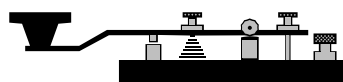


# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 324 · JUNE 2025



## KEY CLICKS

### • *IN THIS ISSUE*

The Prez Sez... new opening for the Western Director position; QSO Party Challenge; An LICW outing; **Two Challenges** this month; plus Nets, Polls, **Two Sprints** this month, Soapboxes, and more.

### • *FLIGHT OF THE BUMBLEBEES*

The ARS Flight of the Bumblebees is a four-hour event open to all QRP CW operators coming on 27 July. More info [here](#).

### • *MORE QRP CW EVENTS?*

I'll bet they're out there. Anyone want to step up and maintain an event calendar for the newsletter and web-site? We've needed this for a while, and it's waiting on you to volunteer!

### • *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 <https://naqcc.info/memberlist.php> to make sure the rest of the fields are correct and then fill out the member update form here: [https://naqcc.info/member\\_updates.html](https://naqcc.info/member_updates.html)

### • *FT-817 REPLACEMENT NOW AVAILABLE*

As of this writing, plenty of the FTX-1 are available at the usual places online. There are a wide range of positive and negative opinions available online and especially on HamTube if you want a good laugh or just to save money as you find yourself falling deeper into analysis paralysis.

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# THE PREZ SEZ...

The **Western Director** position is opening due to the passing of Ron Potter. We are short for the full board and seeking an interested NAQCC member. If you reside in; AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA or WY then you are eligible for this golden opportunity!

Please contact me, John (KK4ITX), for more info.

## SPONSORS

We can use many more sponsors. If you are aware of a business that might benefit by advertising on our website and in this newsletter, please have them contact me. Currently, pricing is only \$50 per year or a product of that value.

Please check out our Prize Sponsors at the end of this newsletter and on the [Home Page of the NAQCC website](#).

The [Four States QRP Group](#) has been one of our solid sponsors for years and they offer a number of easy to build kits for QRPers too! The profit from their sales help to provide the resources for their famous OZARKCON that is held each April in Branson, MO. See their ad toward the end of this newsletter.

## DONATIONS

We are quickly approaching final planning for our 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary in October. Please consider a donation of your choosing soon so that we can announce the prizes ahead of the events. As usual our Prize Pool is low and could use an infusion.

See the [NAQCC website Home Page](#) for donation address info.

## LOOKING AHEAD...

The **NAQCC Annual Board Meeting** had been rescheduled to May 3, 2025 at 4:00pm and was not held due to a shortage of directors required (6) for an official meeting. It is a busy time of year when there is a late Easter, Mother's Day, FDIM/Dayton, and Memorial Day all within a month or so.

**June is always busy with the NAQCC.** Our Monthly Challenge is joined by the Field Day Challenge.

The regular monthly sprint has the **mW Sprint** June 17 EDT. Get yourself a kit or make one from plans—anything under 1w will do. You will be surprised at how little power it takes to make a QSO or more. A random drawing from the list of reported logs containing at least one contact will lead to a winner of a Four States QRP 20m Cricket Kit. See the rules on the [NAQCC website](#).

And if that isn't enough, then you have Field Day '25.

We are almost done with Spring. Don't miss the opportunity to get out to a park and play radio. Remember to bring some seed for the birds and squirrels or whatever, a snack for yourself, and some water... ENJOY!

Flag Day is the 14th and Father's Day is the next day, Sunday the 15th. Hang the flag and hug the dad!

AND, if you need more to contemplate, DX Marathon is looking for participants in their

DX program See their website at [dx-marathon.com](http://dx-marathon.com).

72,

John KK4ITX #7249 [kk4itx@proton.me](mailto:kk4itx@proton.me)

NAQCC President

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



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*BY ANDY KO4EPY #11856*

We got a couple good comments on the previous newsletter and will use that feedback to improve future editions bit by bit. This is my second newsletter and it's still a little bit of a struggle, but getting easier.

As always, send in your comments, articles, ideas for articles, money, whatever else and we'll gladly make the best use we can of it.

## ENTERING THE ARENA

*BY CRAIG K5AYO #11660*

You always remember life's most important first time events. First kiss. First day on the job. First Malort shot. Those firsts happen less frequently the more spins around the sun you make. But I recently had one that I have to tell you about: my first morse code QSO.

Late last year, I gave myself a 45 day goal to learn morse code, also known as CW in the amateur radio community. What is morse code? It's the dit and dah sound that early radio operators used to communicate with each other. [Pearl Harbor's bombing](#) was first communicated over morse code.

How hard could this be? I learned German and French many years ago with the pain dulled by time. After a few days and barely being able to differentiate di-dah and da-dit, I faced the truth that this was going to be quite an uphill climb. After a month, I succumbed to reality, with a new target set for ARRL Field Day.

