

# NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 282 • DECEMBER 2021



## KEY CLICKS

### • IN THIS ISSUE

The Prez Sez it's a fun-filled holiday season; Conditions were rough, but the Sprint was fun; Greg WB8LZG shows us how to turn "used aluminum" into a super vertical for RV portable ops; Santa flies in for a December Challenge; A tiny 2-in-1 straight key / keyer for the MTR4; A Florida Chapter adventure; and more.

### • TWO SPRINTS THIS MONTH

A week after our regular Sprint this month is the bi-annual Milliwatt Sprint where we see what we can do with one or less. The contacts are a bit harder (but maybe no worse than last month!) but it's amazing how well it works. Life's too short for QRO.

### • YOUR ARTICLE NEEDED!

Please take a few minutes to tell us about your latest excursion, that thing you built, your favorite rig, or something funny. As long as it relates to QRP CW. Send it to Paul K2DMX: [kd2mx@arrl.net](mailto:kd2mx@arrl.net)

### • DATABASE UPDATE GLITCH

If you've updated your member information lately and the change didn't show up online, we just discovered why. When our host moved us to a new server we ended up with two copies of the database, with new memberships going to one and updates to the other! Oops. It's fixed now, so check your listing and if it still isn't right...

### • UPDATE YOUR MEMBER INFO

Any time you change your QTH, email, or callsign, you can update your member info with a simple online form. First, check your information at <http://naqcc.info/memberlist.php> to make sure the rest of the fields are correct and then fill out the member update form here: [http://naqcc.info/member\\_updates.html](http://naqcc.info/member_updates.html)

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# THE PREZ SEZ...

## GREETINGS NAQCC MEMBERS!

I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

As of November 20th, all of the 2021 Anniversary Prizes have been ordered/sent/delivered. One item is on backorder from MFJ, but that shouldn't be too long in fulfillment. Congrats to all of our winners!

One minor change for all Sprints starting in January 2022 - all of the dates are now selected in UTC time - and our schedules and pages will now reflect that. No big deal, still the same rotation and published for the entire year in advance.

## DECEMBER NAQCC ACTIVITIES:

- Regular Monthly Sprint  
Wednesday, Dec 15, 2021 0130-0330Z (That's the evening of Tuesday, December 14th for us here in North America!).
- December mW Sprint  
Wednesday, Dec 22, 2021 0130-0330 Z (mW). (That's the evening of Tuesday, December 21st for us here in North America!).
- Monthly Challenge  
December Challenge 2022 – The Flying Santa Challenge - <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202112.html>
- Weekly Nets  
[http://naqcc.info/cw\\_nets.html](http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html)

On behalf of NAQCC, best wishes for a safe and Happy Holiday Season! Hopefully there will be some nice presents for all under the tree! Please remember those not so fortunate; and please remember “the reason for the season”

Hope to see you in the Sprints! Stay safe, stay healthy, KEEP YER DISTANCE, WASH YER HANDS, and get radio-active!



