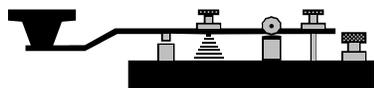
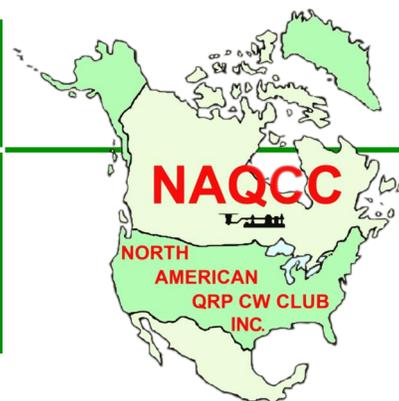


# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 267 • SEPTEMBER 2020



## KEY CLICKS

- **NEW PAYPAL ADDRESS FOR DONATIONS**

NAQCC Treasurer Jerry K4KBL says we have a new PayPal account. Please send your donations via PayPal to: [qrpcw1@gmail.com](mailto:qrpcw1@gmail.com)

- **GQRP CONVENTION 2020 — SEPTEMBER 5TH AND 6TH**



Our friends across the pond are doing a QRP convention via Zoom this weekend. Over 500 participants have already signed up and there's a great lineup of speakers (starting with Hans Summers) and topics. The morning sessions will be awfully early for most of us, but you'll have a chance to play them back at your leisure. <http://www.ggrp.com/convention.htm>

- **NEW ARRL CEO IS AN NAQCC MEMBER**

Our very own member #6781 David NA2AA was just elected CEO of the ARRL! "Primarily a CW operator, Minster collects unique and vintage bugs and keys." Congratulations David! Details on page 9.

- **LOTS OF FIRST-TIMERS IN THE AUGUST SPRINT!**

Welcome: AC2RL K4VLP K6GPB KG5OWB KJ4YM N0ZIB NZEIM N3OS W4KAC W7CBR & W9SAU.

- **KILOMETERS-PER-WATT CONTEST GIVES QRP OPS THE ADVANTAGE**

A new contest next month has a scoring system that rewards minimal power. Multipliers for cw and portable operations. Details on page 21.

- **IN THIS ISSUE**

A fun letter challenge you've 'herd' about, some handy tips, John KE4D tells his radio story, the Prez Sez he has lots of great news, a feature that *can* be beat, member polls, Sprints, awards, nets, and more.

- **YOUR STORIES NEEDED**

Send your article, project, or ham radio biography to Paul KD2MX [kd2mx@arrrl.net](mailto:kd2mx@arrrl.net)

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# THE PREZ SEZ...

## Greetings NAQCC Members!

I have a lot to report this month! And all great stuff!

Our Georgia Non-Profit application has been approved! We have received our new Federal EIN (a federal corporate ID number) and a filing has been made with the IRS for a Federal Non-Profit Status—we should know shortly. The website home page has been modified to reflect this and our bank has been notified. You'll see more changes reflecting this as we have time to update the site. Once complete, donations made to our Club will be tax-deductible.

Speaking of banking, our PayPal address for donations has changed—QrpCw1@gmail.com—we will have a “PayPal” button on our webpage shortly to make the donation process easier in the near future! And the donations continue to come in.....THANK YOU!!!

Our membership has increased to 10,435.....impressive! We continue to increase participation in the Sprints and Challenges, and the Nets hold their own. The Sprints continue to have lots of “first time” participants. FB! To those you have never tired any of these activities, maybe it's time you do—and see all the FUN you are missing!

Our Anniversary Celebration is almost here (October—next month) and we have great prizes for the Sprint and Challenge. We will have the list of available prizes and other information out shortly. Many great vendors generously donated prizes. Paul N8XMS will be providing that information—the prize list is also impressive!

Our Newsletter Editor Brent WT4U is always looking for submissions for the Newsletter—anything related to NAQCC or QRP CW. Send Spotlight Editor Paul K2DMX an e-mail if you have something to submit or need more info [kd2mx@arrl.net](mailto:kd2mx@arrl.net)

The Fall season is upon us—I can't wait for it to cool down here in the Sunshine State! Yeah, it's been a hot summer! Looking forward to those great winter season Sprints that don't have all the noise!!

Stay safe, KEEP YER DISTANCE, WASH YER HANDS, and get radio-active!

**72/73!**  
**Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913**  
**NAQCC President**



***A little bit of QRP on a wire goes a long way!***



# 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## SEPTEMBER UPDATE

We are just one month away from the celebration for our club's 16th anniversary and there will be plenty of fun activities for everyone to enjoy! (Go to [http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter\\_history.html](http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter_history.html) for an interesting account of the founding and early days of the NAQCC.)

## N3A SPECIAL EVENT

Those of you who like to collect "wallpaper" will have the chance to earn a certificate for working our N3A special event callsign during the week of October 11-17. This year more than 50 volunteer operators are preparing to put this call on the air from locations in all 10 US call districts as well as Alaska and Puerto Rico. These operations will generally be found near the standard QRP watering holes on the HF bands and will all be posted on our spotting page at [http://www.naqcc.info/spot\\_schedule.php](http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php). That page will be updated in almost real time throughout the week so you will want to check it often. The complete list of volunteer operators, along with details on how to get your QSL certificate can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).

## SPRINT PRIZES!

On October 14th (Tuesday the 13th in North America) we will have our regular monthly sprint with an anniversary bonus - special prizes valued at almost \$1000 will be given away to 10 lucky member participants! We have already announced that the grand prize will be a Mountain Topper QRP transceiver donated by Larry Draughn of LNR Precision Inc. We are going to keep the remaining nine prizes secret but they are all great items and will be revealed during the prize drawing.

As we have done in past years, there are two different tiers for the prize drawing. The top three prizes will be awarded to member-sprinters who have also accumulated a specific number of participation points in the first 9 months of the year. The eligibility requirement for the remaining 7 prizes is to simply be a member participant in the sprint. Complete details on these eligibility requirements can be seen at [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_16th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_16th_anniv.html).



