John had mentioned that he not only entered the contest, but placed #2 in North America on 20 meters QRP! (Raw score)

For some background, I am in awe of a lot of the talented CW operators that we have in the area and John is no exception. He is strictly a QRP CW operator and has even attained DXCC at the 1 watt level!



John, KQ1P at his operating position

I asked him to send me a write up of the CQWW-CW and here is what he had to say:

"I decided to work the CQ-WW-DX cw contest with my QRP station. I started on 40 meters and had zero success at first. I usually try to work all bands, hopping up and down as openings occurred. This year I decided to just stay on one band and I chose 20 meters. I would work all the stations I could, then take a break to wait for propagation to change. Conditions were less than spectacular, but I had success with Europe, North Africa, and the Caribbean. Asia and South America stations could be heard, but not worked. My game plan was relaxed and 20 was dead at night so I could sleep.

I submitted my score to CQ and to my surprise, I landed second place in the single band (20 meters, raw score) QRP category for North America. Next year we will have to try a little harder! I had a great

time on the air and was able to squeeze in some other weekend chores at the same time. I find contests to be a great way to work on building code speed and showing how well QRP stations can perform."

Below is the raw score totals for the 20 Meter QRP/North America:

1	YL3IZ/MM.....	26,862
2	KQ1P.....	5,226
3	W9YA.....	3,290
4	WD6DX.....	2,500
5	AI4VE.....	1,647
6	VA3RJ.....	1,300
7	K8ANM.....	24

All of this with a TenTec Argonaut V reduced to 5 watts and a 80/40 meter trap dipole at 20 feet through a manual tuner. Now I am just going to have to try it. Until next month, Very 72/73,

Jeff, KA1DBE

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER



Items in this section are from European Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Matt, MW0MIE.

The European Chapter is currently inactive.

Matt, MW0MIE, has announced that due to excessive time pressures with his personal and work schedules he needs to step down from the leadership of the European chapter. At the same time Ton, PA5LR, has announced his retirement from managing the monthly European chapter challenges. Both Matt and Ton have done a great job in these positions for many years and we certainly thank them both and wish them well as they move on.

This of course means that we have needs for some new workers in the European chapter. First priority would be to find a replacement for Matt and after that the situation with the challenges could be addressed. If you would be interested in stepping into this position or first have some questions about it please contact Matt at the email address given on the last page of this newsletter and cc a copy to club President Paul, N8XMS. Matt has stated that he will help transition a new person into the position.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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

The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb40mm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER MEMBER NEWS: DECEMBER 2017

A Favorite Location In Our Rotation!!



The WB4OMM station at the water's edge – NAQCC-FL Parkpediton at it's best!

On Friday, December 15th, 2017, the Florida Chapter of NAQCC returned to a local park favorite for our monthly adventure. We held our latest "Operation in the Park" at the Candace R. Strawn/Lake Dias Park in DeLeon Springs, Florida. This 20-acre park includes a boat launch, RV camping, playground, pavilions, grills, picnic tables and restrooms. It's quiet (usually), serene, and not heavily populated. A great ham radio location!

WB4OMM arrived at 9:00 am (EST local) and within minutes Nicole KM4SBQ arrived. We quickly set up the equipment in the not so warm conditions - it was 58 degrees with a pretty stiff breeze coming off the lake, making it a bit chilly. Shortly, Don K3RLL and Wally KG4LAL arrived, followed by Rick AA4W and John KD4JS. Don chose a picnic table near the water, Wally opted for the covered pavilion. As expected, the signals were not so good, propagation was still poor. Oh, for some sunspots!

This trip we had a total of 6 members/operators in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5913; Nikki KM4SBQ #8749; Don K3RLL 1905; Wally KG4LAL #6278; John KD4JS #8019; and Rick AA4W #1628.



Steve WB4OMM #5913

Elecraft KX-3, American Morse Equipment paddle, 5W to a Buddipole Antenna at the water's edge.

Steve worked 6 members in 6 states on 20M including K1YAN MA; K3SWZ in PA; WA2JSG in NJ; K3NLT in VA; KA5VZE in OK; and WA9TUT in IL.

The WB4OMM Station – Nikki KM4SBQ and Steve WB4OMM

Wally KG4LAL #6278

His station – Yaesu FT-817 to a dipole. Some weak signals heard, but no Qs.