**72/73!**  
**Steve Szabo WB40MM #5913**  
**NAQCC President**



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

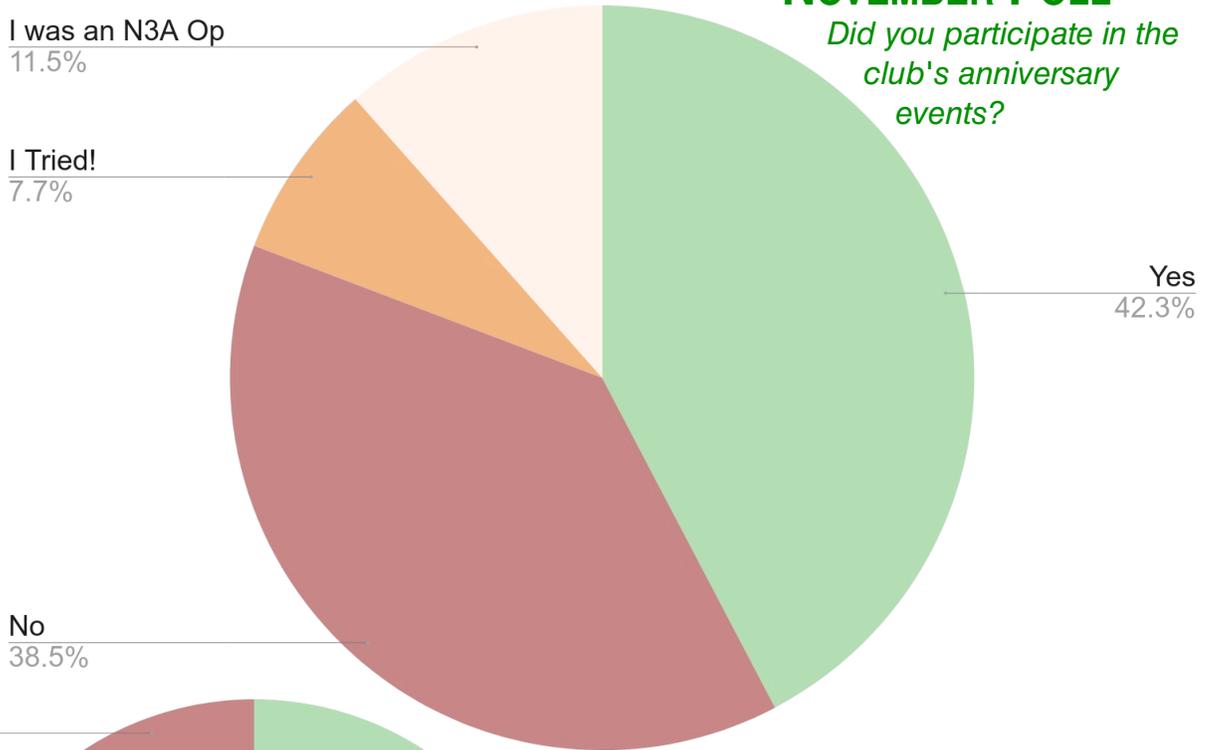
# MEMBER POLLS

## DECEMBER POLL

Did you participate in the club's anniversary events October 10–16?  
Let us know at [http://naqcc.info/poll\\_new.html](http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html)

## NOVEMBER POLL

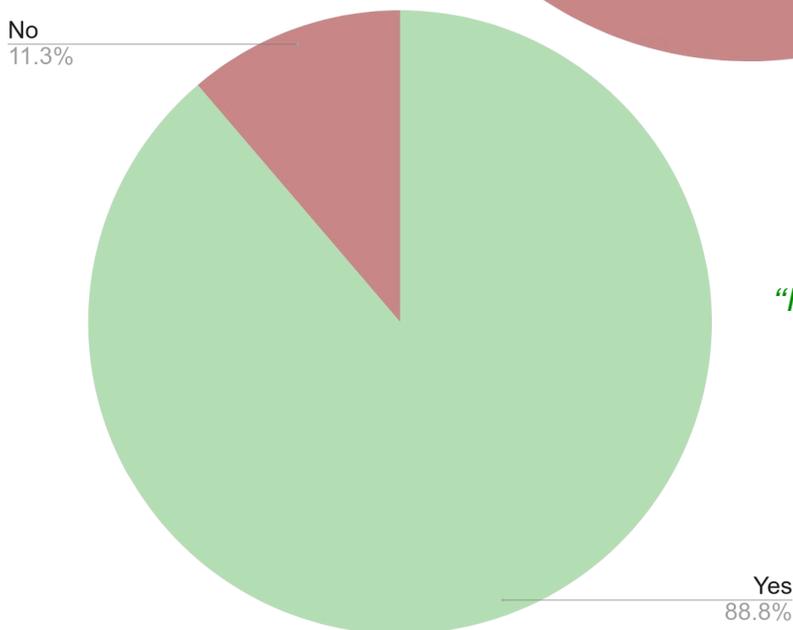
*Did you participate in the club's anniversary events?*



## OLD POLL

Back in 2012 we asked:

*"Have you ever made a 1,000 mile per watt contact?"*



# NAQCC SPRINTS

## DECEMBER SPRINTS

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Wednesday, Dec 15, 2021 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, December 14th in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202112.html>.

## MILLIWATT SPRINT — 1 WATT OR LESS

Our bonus Sprint is on Wednesday, Dec 22, 2021 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, December 21st in North America. Complete information at: <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202112mw.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).

## NOVEMBER SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202111.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: K9NUD, N2AWE, K4WK, K4NE, W1GF, KC0O, & NT4TS

November Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	85	103	217	4/17
Participants	112	134	269	2/13
Total QSOs	896	1035	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	540	618	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	356	417	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	0	62	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	129	705	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	767	268	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	10.5	10	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1MZM	KN1H	W1GF
W2	KA2KGP	W2SH	W2JEK
W3	KC3MIO	AK3X	KD3CA
W4	WG8Y	WT4U	K4JPN
W5	N5GW	KC0O	-
W6	AI6SL	K6GPB	-
W7	N7KM	N7QR K9QEW (TIE)	-
W8	AB8RL	NF8M	N8GZ
W9	WB9HFK	N8HWV	-
W0	NO2D	AA5LH	-
Canada	VE2KZW	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	-	-
W2	WA1GWH	N2ESE	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	K4BAI	K4KRW	N2AWE
W5	K5WX	KE5YUM W5WIL (TIE)	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	WI8J	WB8LZG	WA8SAN
W9	NN9K	KY0Q	KD9LTN
W0	N0TA	W0PWE	N8LA
Canada	VE3DQN VE3GNU (TIE)	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	WA2FBN	WB2LQF	-
W3	NN3E	K3WWP	-
W4	KJ4R	AA2MX	K3RLL
W5	NF5U	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	K8NGW	N8XMS	-
W9	K9DRP	K9NUD	AA9L
W0	-	-	-
Canada	VE3HUR	-	-
DX	-	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	-	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	NQ2W	-	-

FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	K4NE	W1GF	KC0O
BUG	K9NUD	-	-
K/K	N2AWE	K4WK	-
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
K9DRP			

## 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+	N2CN WB4OMM KF7WNS WI5H WA1GWH KB1M WA2FBN KC7DM VE3DQN KB0ETU AA0W K2YGM AA7CU WB1GYZ WB9HFK NQ2W NN0SS N8QY WY3H KJ4R N7QR K6CSL W5UAA VE3GNU WK6L KC2EGL AB8FJ K2HT KE9DR K4ORD WD4OHD K5GQ KB4QQJ NN9K
75+	NO2D KA9FQG N5GW NA4O KN1H K4NVJ N4MJ KQ1P N8LA VE3FUJ WD0K N8BB KD3CA K9OSC K9EYT K6MGO N8APO NF5U
100+	K1IEE WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y W4DUK N0TA K4KRW KD2MX WB8ENE AA9L AK3X
125+	NF8M K3RLL K4JPN K2CWM KD0V N4FI KE5YUM N2ESE
150+	W2SH WB8LZG W9CC N8XMS K4BAI KU4A
175+	K3WWP KA2KGP W2JEK

### SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

K4KBL - Wow...started on 40 and thought my antenna was on the ground. All contacts on 80 which was far better but not great after about 1.5 hours. Called it a night.