Links to both the specific anniversary sprint as well as our general sprint rules can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html>.

## CHALLENGE PRIZES!

So maybe you're not much of a contester (although our sprints are a great place for non-contesters to get their feet wet). Don't worry, because our anniversary celebration really extends over the entire month through our monthly challenge. Member participants in the October challenge will also have a shot at winning three great anniversary prizes valued at more than \$200. Challenge details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202010.html> and drawing eligibility details are available on that same prize drawing page given in the previous paragraph.

So get ready to have some fun while celebrating the 16th anniversary of the NAQCC—the greatest club specifically dedicated to QRP/CW operating!

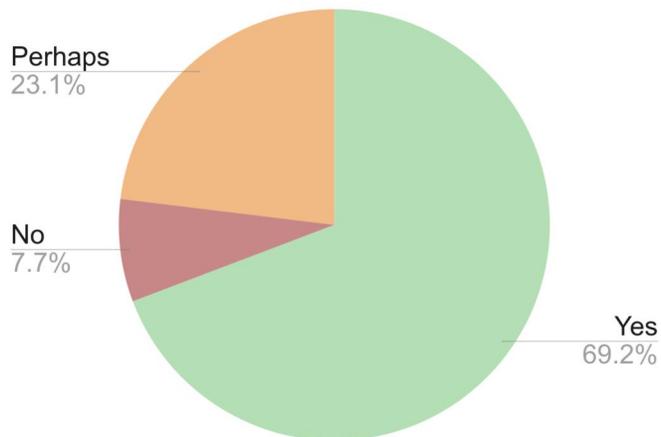


# MEMBER POLLS

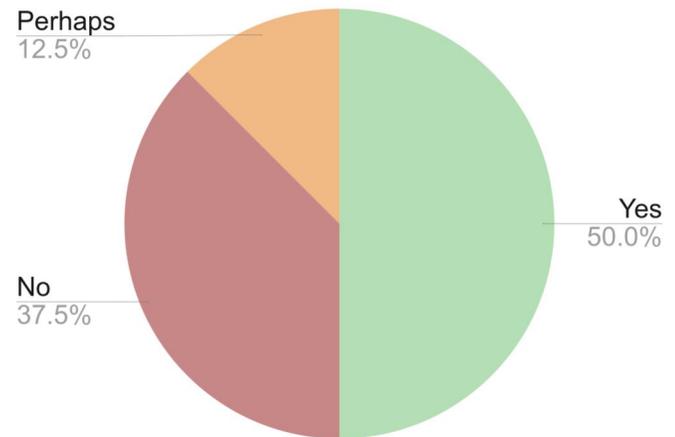
## AUGUST POLLS

Due to a technical glitch, the poll wouldn't accept answers for both questions, so here are the slightly less scientific results:

*"Will you be hunting N3A contacts?"*



*"Will you be operating as N3A for the event?"*



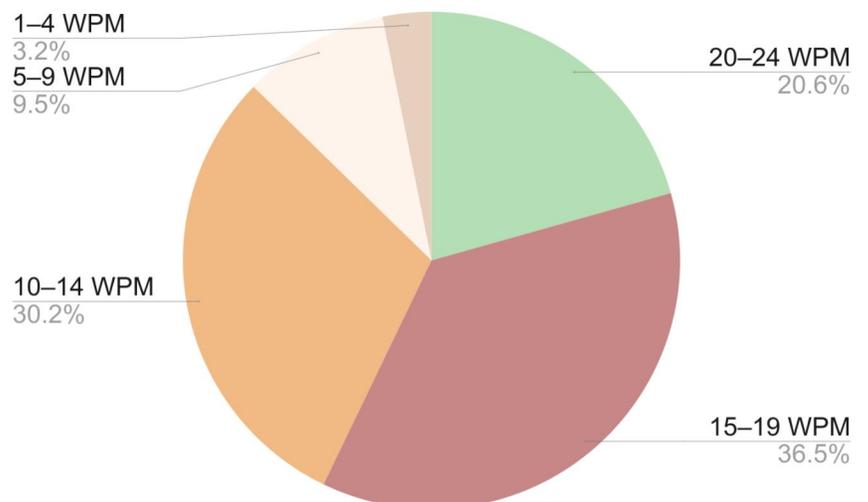
## SEPTEMBER POLL

Trying again: Are you going to participate in the 16th Anniversary N3A events? Let us know what you think: [http://naqcc.info/poll\\_new.html](http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html)

## OLD POLL

Back in 2014 we asked NAQCC members:

*"At what CW speed do you operate most of the time?"*



# 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.

## JOHN VEACH KE4D #7640

In 1969 I was a Junior at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL. The University had a radio station, K4FAU, which wasn't active at that time. One of the instructors at the lab school where I worked as a student aid brought the station online and I made my first contact with a ham in England. I was hooked.

### BUILD A RADIO, THEN GET LICENSED

A couple of years later while teaching in Indiana, I enrolled in the National Radio Institute Amateur Radio course and built my first receiver, a Conar, if I remember correctly. And I think the course including the radio kit was \$25, or \$5 a month.

In 1973 I moved back to Florida and got serious about getting licensed. I enrolled in a Novice class taught by Reid, WA4DNJ, now K7YX. I passed the Novice in the early Spring of 1974 and 16 weeks later I was the proud owner of WN4IKG. Later that year I upgraded to General and became WB4IKG. A year or so after that, I upgraded to Advanced and in 1978 I passed my Extra at the Miami FCC Office. The code was no big deal but I was teaching third grade and had no background in electronics so I struggled with the theory. At that time, there was no question pool to study. You read the books, studied and took the exam in front of the FCC.

Passing the Extra was a big deal as I really had to put a lot of effort into that test. I asked for an Extra class call and was issued KE4D. It was fun to have one of the early 2x1 calls. I got a lot of QSL cards with a SASE attached.