Don K3RLL #1905

Don brought his new QRP Labs QCX transceiver (20M) with an AzScorpion Baby Black Widow paddle and Elecraft T1 Antenna Tuner – 4W to a 31-foot vertical at the water’s edge. No joy for Don on 40M, but he tried.

It’s a really nice rig!!

Rick AA4W #1628

Rick used Don’s KX-3 with 5W to contact non-member Dan WB5YUZ in TX on 20M using the vertical and 5W.





John KD4JS #8019

– spotting for us and taking the photos....thanks John!

No snakes this time.....but he was looking!!



Assembling the Buddipole for the WB4OMM station

It worked great!

Yes, we live in NORTH FLORIDA.

It gets kinda' cold here!



Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this another successful NAQCC-FL event!

NEXT MONTH'S SCHEDULED EVENT:

Friday, January 19th, 2018 starting at 9:30 AM EST
Hontoon Island State Park (2309 River Ridge Rd DeLand, FL 32720) – Park webpage with directions: [DIRECTIONS TO PARK AND INFO](#)

WHO: “The Usual Suspects” – Art WB4MNK, Steve WB4OMM, Rick AA4W, Don K3RLL, Wally KG4LAL, Bob W2EJG, John KM4JTE, John KD4JS, Phil NW4X, Nikki KM4SBQ (and whoever else can make it).

Visit our Web Page:
<http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter/>

Look for our announcement!

72/73 to all – Steve WB4OMM, #5913 - NAQCCFL@yahoo.com

The NAQCC-FL Chapter wishes all of our friends sincere, warm wishes, for a safe and Prosperous New Year!

NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Mark, KONIA.

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

The Illowa Chapter website is at <https://sites.google.com/site/naqccillowa2/>.

The Illowa group had a monthly chapter meeting **on December 14th** at the Bettendorf Village Inn with Dave, KD9VT, Tony, N9YPN, John, WS0G, Ann W0ANN, Tim, N9BIL, Matt, N9MAT, Mark, KONIA and Peter, NN9K attending. We discussed many operating matters, QRP equipment, and upcoming NAQCC events. Most of the discussion centered around the planning of another club kit build. The group selected the new uBitx transceiver. Those interested are encouraged to purchase their uBitx kits ASAP, as building will take place once we all have received our kits.

Our next meeting will take place on **Thursday, January 11th** at the Moline Village Inn.

NAQCC WEST FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Ron, N9EE.

The chapter's web site is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>.

No report available.

NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Virginia Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to John, N8ZYA.

The chapter's web site is at <http://n8zyaradioblog.blogspot.com/>.

No report available.

NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



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

Not many things to talk about as far as WPA Chapter activities this month.

Mike KC2EGL and I got together on December 14 to put some finishing touches on an article about the WPA Chapter that is going into a 2017 yearbook put out by the ARRL WPA Section Manager Joe W3BC that will feature activities by WPA Section members. We thought this would be an excellent chance to publicize our WPA Chapter as well as the whole NAQCC club. I'm not sure when it will be published, but when it is, it will be available on the ARRL WPA Section web site.

That same day, we also discussed plans for our 2018 chapter activities which will pretty much be a repeat of 2017 as follows:

February - South Hills Hamfest

June - Butler Hamfest - Mike and I are also scheduled to help activate the USS Requin for the Museum ships on the air event. That might be the same day as the hamfest

June - Field Day using N3A

July - FOBB from a park

August - Skeeter Hunt from a park

August - Skyview Swap and Shop

September - Unionville (near Butler) hamfest

October - NAQCC Anniversary operation of N3A

November - Washington, PA hamfest

November - Day before Thanksgiving on the Requin

Also as many as we can fit in of parkpeditions and subpeditions throughout the year.

We might also come up with some new events for 2018.

Hope you all have a great 2018 from all the WPA Chapter members.



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 John, K3WWP, #0002 —

I guess my big news this month is my final retirement from all NAQCC work. I now no longer have any input into the club's inner workings. I won't repeat more here since a full write-up is in my Farewell Address elsewhere in the newsletter.