WB4OMM - Nothing on 20M to start. Went to 40M and 40M was S...L...O...W! Signals were just ok, but deep QSB... Glad to work some old friends...but the highlight of my night was working brand new member Jim - KA6J #10990 from TX who signed up today. Our newest member! Welcome and glad to meet you Jim, hope to see you in more Sprints!

N8HWV - 80m was king tonight. Those I heard, I heard pretty well. For many I could only hear one side of the QSO. Always fun. 72.

NO2D - Stuck with 40 meters. Seemed pretty active. Thanks to those that make the sprints possible. One of my favorite radio activities. Pete, NO2D

WB8LZG - Hello Fellow Sprinters! Tuff nite fer the sprint. 40 was slim pickins, 80 was noisy but at least usable. pulled the plug after 1/2 hr of static, but did make 6 QSOs. Hope to have better condx next month. 73 Gregg

N2AWE - This was my first Sprint. I really enjoyed it and am looking forward to competing against myself in the future. My simple setup of a K2 with a roof mounted vertical performed well.

N5GW - I put up a new antenna, a 60 foot high inverted L in a pine tree using a pole barn tin roof for the ground return. It worked well on 80M during the NAQCC sprint and hopefully will do the job on 160M this winter.



# ROLLING YOUR OWN ANTENNAS FOR TRAVELING FUN AND DX

BY GREG WB8LZG #144

This summer the XYL and I bought a small used travel trailer for enjoying our retirement while traveling around the country.

The first thing I thought of was how to install radios and antennas. On all of my previous portable operations, I had relied mostly on “hamsticks,” dipoles, and wire for my antennas. All were “quick up, quick down” and simple.

Now that I had a trailer to attach antennas to, I began to rethink what kind of antennas might work best. Naturally the dipoles and longwires were coming along, but what else might work well?

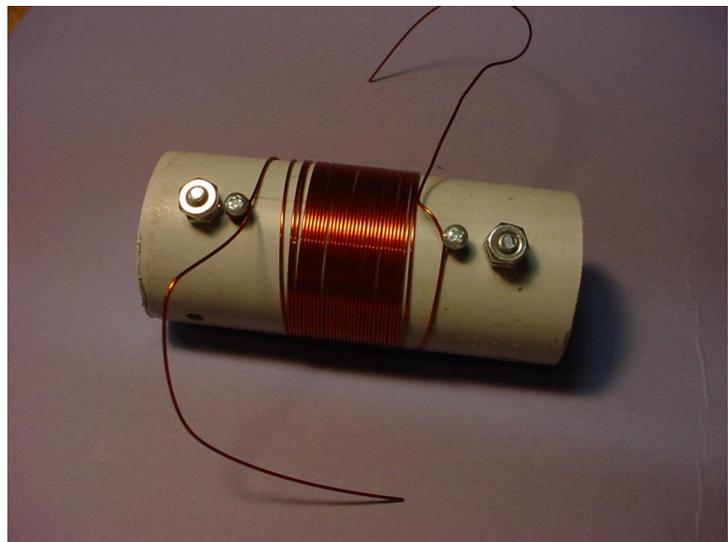
## GETTING RADIO READY

The trailer had a ladder attached to the back, which was “just made” for mounting some type of aerial. The first step was to get the trailer “radio ready.” I wanted to have easy access to installing feedlines without drilling any holes. A quick look around showed that there was already an outlet on the outside to hook up a 70-ohm TV connection with a waterproof cover to boot.

I removed the TV coax connector and installed an SO-259 with a short length of coax run under the seat to the bulkhead by the table terminated with a “wall through” connector. I also ran right next to it a new, fused 12vdc wiring to a lighter receptacle for rig power. Nice “professional” looking install. Perfect!



Modified cable input jack now sports a new connector



Here's the first prototype of my 40M trap

With the trailer “radio ready” on the inside, I focused my attention on the construction of a new antenna.

### USED ALUMINUM

I have always looked at “used” aluminum with a special fascination. The thought of building something good out of someone else’s junk has a certain appeal over the purchase of a new commercial aerial.

So over the years I have acquired an “old metal pile” to support my aerial experiments. This has not always met with XYL approval, but it is much cheaper than having to buy new every time I get the “itch” to build a new antenna.

For those of you who wish to experiment constructing your own. My advice is Just Do It! Grab some tools and wire. It’s easy to make antennas. I always consult with the ARRL antenna book first for rough measurements and ideas for feed and matching. I don’t try to re-invent the wheel, just copy and adjust (tweek) proven designs.