In 1979, my ham radio career launched me in a new direction. A fellow ham steered me to an interview with Southern Bell. I got hired, quit teaching and actually started doing some communication work, although I was in marketing working mostly as sales support at the time.

### QRP Rigs

That is when my interest in QRP began to blossom. I picked up an HW7, a Ten Tec Argonaut and then maybe a HW8. I remember working Rhodesia in South Africa with the Argonaut running less than a watt SSB on 10 meters.

Over the years I have had a number of QRP rigs including one of the first Yaesu FT-301SD, a 10-watter. Since then I have had a number of Elecraft QRP rigs, a bunch of kits from various sources including QRP labs and uBitx. My latest in the shack is an Xiegu G90, which is about a week old.

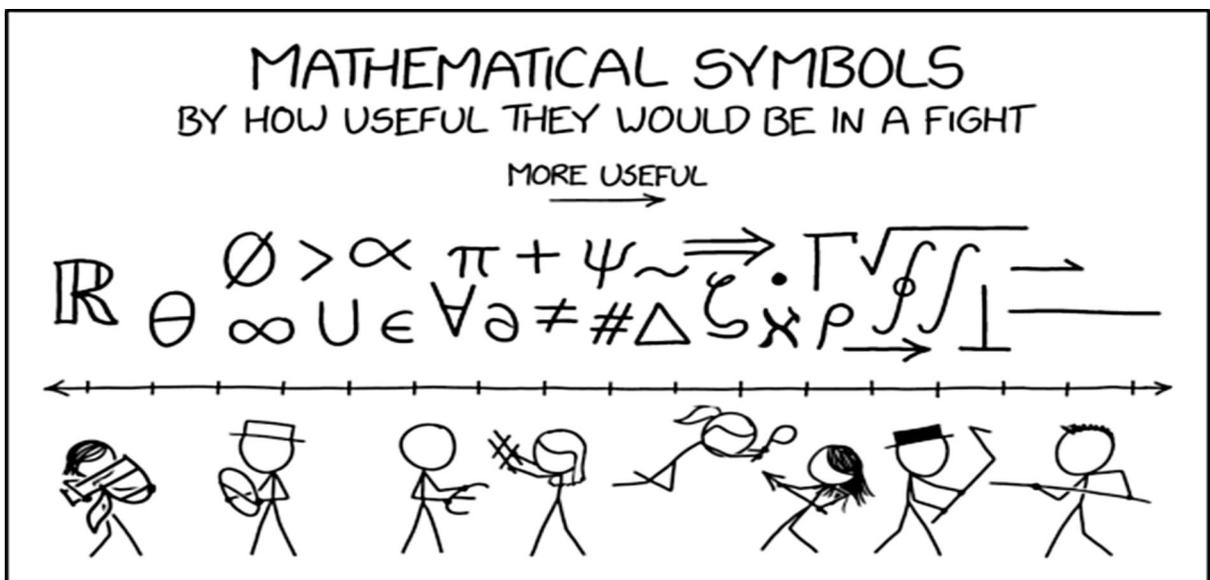
While I also have an IC7300 and an ALS 600, I really enjoy qrp work with my restricted antennas, a small steppIR and a fan-inverted-v for 80/40 with the apex at 20 feet. Living in a 55-plus community in Central Florida, my tower, beam, quad, full wave loop days are over but its fun to see how I can reach out with a few watts and minimal antennas and still work the world.

I worked a few QRP CW contacts in the NA QSO party this summer running 5 watts with my wire and G90. Unfortunately the radio didn't arrive until late Saturday so I didn't get a lot of op time for that one. I am looking forward to spending more time running QRP CW over the next few weeks.

73,  
 -John KE4D #7640



We have a one vertical antenna limit here, 20 feet or less. The inverted V is on the property belonging to the horse ranch behind us so we are not violating the antenna restrictions. I did manage to get this changed later to include a vertical and a wire antenna for a couple of other hams here who don't back up to the ranch.



# ZERO BEATING

JODY K3JZD #7936

Jack, a member of my local radio club, passed along an interesting story. Jack said that he was calling CQ on 20 meter SSB. He said that a fellow answered him, and that fellow proceeded to tell him that he was 'off frequency.' Since Jack had called CQ, he was a little confused by that comment. How could the station calling CQ be 'off frequency'?

Now Jack is an oldtimer who has been in this hobby nearly as long as I have. That is long enough to have started out by using a separate transmitter and receiver. At that time, you had to 'zero beat' your receiver (set the receiver to your transmitter frequency) so that you would be listening where you are transmitting. Then you would call CQ. The station responding to your CQ would have to 'zero beat' his transmitter frequency to his receiver frequency before calling you. If he got it right, then he would be heard and a QSO would commence. Both of these 'zero beat' operations were very routine, and soon became an acquired skill.

## ANY CLEAR SPOT?

Now, Jack said that before he called CQ, he had tuned around and found a clear spot. After not getting any response to his "is this frequency in use?" questions (QRL? on CW), then he proceeded to go ahead and call CQ.

Jack is now using a modern broad banded transceiver with a digital readout now days. So, he no longer has to worry about 'zero beating' any separate receiver. But his method of looking for a clear frequency has not changed. Jack said that whenever he is tuning around looking for that clear spot on the band, he only glances at the frequency that is displayed on his digital readout to insure that he has not strayed outside of the band. The frequency that is being displayed

whenever he has found his clear spot is of no interest to him.

## CHANNELIZED

Therein lies the problem. It seems that many folks who have started out with our modern broad banded transceivers with digital readouts have sort of 'channelized' the bands. By that, I mean that they seem to be adjusting their transceivers to a xx.xxx.000 frequency or to a xx.xxx.500 frequency before transmitting. Thus, in their mind, they are seeing these xx.xxx.000 and xx.xxx.500 frequencies as being the proper 'channels' where they should be operating.