It's getting rougher and rougher to keep the DX streak going as with the decreasing sunspots the daily window for working DX is closing more and more. The evening is just about shot except for an occasional opening on 40 meters, then later in the evening Europe has been fairly good on 80M. I worked two new 80 meters entities during December making my 80 meters total 61 entities worked - Switzerland from HB9CVQ and Sweden from SM4OTI. Both are verified via LoTW also.

As for the higher bands, they are dead in the evening. There will be an occasional DX station heard on 30 meters, but nothing any higher. About the best chance for DX now seems to be 20 meters from 1300-1500Z or so. A good number of my DX stations have been worked in that time frame the past couple months.

Nonetheless despite the adversity, the DX streak goes on, closing out 2017 at 1,767 consecutive days.

Since I took up a good bit of newsletter space with my Farewell Address article, I'll cut this short and simply close with an invitation to visit my web site at k3wwp.com for more news of my activities, especially in the web site diary.

Have a great DX filled 2018. Remember it's still very workable even as the sunspots decline. It's just not so easy nor abundant as in the peak sunspot years.



NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From NAQCC President Paul Huff, N8XMS

Amateur radio has something for everyone. SSB, FM, AM, the digital modes, and QRO power levels all have their place in this great hobby and we certainly recognize the importance of these modes as well as the enjoyment that they give to many. But for a growing number of hams the challenge of *“doing the most with the least”* makes QRP (and QRPp) CW operating the greatest thrill available in amateur radio, and the North American QRP CW Club exists to promote this exciting facet of the hobby. As part of our focus we also encourage, but do not limit operators to, the use of simple wire antennas.

The NAQCC provides numerous opportunities for hams to enjoy QRP/CW operating. For contester types we have a popular monthly 2-hour sprint that runs at relatively low CW speeds and at a fairly relaxed pace. Three special sprints also take place during the year for 160-meter and QRPp operators. For a month-long activity we offer our members a Monthly Challenge that can be anything from forming a list of words from the calls of stations worked, to making a prescribed number of contacts using home-brew gear. There is also an extensive awards program to recognize the significant QRP/CW accomplishments of our members.

We also serve as a resource for people who are just getting started in QRP and/or CW. Our slow-speed CW nets are a great place for beginners to practice Morse code under real on-air conditions. Beginners will also find a wealth of helpful information on our club website and we are more than willing to try to answer any questions about QRP and CW that you might have. An extensive monthly newsletter is filled with useful projects and news from fellow QRPers.

A number of local NAQCC Chapters offer opportunities to get together for in person socializing and QRP/CW activities. Portable operations are especially popular with the local chapters.

Whether you are a veteran ham radio operator who is looking for a new challenge in the hobby, or a beginner who is intrigued by the possibilities of QRP/CW communication, we cordially invite you to join us. Membership is free and the benefits and fun are significant.

The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has over 9000 members world wide. Membership is free and anyone interested in CW/QRP operating is welcome. Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and useful resources, can be found on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>. Inquires can 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.

NAQCC CONTACTS		
NAQCC President Newsletter Editor	Paul - N8XMS	paul142857@gmail.com
NAQCC Vice President West Virginia Chapter	John - N8ZYA	jspiker58@gmail.com
Delmarva Chapter	Bill - N3IOD	william.hammond@mchsi.com
Downeast Maine Chapter	Jeff - KA1DBE	ka1dbe@arrl.net
European Chapter	Matt - MW0MIE	matt@naqcc-eu.org
Florida Chapter	Steve - WB4OMM	wb4omm@arrl.org
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John - K3WWP	jsk3wwp@windstream.net
Central Texas Chapter	Danny - N5DRG	n5drg@naqcc-centraltexas.net
Illowa Chapter	Mark - K0NIA	iowamv@gmail.com
West Florida Chapter	Ron - N9EE	n9ee@tampabay.rr.com
Help For Beginners	Brion - VE3FUJ	ve3fuj@wightman.ca
Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul - KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
NAQCC CW Nets	Wayne - NQ0RP	wayne.dillon@gmail.com

REPRINT POLICY

Unless otherwise stated in the article, local clubs and other ham radio organizations are free to reprint featured articles from this newsletter, provided appropriate credit is given to the North American QRP CW Club and the author of the article. If at all possible a link to the club website at <http://www.naqcc.info/> should be included.