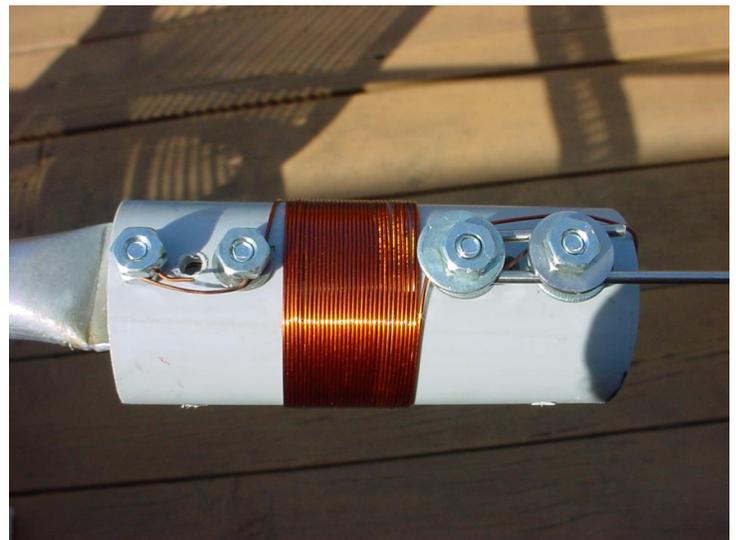
A quick rummage though “the pile” in the garage and I found an old “Hustler” vertical base mount, and several good sections of tubing. Hmm... after mulling over the pile, I thought about a vertical. I had used “mobile” whip verticals before with limited success. But a “full size” vertical for 20-meters would be a good fit on top of the ladder. I found four sections of tubing about 4 to 5 feet long each that slid into each other tightly, and gave me sixteen-and-a-half feet extended.

### TEST FIRST

Before I got too crazy mounting it on the trailer, I decided to test it out first and get it tuned up to the CW portion of the band. I mounted the base section on my nearby deck post, and extended the antenna sections to length. I attached a radial kit (from previous porti-ops) with four radials on 20



The second trap was a bit larger with thicker wire



Finished trap attached to top of the tubing and to end of the whip

and four more on 40M. I grabbed the coax feed line, running it to the trailer. I plugged it into the new jack and hooked up the analyzer. The SWR on 20 showed near 1 to 1. Sweet ! Now I had a full size vertical for 20.

### 40M?

Ok now what about 40? I had another 16 feet of smaller tubing, and could modify this for 40 meters. But... NO, too big... and I didn’t want to go out to raise and lower it to change bands. What I

really wanted was to make this a “trap” vertical with a 40m stinger on top to resonate in the CW band. A quick look around showed only some “half dead” old junk traps. Well, what about building my own? Why not? I had built 20/40 meter trap dipoles before. This required just half of that with only one trap. Should be a cinch!

Since I spend most of my operating time on 20 and 40 CW, I didn't try to complicate the project by trying to reproduce the whole Hustler 5BTV. If I had wanted five bands I would have purchased one. I just wanted 20 and 40 meters. Therefore I only required the 16½ foot pole, one trap and a whip.

### MAKING TRAPS

I had some oddball pieces of old PVC tubing lying around. So, after cutting a few to five or six inches, I was ready to wind a coil. I drilled a few holes on both ends to facilitate mounting bolts and hardware. I had some spare #20 enameled wire in the junk box, so I used that. No it won't handle a KW, but I was only going to be running 5 to 10 watts most of the time. On shore power,



View from the ground looking up. The coil and whip are barely visible. Total height : 21 feet, base to tip.

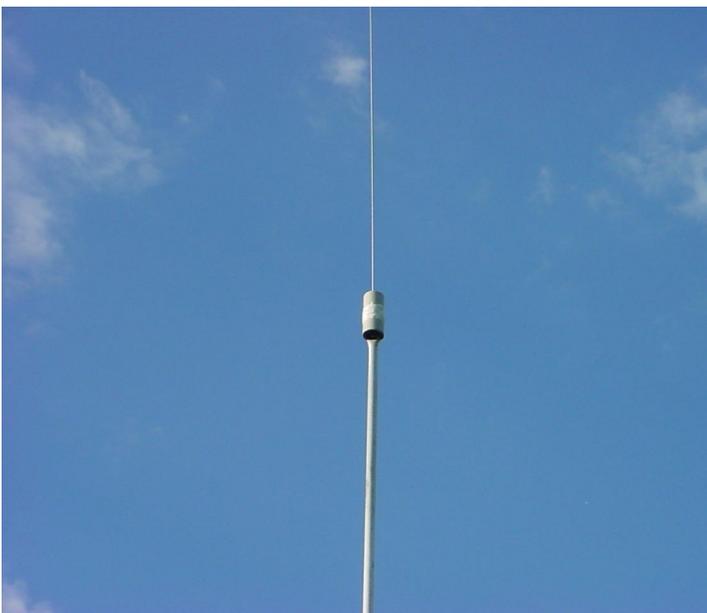
maybe 50 or 60 watts max. so it didn't need to be large diameter wire.

I wound about 32-33 closely spaced turns and “eyeballed” it good. Attaching it with 8-32 nuts and bolts on both ends, I drilled and tapped the top of the tubing to accept the 8-32 hardware on the coil, and secured it to the tubing. Then back to the scrap pile for a whip.