Now, oldtimer Jack, operating the way that he always had, just happened to be calling CQ on the clear spot that he found at 14.312.163 mhz. The gentleman who called Jack and said that he was 'off frequency' was a newer ham. That gentleman apparently expected Jack to be on 14.312.000 mhz. So, he apparently was tuned to 14.312.000 whenever he said that Jack was "off frequency."

There is nothing in the rules that say that the responding station should 'zero beat' the calling station (tune his transceiver to the calling station's frequency). So, there are not any multiple



choice test questions on that. The need for the caller to 'zero beat' the calling station was something that the Elmers passed on and taught. Today, many new hams are Elmer-less, and are missing out on learning of some good operating practices.

### THE CW CONNECTION

So, what the heck does this SSB 'zero beating' story have to do with the NAQCC and CW operation? Well, a whole lot. Since CW has a narrower bandwidth than SSB, and since the human brain can pick one CW signal out of many that are being heard, a lot of CW signals can be in the 14.050.000 to 14.051.000 mhz window all at once. Not just three 'channelized' signals at 14.050.000, 14.050.500, and 14.051.000 mhz. So, just like with SSB, and maybe more so, there is a need for the responding station to 'zero beat' the caller, and not just assume that the caller is using any 'channelized' frequency.

Today's modern broad banded transceivers typically have very good receiver filters. Whenever I am operating the NAQCC Sprints, I am typically running a frequency. And I typically have my receiver filter set down to somewhere between 100 and 200 hz to reduce the noise so that I can hear the weak QRP signals. I am picking my clear frequency to call CQ on based on that very narrow receiver bandpass filter. So, if I am calling CQ on 14.050.712 mhz, and you are calling me on 14.050.500 or 14.051.000 mhz thinking that I am on one of those frequencies, I am not likely to hear you at all. You will have to 'zero beat' me in order to be able to successfully respond to my CQ NA.

### LET THE RADIO DO IT

While 'zero beating' a CW signal is an acquired

skill, some of today's modern broad banded transceivers will greatly assist you with doing that. My IC-7300 has an "Auto Tune" button which will 'zero beat' a CW station in most cases. My KX3 has a CWT indicator on the display to allow me to manually 'zero beat' a CW station. And the KX3 also has a 'SPOT' button which will automatically perform that 'zero beat' in most cases. If your transceiver has such a feature, it does not get any easier than that. I have a QRPGuys LA3ZA Zero Beat Indicator that I will sometimes use with my QCX-40 and my older transceivers. That handy operating aid will work with any transceiver.

***"How could the station calling CQ be 'off frequency'?"***

### CHECK THAT FREQUENCY

Another thing worth mentioning is that the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) Spots are often off by 100 hz. So, if you see a spot that says 14.050.300, and you tune your transceiver to 14.050.300, you may not actually be zero beating the station because he may actually be at 14.050.400. So tuning to that Spot frequency with your digital display will get you close. But then quit looking at your display and do the final tuning to 'zero beat' the station by ear.

I'm sure that as I continue to work the Sprints that I will continue to find stations calling CQ at the pseudo 'channelized' frequencies (14.050.000, 14.050.500, 14.051.000, 14.051.500, 14.052.000, etc). And I'm sure that some search and pounce stations will just tune to those frequencies as they work their way up the band. But, by doing so, you will probably go right by many other 'non-channelized' stations like me who are calling CQ 'off frequency.' But, you will have to 'zero beat' them in order to work them because if you don't, then you probably will not be heard.

Jody – K3JZD – NAQCC 7936



# NAQCC MEMBER DAVID MINSTER NA2AA, #6781 NEW ARRL CEO

The ARRL Board of Directors has elected David Minster, NA2AA, of Wayne, New Jersey, as ARRL's new Chief Executive Officer, starting on September 28. Minster is currently Managing Partner at Talentrian Partners, a management consulting firm serving the consumer goods and luxury goods industries.

“Building a culture of accomplishment and accountability is what I do best. My initial focus will be working with the Board on establishing strategic goals and concrete plans to navigate ARRL through the digital transformation required for the coming decades of its Second Century. This includes exciting and innovative ways to be engaged in amateur radio, while growing activity and membership.”

Minster got his Novice license, WB2MAE, in 1977, when he was in his teens. He progressed from Advanced to Amateur Extra and, after a stint as NW2D, he settled on the vanity call sign NA2AA in the 1990s as a way to honor a mentor, N2AA, and the contest station that he used to frequent, K2GL, in Tuxedo Park, New York.

Minster's ham radio pursuits have ranged far and wide over the years. His background includes National Traffic System training and participation in public service events, as well as contesting from home, club stations, and contest stations in the Caribbean — particularly on Bonaire, where he is a member of PJ4G. **Primarily a CW operator, Minster collects unique and vintage bugs and keys.**

In addition to being an ARRL member, Minster is a member of AMSAT, the Frankford Radio Club,



the Straight Key Century Club, CWops, and the **North American QRP CW Club.**

“I spend every day of my life, one way or another, engaged in amateur radio. It is more than just a hobby for me; it is my community. It is where I live; where I have built lifelong friendships, and friendships that span the globe. Amateur radio allows me to dream and to experiment. I can't wait to bring my energy and boundless enthusiasm in service to ARRL.”

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said, “We are excited to welcome David as our new CEO, and look forward to his progressive leadership. His experience in management and operations, plus his activities in amateur radio, will serve our organization and members well.”

# NAQCC SPRINTS

## SEPTEMBER SPRINT

Our Sprint this month will be on Thursday, September 17, 2020, 0030-0230 Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, September 16 here in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202009.html>.

## RULES

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_rules.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html). On that page you will also find information about the different computer loggers that are supported for our sprints. The membership data files for those supported loggers can be downloaded at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>. **Please be sure to always get the latest membership data for your logger about a day before the Sprint.** A complete schedule for our upcoming sprints can be found at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_sked.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html).



Sprints earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the 16th Anniversary drawing—including the brand new **MTR3b LCD Mountain Topper!** See [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_16th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_16th_anniv.html).

## LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202008.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next page.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time regular sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: AC2RL K4VLP K6GPB KG5OWB KJ4YM N0ZIB NZEIM N3OS W4KAC W7CBR W9SAU

August Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	132	107	217	4/17
Participants	171	147	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1583	1377	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	910	746	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	670	631	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	75	280	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1328	986	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	177	111	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	12	12.9	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>W1</b>	KN1H	K1MZM	NQ1B
<b>W2</b>	KA2KGP	W2SH	W2JEK
<b>W3</b>	K3EW	AH6AX	K3JZD
<b>W4</b>	K2UFT	KC5F	KJ4YM
<b>W5</b>	N5GW	KY5M	K5TSK
<b>W6</b>	NF6R	K6GPB	-
<b>W7</b>	KF7WNS	KC7DM	K7RLN
<b>W8</b>	WB8LZG	N8KQ	W8DXU
<b>W9</b>	WB9HFK	K9QEW	K9EYT
<b>W0</b>	AA0W	W0LGU	N8LA
<b>Canada</b>	VE3KZ	VE9VIC	VA3NU
<b>DX</b>	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>W1</b>	WB1GYZ	-	-
<b>W2</b>	-	-	-
<b>W3</b>	K3RLL	NN3E	K3WWP
<b>W4</b>	KJ4R	W4EDN	-
<b>W5</b>	NF5U	-	-
<b>W6</b>	W6JIM	-	-
<b>W7</b>	N7QR	-	-
<b>W8</b>	-	-	-
<b>W9</b>	AA9L	-	-
<b>W0</b>	W9KFG	-	-
<b>Canada</b>	-	-	-
<b>DX</b>	-	-	-

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>W1</b>	N2CN	KB1M	WB1HGA
<b>W2</b>	K2OID	WA1GWH	NC1A
<b>W3</b>	NR3Z	-	-
<b>W4</b>	WB4OMM	K4KBL	N4MJ
<b>W5</b>	WI5H	K5WX	-
<b>W6</b>	W8KO	WU6P	-
<b>W7</b>	WY7N	KI7LW	N7IMI
<b>W8</b>	WX8J	WI8J	N8HZM
<b>W9</b>	AB9CA	AB9BZ	W9SAU
<b>W0</b>	N0TA	K9OSC	N0MII
<b>Canada</b>	VE3DQN	VE3GNU	VA7CLW
<b>DX</b>	-	-	-

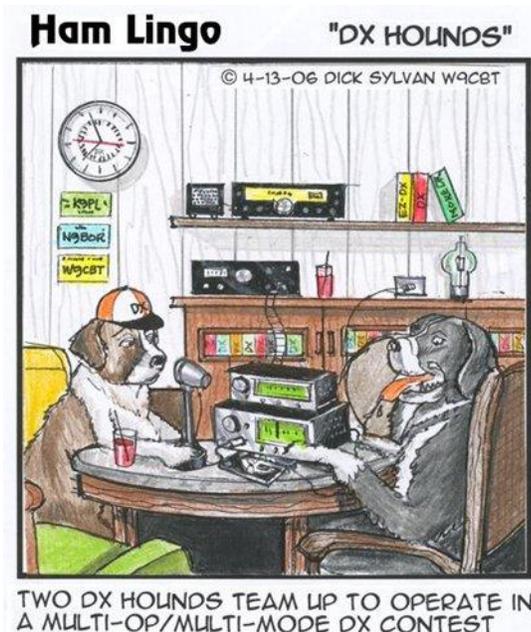
GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>SK</b>	KQ1P	-	-
<b>BUG</b>	-	-	-
<b>K/K</b>	K4BAI	KL7CW	-

FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>SK</b>	KJ4YM	N0ZIB	W4KAC
<b>BUG</b>	-	-	-
<b>K/K</b>	W9SAU	-	-
SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
<b>N8KQ</b>			

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

Number of Sprints	Members
50+	NU7T(SK) N8LA K9EYT KF7WNS KD3CA KB0ETU N2CN K2YGM AA7CU NQ2W KC7DM NF5U N8QY WY3H WI5H WA1GWH WB4OMM K6CSL AA0W KB1M WK6L KC2EGL W5UAA WA2FBN VE3DQN K4ORD AB8FJ NN0SS K2HT WB1GYZ VE5BCS(SK) VE3GNU WB9HFK
75+	AA9L K4NVJ NO2D AK3X KB3AAG(SK) KA9FQG VE3FUJ NA4O WD0K N8BB N5GW KQ1P KN1H K6MGO K9OSC N4MJ <b>N8APO</b>
100+	KE5YUM KD2MX K1IEE KD0V WA2JSG N4FI W4DUK N2ESE WB8ENE WX4RM WG8Y W8SAN N0TA K4KRW
125+	N8XMS K4BAI KU4A NF8M K3RLL <b>K4JPN</b>
150+	W2JEK W2SH W9CC WB8LZG
175+	KA2KGP K3WWP



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](http://www.lulu.com).

# NAQCC CHALLENGE

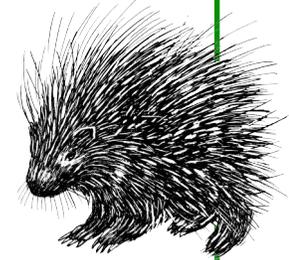
BY GARY, K1YAN #2365

## THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: ANIMAL GROUPS

Here is a little quiz for all you outdoor types and those who watch the nature shows on TV. I'm sure you can identify most of the rare and exotic animals out there in nature by name, but, do you know what they are called when they get together in groups? The folks who came up with these

groups were certainly some of the more creative givers of names. Here is a list of the group names and a list of the animals. See how many you can match up. Check out the answers on the next page to see how you did.