### WHIP IT GOOD

It turned out, I had several good whip choices. So I grabbed the six-foot one and attached it. As I raised it onto the base I wondered where it would resonate, and more importantly, would it mess up the nice 20M match I had with just the 16 ½ feet of tubing?

Well the analyzer showed a good match on 20M and a dip at 5.5 Mcs. My whip was too long. A quick selection of another whip in the 48-inch range and I had a nice dip at 6.8 Mcs. Still a smidge too long but close. I got out the hack saw and chopped off about two inches. Now my SWR was 1.2 to 1 at 7.060, the QRP watering hole. Still good on the whole 20 meter band too.



Completed coil with liquid electrical tape brushed on for waterproofing.



Looks like I had a winner.

But now came the REAL test. How would she play on the air? I grabbed the K2 and headed for the trailer. I had a good SWR on both bands and the aerial was accepting juice. As I adjusted the power to five watts, I tuned across the 20M band, wondering where my new skyhook would take me.

### ON THE AIR

My first QSO was with Bill, V31XX in Belize. Then FY5FY, Didder in French Guiana, and I12PHL, Steve, in Italy. Oh Yeah! She works on 20. Switching to 40 meters I was rewarded with N6YEU operating POTA in Rhode Island, and XE2I in Mexico. Yeeup! 40 works too. This new "Ether Blaster" was working better than expected. Always nice to catch some DX on a new antenna. Especially since it was a homebrew job.

### A BIGGER COIL

I built another coil assembly with a slightly larger wire diameter. I tried a different piece of slightly bigger PVC for more power handling and to see if it would help me to attain a better match. I

also wanted to fabricate a "slide tuner" where the whip attaches in order to be able to adjust the length for the best tuning.

After winding the new coil with 18-gauge enameled wire and some new hardware, I mounted it on the same end. I put a similar length whip on top and raised it up to operating position. I soon found out that I needed a much shorter whip to bring in the dip. Down again to try a shorter three-foot whip. This shorter whip brought the dip to the CW band, however the SWR was now 1.8 to 1 at best. So much for that idea. I scrapped the bigger coil and

tried a slightly smaller one, with nearly the same results.

### LEAVING WELL ENOUGH ALONE

Well you know the old saying. If it works, don't mess with it! That's advice to be followed in the antenna realm for sure. So I put the first coil and whip back on. Up she goes, one more time to be sure. SWR dip, 1.2 to 1 at 7.025 Mcs. 20M was good across the band. Leave well enough alone!



Fully extended it's just under 21 feet long. For transport, it's about five feet compressed with whip reversed. So it's easily stowed. I have the entire system working well on 20 and 40 meters for only the time and effort it took to build it. It cost nothing. This is the "icing on the cake" for a cheapskate like me ! Plus, I got to "get rid of" some of that old aluminum the XYL wanted me to dispose of anyway. Two birds with one stone.

### THE "PHOENIX VERTICAL"

I think I'll christen it the "Phoenix Vertical," rebuilt from the ashes of dead antennas to radiate once again!

No it won't beat the 5-element Bruce array, or Yagi-Uda at 40 or 50 feet. However it, does fit the plan of quick up, quick down and two bands. It can be extended and easily deployed in about five minutes. Most of the set up time is spent untangling the radials in the radial kit and laying them out to cover the points of the "compass." With the base mounted on the ladder rack up

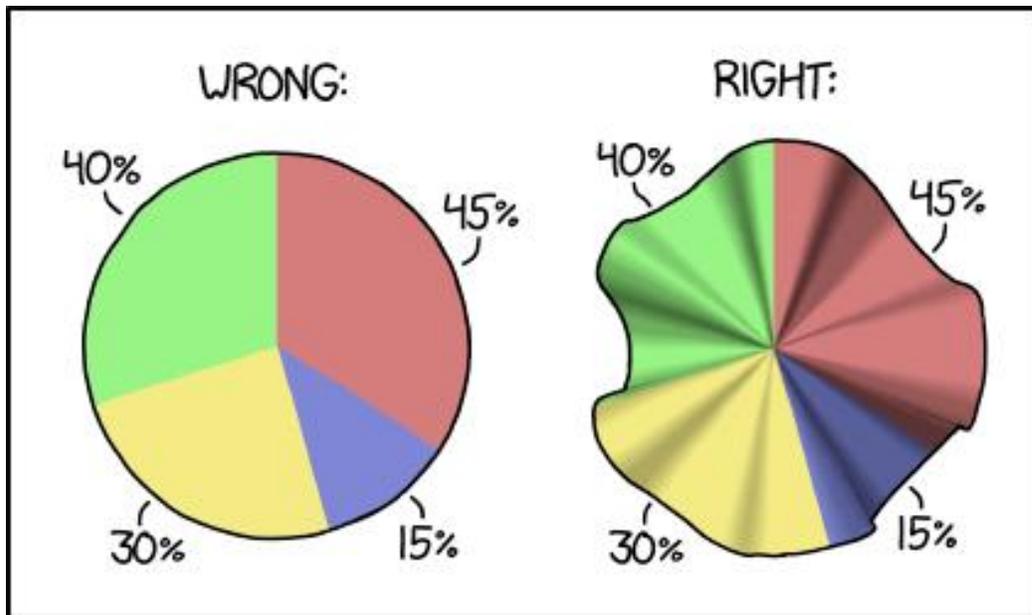
about eight feet, the vertical sits proudly reaching upwards to just under 30 feet above ground level.

### READY FOR THE PARKS

I can't wait to try it out camping in some of the state parks and National Parks where I may not be able to get a dipole up high. Some parks don't have trees available. Some parks frown on using the trees for antenna supports. Some don't care, as long as you respect the natural surroundings. It's wise to ask first to keep everyone happy.

Hope this was informative and got you to thinking about your own antennas too. Rolling your own is fun, frugal, and very rewarding. Stay tuned for further antenna adventures and aerial improvements, as I continue to search for better DX radiators for my portable-ops.

-Greg WB8LZG #144



xkcd.com

HOW TO MAKE A PIE CHART IF YOUR PERCENTAGES DON'T ADD UP TO 100

# NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

## THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: FLYING SANTA



has grown and lives on to this day. In 1997, a non-profit group, the Friends of Flying Santa, was formed to carry out the tradition along the New England coast. Today the flights are by helicopter and they deliver toys to children and personal items to family members at Coast Guard stations. There are also flights to some

A show of hands please ... how many of you believe in Santa? I don't see a lot of hands out there, just mine. If you polled the lighthouse keepers and Coast Guard stations along the New England coast I think there would be a few more hands held high. Here is the reason why.

Back in the days of manned lighthouses, lighthouse keepers and their families lived a remote and challenging existence to keep the lights shining and the foghorns blowing along the New England coast. They earned the thanks and respect of countless mariners and also that of Captain William Wincapaw. He wanted to recognize the service of these dedicated people.

In 1929, on Christmas day, he loaded his plane with simple gifts and flew by some of the lighthouses in his native Maine, dropping his gifts. In doing so he gave birth to the "Flying Santa," a tradition which

lighthouses where the local children are given candy treats.

So there you have it, definitive proof that Santa is alive and well and has traded in his reindeer for a helicopter.

Go to:

<http://www.flyingsanta.org> to read more about the Friends of Flying Santa.



**WORDS**

- CAPTAIN WILLIAM WINCAPAW
- CHRISTMAS 1929
- FLYING SANTA
- NEW ENGLAND LIGHTHOUSES
- HELICOPTER DELIVERY

**DECEMBER CHALLENGE TRACKER:**

1	2	9	A	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	Y

**X** Every time you work a new station this month, mark off the lowest box under each letter of the call to track your progress and see what letters you still need.

**SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY**

The easiest way is to use the great tool hosted by Robby WB5RVZ. Create an account, choose this month's challenge, and paste in all the eligible calls you worked. It will apply the letters, tell you what you're missing, and fill out the email for you. <http://naqccletters.azurewebsites.net/>

If you want to do it by hand, or got some but not all of the words and want to pick up a participation point, send an email to

Subject: (your call) NAQCC (month) Challenge  
 Body:  
 your call:  
 word1 - call1 call2 call3  
 word2 - call1 call2 call3

**RULES:**

Just make ALL the words from calls of stations you work subject to the General Challenge Rules. (Any spaces in the phrases should be ignored. For example the challenge phrase "INVERTED V ANTENNA" should be treated as if it is the single word "INVERTEDVANTENNA.")

Each letter in a callsign you work during the month can be used twice to complete the challenge words. Complete rules, information, and a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge along with detailed general rules and submission instructions can be found at [http://naqcc.info/challenges\\_rules.html](http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html)



Entering the Challenges earns you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual anniversary drawings.

## NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

January's Poison Squad Challenge Challenge has all the right ingredients.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202201.html>

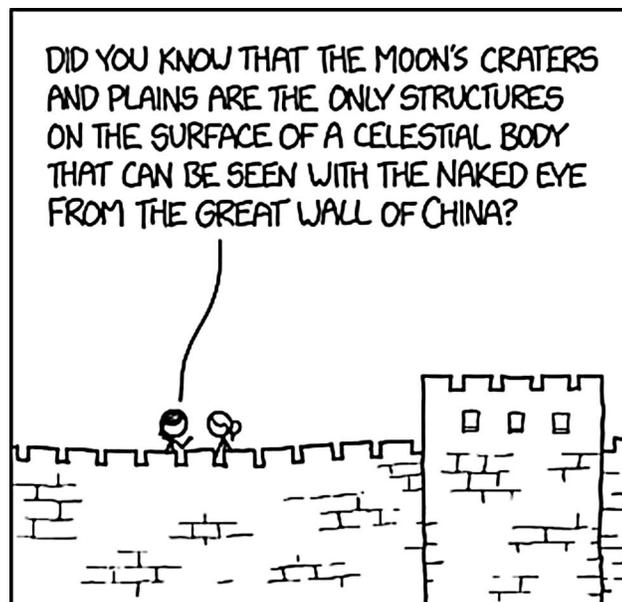
## LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our Invasion Stripes Challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202111.html> and final results will be posted on that page shortly after the 10th of the month.

## 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://naqcc.info/challenges\\_sdchedule.html](http://naqcc.info/challenges_sdchedule.html).