### CONNECT THE ANIMAL TO THE GROUP



- APE
- BAT
- BEE
- BUZZARD
- COBRA
- CROCODILE
- CROW
- JELLYFISH
- LARK
- OTTER
- PARROT
- PORCUPINE
- TURKEY
- ROMP
- PRICKLE
- CAULDRON
- SHREWDNESS
- WAKE
- MURDER
- EXALTATION
- PANDEMONIUM
- QUIVER
- GRIST
- BLOOM
- BASK
- RAFTER





## NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

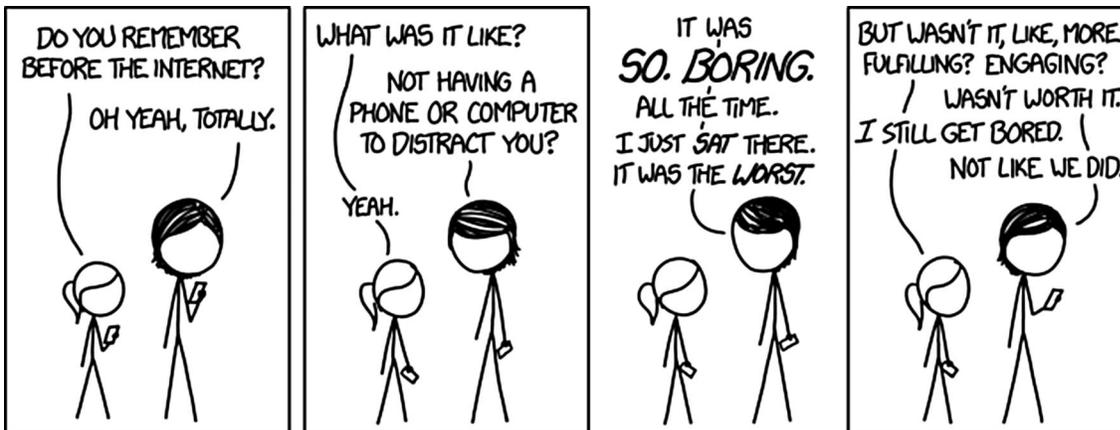
It is that month where spooky, dangerous and bizarre creatures roam the land, sowing terror and destruction as they go. You think an ocean cruise, to escape all this mayhem, might be just the thing. Perhaps not your best idea. Over the centuries, the sea has spawned a cast of terrors the equal of any found on land. Hailing from around the world and roaming the seas at will, they are the subject of our challenge. Check out the next newsletter for the whole story.

## LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our July "Their Names Became Words" Challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202008.html> and final results will be posted on that page shortly after the 10th of the month.

Number of Challenges	Members
25+	W3IQ KU4A K9OSC KD0V WA2FBN WI5H WY3H N1JI VE3HUR G3JFS N1LU KJ4R KD2MX AK3X VE3DQN KA5PVB AH6AX WB4OMM KB1M
50+	PA0XAW VE3FUJ NU7T(SK) N9SE PA9CW <b>NF1U</b>
75+	
100+	K1IEE K1YAN
125+	N8XMS
150+	K3WWP W2JEK

  Challenges earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the 16th Anniversary drawing—including the new **MTR3b LCD Mountain Topper!** See [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_16th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_16th_anniv.html).



# NAQCC AWARDS

You may already be a winner! NAQCC has an extensive list of awards. Check your log to see if you're close, or just need to submit. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>.

## FEATURED AWARDS:

### QSO-A-DAY

This award, which is renewed annually, is designed to encourage hams to spend more time on the CW bands thus increasing the CW presence there which is so important in this day and age. The award was initially suggested by K4UK in a QSO with K3WWP late in 2004. It is based on K3WWP's 'streak' of having made (and continuing to make) at least one QRP/CW QSO each day since August 5, 1994.

Note the new additional DX endorsement.

### TIME FRAME FOR QUALIFYING QSO'S:

January 1, 0000Z through December 31, 2400Z of the current year. The award starts over again each year.

## BASIC AWARD PREMISE:

Make at least one QSO per day.

## CATEGORIES:

1. FULL YEAR - Make at least one QSO on each of the 365 (366) days during the calendar year.
2. PARTIAL YEAR - Make at least one QSO on each day of the following number of calendar months in the calendar year:
 

2A. 11 MONTHS	2G. 5 MONTHS
2B. 10 MONTHS	2H. 4 MONTHS
2C. 9 MONTHS	2I. 3 MONTHS
2D. 8 MONTHS	2J. 2 MONTHS
2E. 7 MONTHS	2K. 1 MONTH
2F. 6 MONTHS	
- 3A. 30 DAYS - Make at least 1 QSO on each day of a consecutive 30 day period during the year. The 30 days can span months.

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

### 1000 Miles per Watt:

Nr	Call	Stn worked	MPW	Award Date	
0559	K9OSC	N5SJ	10,461	08/05/20	CF Zepp @30'



Awards earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the 16th Anniversary drawing—including the brand new **MTR3b LCD Mountain Topper!** See [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_16th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_16th_anniv.html).



# 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 Mark, W8EWH.

NAQCC Net Schedule				
Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)	Sunday	Monday		
	5PM PDT	0000 Z	5332 kHz (ch1) Alt = 5348kHz	60m JB NR5NN (CA)
	8PM PDT	0300 Z	3556.5 kHz <i>New freq</i>	80m Rick N6IET (CA)
	Tuesday 8PM PDT	Wednesday 0300 Z	7046 kHz	40m Rick N7HRK (MT)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7pm CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7066 kHz Summer 3568 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 CDT	Tuesday 0030 Z	14031 kHz <i>(Returns to 7031 kHz after Sept 14)</i>	Bob W0CC (KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/ Continental QRS	Tues/Thurs 10:30 AM MDT	Tues/Thurs 1630 Z	7062.5 kHz	Dale WC7S (WY)
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (WA)
West Coast QRS Net (WCN)	Suspended			
The 1 Land QRS Net (1LND)	2nd & 4th Sundays of the month 8pm EDT	Monday 0000 Z	3560 or 3565 kHz	Ed K1RID (ME)

**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 QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)

Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0000 UTC, on 5332 kHz (Ch 1)

Sunday evenings 8:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0300 UTC, on 3556.5 kHz +/- **New frequency**

Tuesday evenings 8:00 PM PDT, which is Wednesday 0300 UTC on 7046 kHz +/-

60m NCS - JB NR5NN (CA); 80m NCS - Rick N6IET (CA); 40m NCS - Rick N7HRK (MT)

The NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ CW round table nets ...