Number of Challenges	Members
25+	KJ4R VE3DQN AH6AX WB4OMM KU4A N1JI KD0V K9OSC KA5PVB WY3H N4OW VE3HUR KB1M WY7N KI4IO N1LU KD2MX
50+	VE3FUJ PA9CW WI5H NF1U WA2FBN AK3X G3JFS W3IQ N9SE
75+	PA0XAW
100+	K1IEE K1YAN
125+	
150+	W2JEK K3WWP N8XMS



# NAQCC 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
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7pm CST	Tuesday 0100 Z	7066 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 CST	Tuesday 0130 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 5 PM PST	Friday 0100 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (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 EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC,  
on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)  
Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

Nov 02 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N4NN

Great signals tonight on 3566 kHz. 599 599 and 589. Glade to hear Allen in GA again for the first time in a while. Propagation very good tonight.

Nov 09 – QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA

Everyone else went to bed early because of the time change! Andy and I had a nice 20 min. QSO with 589 signal conditions. Hope everyone will recover and be here next week HI HI.

Nov 16 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N4NN

We all have recovered from the time change and signals were good on 3566 kHz last night. 589 with QSB. Will continue using 80 meters as long as it holds.

Nov 23 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, N4NN

The band had a lot of QSB tonight. Had a good copy but everyone had to QRO for a reliable signal. Conditions have been nuts lately.

Nov 30 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, N4NN

Well, the band was pretty good last night. Solid copy on Terry and Allen both. Allen built a new QRP watt meter, and it works! Both stations were QRO last night. The QRN/QSB was a little rough.

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### NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0130\* UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas) — Assisted by Dave AB9BZ

Nov 01 – QNI (3) W0CC, K0ES, W4YGT

Both Jerry (CO) and Tom (FL) did a GREAT Job in picking out the signals!

Nov 08 – QNI (0) W0CC

Neither Dave, AB9BZ, nor I hear any QNI; however, Dave noted that that signal was Strong in NC and PA!

Nov 15 – QNI (0) W0CC

Dave, AB9BZ, was not able to copy on 40 meters but said that the signal was strong in CT, so we tried 80 meter and, he was not able to copy but said that the signal was strong in TN and MO. There was a strong (local) station on 7.031 so we had to start out on 7.0305 to be able to filter out his signal.

Nov 22 – QNI (0) W0CC

Band conditions were challenging. Could not hear W1AW!

Nov 29 – QNI (0) W0CC

Very quiet but could read W1AW well. Could it be Cyber Monday?

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

Thursday evenings 5PM PST, which is Friday 0100\* UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

Nov 05 – QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, KG7VTO, KJ7KDB, N7TB, K7JUV

Nov 12 – QNI (10) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, KG7VTO, N0DA, WB7WHG, K7JUV, KD7LX, N7TB, W7DRA

Nov 19 – QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, WB7WHG, KD7LX, WS7DA, KI7SJE, KJ7KDB

Nov 26 – QNI (3) NCS KE7LKW, N7TB, AD7BP



# NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, Florida, and Green Swamp WCF—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 Steve WB4OMM.

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 Steve, 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 Please contact call sign trustee, Club VP John KK4ITX, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

## NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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>.

On Friday, November 19, 2021 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC returned to a local park favorite for our monthly adventure. We held our “Parkpedition” at Bethune Point Park in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Park Facilities include: 229 parking spaces, Playground, Restrooms, Picnic Pavilion, Boat ramp, Fishing pier, Skateboard park

This trip we had a total of 3 members/operators and 1 visitor in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5913; Rick AA4W #1628; John KD4JS #8019 and Steve WA0AOD



Most of us arrived between 9:00 - 10:00 am (EST local). It was breezy and cloudy but it was a nice day. The rain held off until just before noon.

### Steve WB4OMM #5913

Steve used an Elecraft KX-3 with a ground mounted 20M Hamstick; he worked the following members on 20M:

- K2CWM Curt #3457 NJ
- WA2NYY Mark # 6388
- NY, NF5U Jerry #142 TX
- and New Member – AA4HV Dave #10679 TN



### Rick AA4W #1628

Rick used an Elecraft KX-3 but with a Buddipole vertical; he worked W4H on 40M.



### NEXT MONTH

Friday, December 18th, 2021 starting at 10:00 AM EST

Candace Strawn/Lake Dias Park (5320 State Road 11, DeLeon Springs FL 32130)



Rick AA4W, Steve WA0AOD, John KD4JS and Steve WB4OMM at the WB4OMM table.

Look at that view we had!

## 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 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

## 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 GREEN SWAMP WCF



Items in this section are from the Green Swamp WCF Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Gary N3OS.

The chapter's website is <https://www.zaarc.org>.

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/>.

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.



# 2-IN-1 MINI-KEY FOR THE MTR-4B

BY BRENT WT4U #9019

I'm tickled to be the winner of this year's grand prize, the new *MTR-4B V2 from LNR Precision*. Wow! One of these little radios had been on my wish list (but not quite in my budget) for quite a while. I'll post a review when I've had a chance to take it out in the field, but it's been a lot of fun in the shack in the mean time. Thanks!

I'm a straight key guy, but the MTR has some neat features (direct frequency entry, memories, etc.) that require a paddle to use. So, I 3D printed this and crammed in a lot of little bearings, wires, magnets, and silver contacts from an old relay. A rubber base and more magnets keep it from sliding on my steel desk. The only adjustments are the gap and lateral play on the straight key. The paddle movement is fixed at ~0.7mm travel & 24g resistance. Is that good? Feels right.



The next version will have adjustable force, easier internal wiring, a switch to force straight key mode, and maybe mount to the side of the MTR.

# 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:

### PARTICIPATION

This award is renewed annually. See the 'Expired' awards link in the left column for results from previous years. To encourage participation in club activities, points are awarded each time someone enters and submits a log for a challenge or a regular monthly sprint (In months where there is also a mW/160M sprint, a member earns a point for one or the other, but not both). At the end of the year, the MEMBER in each division with the highest point total is awarded a beautiful color certificate. In case of ties, duplicate certificates will be awarded. Non-members can earn points, but must become a member before the end of the year to be eligible for the award.

There are 12 divisions, one each for the 10 USA call areas, one for Canada, and one for the rest of the world. KH6 is part of the 6th call area and KL7 part of the 7th for purposes of this award.

The member with the highest overall score from the twelve divisions will receive a FREE one-year membership in FISTS -or- if the

winner is already a FISTS member, a FREE one-year renewal of their membership. FISTS is donating this to the NAQCC. Thanks to all the FISTS officers and members for their kindness and generosity. It is wonderful our two clubs can work so well together in the common cause of preserving CW on the ham bands. So make plans to be active in and report your results from as many of our monthly sprints and challenges as you can. Say thanks to FISTS by participating in their events also. No points for that, but it will be a nice gesture on our part to help them get more participation in their events.

All previous winning members are eliminated since the prize can now only be won once by a member. If there are still more than one member left, a random computer drawing will be made among the remaining members.

Complete details on this award can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_participation.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html).



Awards earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual anniversary drawings.

## RECENT AWARD WINNERS

### 1000 MPW AWARD

Nr	Call	Stn worked	-	MPW	Award Date	Notes & Antenna
0581	WS0UP	S57N	-	1,113	11/24/21	Whip w/ 13' counterpoise
0580	WS0UP	F4WBN	-	1,014	11/24/21	Whip w/ 13' counterpoise
0579	F5MPN	YU1YV	-	1,308	11/19/21	Windom
0578	DK2LO	UA4FCO	-	1,080	11/11/21	Butternut HF2V @0m
0577	KK4ITX	K0ZK	-	1,224	11/03/21	EFHW Sloper @3-33'

### 30-30 AWARD (ONE MONTH)

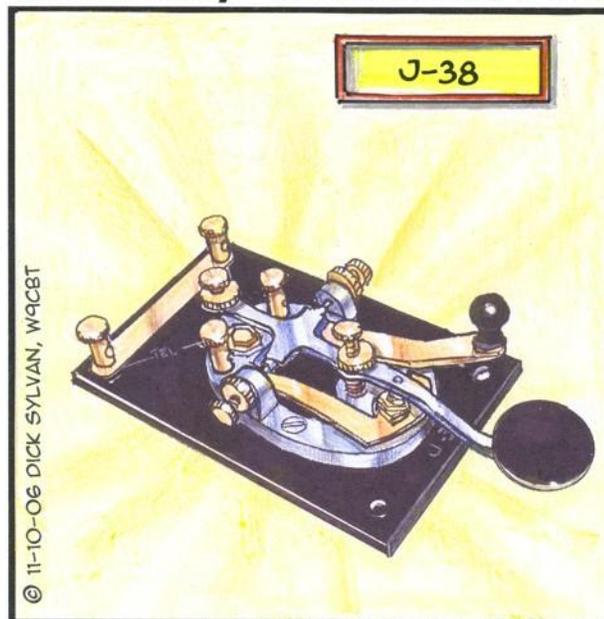
Nr	Call	Month	Date
0056	- N8HWV	Oct 2021	11/03/21
0057	- PA9CW	Nov 2021	11/24/21 all DX Contacts

### 30-30 AWARD (MAGNUM: 3 MONTHS)

0013	- N8HWV	Aug, Sep, Oct 2021	11/03/21
0014	- PA9CW	Aug, Sep, Oct 2021	11/24/21



### Ham History BY DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



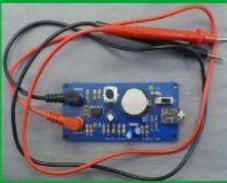
REMEMBER THE UBIQUITOUS J-38 HAND KEY USED DURING WW2. IT BECAME AVAILABLE TO HAMS SHORTLY AFTER THE WAR. ALMOST ALL HAMS OWNED ONE DURING THEIR CAREERS.

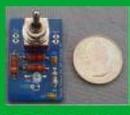
Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #2062, has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very accomplished ham radio cartoonist and his work has appeared previously in the K9YA Telegraph newsletter. His book "HI HI - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons" is available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).

# NAQCC PRIZE SPONSORS



Fun and affordable kits from Pacific Antenna



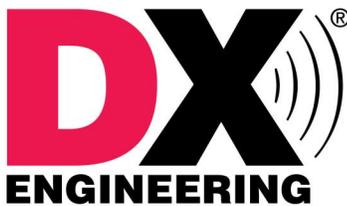
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# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## 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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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