... promote head copying skills while encouraging participants to send good, properly-spaced code at between 21-25 wpm. We typically go two rounds after check-ins, including signal reports and topical commentary about the weather, the pandemic, recent contests or other CW events, antenna experimentation and/or catastrophes, and HF portable CW operations.

Anybody who can copy and send at least 15 wpm is welcome to participate—you don't have to be a member of NAQCC.

Because of the multiple round-table nature of our net, it's best if we all are able to copy each other, which can require occasionally moving net times to take advantage of seasonal changes to NVIS propagation conditions and times. If conditions are not ideal, some of us sometimes QRO (but never over 100 watts) to facilitate everybody copying each other.

We had a few rough evenings on FRN/60, with marginal NVIS propagation, but conditions have been improving with the shorter daylight hours and the occasional blooming of a new Cycle 25 sunspot.

Polar Bear Rick (N7HRK/M) has been giving us great QRQ practice during FRN/40 (at 25 wpm) and even faster, post-net (up to 35 wpm). Send at whatever speed you're comfortable.

**Below are the lists of stations who checked into each net, each week. Dates are UTC.**

FRN/60 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - JB NR5NN NCS

Sunday 5pm PDT (Monday 0000 UTC) on 5332 kHz (Ch 1)

Aug 03 - QNS (8) NR5NN NCS, WJ7S, KW6G, W6MK, N6IET, AI6SL, K6JJR, K6GVG

Aug 10 - QNS (10) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, K0DTJ, W6MK, AI6SL, KW6G, N6IET, WJ7S, K6GVG

Aug 17 - QNS (9) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, KW6G, K6GVG, K0DTJ, N6IET, WJ7S, AI6SL, W6MK

Aug 24 - QNS (11) NR5NN NCS, AI6SL, K0DTJ, K6GVG, K6JJR, KW6G, N6IET, N6VN, WJ7S, NS3C, WI6O

Aug 31 - QNS (10) NR5NN NCS, AI6SL, K0DTJ, K6GVG, K6JJR, KW6G, N6VN, NS3C, W6MK, N6IET

FRN/80 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - Rick N6IET NCS

Sunday 8pm PDT (Monday 0300 UTC) on 3556.5 kHz ±

Aug 03 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, KW6G, K6GVG, W6MK, K0DTJ, NR5NN

Aug 10 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, NR5NN, AI6SL, K6GVG, K6JJR, K0DTJ, KW6G

Aug 17 - QNS (8) N6IET NCS, NR5NN co-NCS, K0DTJ, N6KIX, K6JJR, K6GVG, KW6G, N6VN

Aug 24 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, KW6G, K6JJR, AI6SL, NS3C, K6GVG, WI6O

Aug 31 - QNS (9) N6IET, K6JJR, K0DTJ, AI6SL, K6GVG, N6VN, NS3C, KW6G, W6MK

FRN/40 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - PBRick N7HRK/M NCS

Tuesday 8pm (Wednesday 0300 UTC) on 7046 kHz ±

Aug 05 - QNS (5) N7HRK/m, K0DTJ, KW6G, K6JJR, N6IET

Aug 12 - QNS (7) NCS N7HRK/M, KW6G, K0DTJ, WJ7S/P, N6IET, K6GVG, WI6O

Aug 19 - QNS (7) N7HRK/m NCS, KW6G, K6GVG, N6IET, NS3C, WI6O, W7XP

Aug 26 - QNS (9) N7HRK/M NCS, K6GVG, KW6G, K0DTJ, NS3C, WJ7S/P, W7XP, WI6O, W6MK

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## NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0000 UTC, on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3568 kHz +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

Aug 4 - QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA N4NN

Well, Andy was 599+20 last night. Sure he was QRO and great signal. He gave me a 579. Allen was 559 but solid copy thru his QNI. KE5YUM tried to check in but I could not hear him again this week.

Aug 11 - QNI(1) NCS KA5TJS

Well, no check ins last night. Looks like the band was long. Summer conditions on 40 meters.

Aug 18 - QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N4NN

Conditions were poor but managed to copy all 3 check ins mostly. Lost YUM during our QSO, QSB.

Aug 25 - QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS N4NN

Only managed to hear Allen tonight in GA. Band was long and other stations were both in AR. and could not copy.

Sept 1 - QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA

40 meters was very long and signals very weak. I suggested we try 3566 kHz and that worked very well. The noise level was high but we could all hear each other. Signals were 579/589 here in ETX. We will probably use this as a fallback frequency for a while with the strange conditions we are having at this time.

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## NAQCC ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL/CONTINENTAL QRS NETS (RMRC)

Tuesday and Thursday mornings 10:30 AM MDT, which is 1630 UTC on 7062.5 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Dale WC7S (Wyoming)

No Report

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## NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0030 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas)

Aug 3 - No Report

S-6 QRN. NO stations on 20 Meter CW, either that I could receive or spotted! Looking for better band conditions for tomorrow night!

Aug 17 - QNI W0CC

The CW portion of the band was dead! There was only ONE spot, R0RT, and I could only hear the US station. Had one faint 0-1 signal and could not determine if they were responding to my call. The bands will be better next week!

Aug 24 - QNI W0CC

The 20 meter CW band was dead! No stations could be heard and no stations spotted. Switched to 40 meters, heard a few stations in QSO, no response to calling CQ. The bands will improve next week!!

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## NAQCC WEST COAST NET (WCN)

Net suspended until further notice.

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## NAQCC PACIFIC NORTHWEST QRS 80 METER NET (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 7:00 PM PDT, which is Friday 0200 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

Aug 07 - PNW QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW/P, WB4SPB, AD7BP, W7ANM, N0DA, N7IMI, K7JUV

Aug 14 - PNW QNI (9) NCS KE7LKW, N6KIX, WB4SPB, AD7BP, N0DA, N7IMI, K7JUV, WB7WHG, W7ANM

Aug 21 - PNW QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, AD7BP, W7ANM, N0DA, K7JUV

Aug 28 - PNW QNI (4) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, K7JUV

## NAQCC 1 LAND QRS NET (1LND)

Second and Fourth Sundays of the Month at 8:00 PM EDT, which is Monday 0000 UTC  
on 3560 or 3565 kHz +/-  
Main NCS Ed K1RID (Maine)

No Report. Conflicts and lightning meant no nets this month.



# A CONTEST THAT GIVES QRP AND PORTABLE THE ADVANTAGE

## SCORING BASED ON KILOMETERS-PER-WATT

A new contest levels the playing field between the Big Guns and the Little Pistols who operate a portable station. It's called the Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operations Challenge. The scoring metric is the distance-per-power metric with multipliers for portable operators and the difficulty of the transmission mode.

Operating Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters

Contact Exchange CALLSIGN, Station class (Q or P), running contact serial number starting with 1, 4-digit Maidenhead locator.

## PICK 8 HOURS IN THE FIRST WEEKEND OF OCTOBER

First weekend in October, which is October 3rd & 4th this year, 2020. Contest operation time – 8-hour contiguous window within the 48-hours. Operation outside of this 8-hour window contacting other POC competing stations is not allowed and will be controlled through log checking—this is to avoid entrants “cherry picking” of the best 8 hours.

[foxmikehotel.com/challenge](http://foxmikehotel.com/challenge)



***New Contest!***

**October 3 & 4, 2020**

[foxmikehotel.com/challenge/](http://foxmikehotel.com/challenge/)

# Portable Operations Challenge



# NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has six local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, 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.

## NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

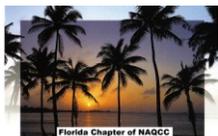


Items in this section are from the Long Island Chapter unless otherwise credited.

Questions and comments should go to Howard, WB2UZE.

No Report

## NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Florida Chapter of NAQCC

Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Nikki, KM4SBQ.

The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

No Report

## NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Tim, N9BIL.

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/>.

## 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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>.

No Report

## 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.

The WPA Chapter has suspended all its activities until further notice because of the virus situation.

## NAQCC 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.

No Report



# 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. [kd2mx@arri.net](mailto:kd2mx@arri.net)

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

## Homebrew Co-Axial Feedthrough Adapter

Tom VE4AKI #8145

Here is a problem being more frequently encountered by many hams. Some of us are experiencing more restrictions on establishing an amateur radio station in their living arrangements, i.e. condos, HOA'S. If they are able to install an outside antenna, the difficulty arises as to getting the coax feedline into the shack.

A fellow ham recently approached me with this problem. Not wanting to do any damage such as drilling holes etc., it looked like the best solution was using a convenient window. A feedthrough panel was ruled out for this style of window. After some research it was found that a couple of flat coax feedthrough adapters were available for this very problem. These adapters are not stocked in Canada and after factoring in shipping costs proved to be more than the budget allowed. So, I thought I would try homebrewing one.

The included photo shows the result. The "center" conductor is 300 ohm indoor type twinlead robbed from old TV rabbit ears. Over the twinlead I slid the braid from some RG59 coax after enlarging it slightly with a wooden dowel. The center conductor [both

wires] were soldered to the center pin of a SO239 at each end. The braid is soldered to a SO239 hood at each end. Hoods were attached with small bolts and nuts. After some flattening the resulting thickness was less than 1/8 inches.

The adapter was checked with a multimeter and no shorts or opens were found. A quick test with my own antenna showed a just perceptual increase in SWR from 1.5:1 to 1.55:1. So far so good. Further tests showed that as much as 100 watts could be used without any adverse effects.

Total cost was 0\$ as my junkbox had everything that I needed.



# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Amateur radio has something for everyone. For a growing number of folks, the challenge of "doing the most with the least" makes QRP (and QRPp) CW operating the greatest thrill available in amateur radio. The North American QRP CW Club Inc. exists to promote and pursue designing, information sharing, building, and operation of low power, Morse Code enabled Amateur Radio (FCC Part 97) equipment with simple wire antennas for both emergency and personal communications purposes, an exciting facet of the hobby.

The NAQCC provides numerous opportunities for hams to operate in QRP/CW activities. For contest types we have a popular monthly 2-hour sprint that runs at relatively low CW speeds and at a fairly relaxed pace to increase code skills and experiment with different antennas. Three special sprints also take place during the year for 160-meter and QRPp (less than 1W of power) 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, sharing information on low power Morse operations. 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 these web pages and we are more than willing to answer any questions about QRP, CW, and simple wire antennas 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.

## 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.

## NAQCC CONTACTS

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Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
NAQCC CW Nets	Mark W8EWH	mark.yergin@gmail.com

NOTE: These email address are not automatic links.  
They are given here in graphic form to avoid harvesting by spambots.

The North American QRP CW Club Inc., is organized exclusively for scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code to advance, promote, and pursue designing, information sharing, building, and operation of low power, Morse Code enabled Amateur Radio (FCC Part 97) equipment with simple wire antennas for both emergency and personal communications purposes. No dues or membership fees - open to any licensed radio amateur or shortwave listener (SWL) worldwide with interest in CW/QRP operation. Encouraging the use of CW and helping all hams increase CW speed and proficiency is a top club priority. Club activities are dedicated to QRP/QRPp operation, using CW and emphasize using simple wire antennas.

The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has over 9500 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 be sent to:

Club President Steve Szabo, WB4OMM  
536 Central Park Blvd  
Port Orange, FL 32127 USA