Day after day, I invested about fifteen minutes. Like the march of a drummer leading to battle, I could feel the distance shrinking to my goal. Some days the drum sounds were no louder than the day before. Other days, I could feel the beat deeper in my soul. Many days, my session ended seemingly right where I started. While the shortest path between two points is a straight line, I was progressing in a zig zag fashion. But eventually, I stood in front of the arena ready to step in.

I had finally built up the nerve to enter and hunt a POTA activator, which requires only sending my callsign and signal report. I found an activator who I could clearly hear. I stalked my target, N4FFF, who called CQ a few times without receiving a response. When I was sure there were no other hunters sending, I leapt up and frantically swung my straight key sword!

My sword clattered and clanked like an earthquake, shaking randomly from side to side. The next swing struck somewhat true, but received a curious response. I luckily recalled the question mark symbol, an indicator of uncertainty. I gave my callsign twice more then listened to an unintelligible string coming through the speaker.

I just waited until hearing silence, then keyed 'TU UR RST 599 5NN'. I'm sure it sounded like someone using a megaphone in a tunnel. He blazed something else back that sounded like the Gettysburg Address to me, but then I heard the international symbol of "I'm done with you:" dit. dit.

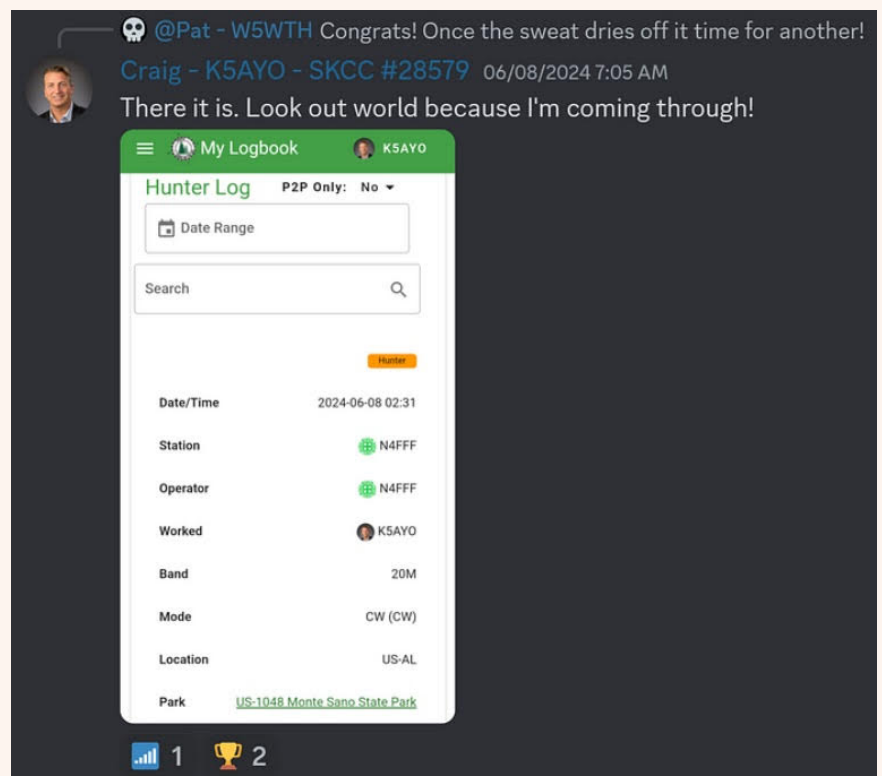
I wasn't really sure what just happened, but it seemed promising. Was that my first POTA CW hunt?

Did I send my callsign clearly enough or does he think I'm some real ham radio operator just two Four Lokos deep in the evening?

I ran to my club Discord community and recounted the great encounter to my CW elmers, who were very supportive of the excited newbie. My heart rate lowered as I wished everyone a good night and waited for the official activator POTA upload. It felt amazing to have entered the arena and to escape alive to tell the story to my tribe.

The next morning, I scrambled to grab my phone and load the hunter log. As the screen refreshed, I became a CW operator. The first battle was over and I had survived.

With that first QSO successfully recorded, I immediately went to hunt more CW POTA activators. Having survived the CW Arena once, I wanted to taste the thrill of battle and the pride of surviving the arena yet again.



# NAQCC AWARDS

*BY JOHN KK1X #2198*

## FEATURED AWARDS:

### ALPHABET PREFIX AWARD

Work as many different letter and number combinations taken from the first two characters of a station's callsign. Details: [https://naqcc.info/awards\\_wpxswa.html](https://naqcc.info/awards_wpxswa.html)

### DXCC SIMPLE WIRE ANTENNA AWARD

It's just the classic DXCC award with some modifications for QRP/CW. Contact as many countries as possible within the time frame using QRP, CW, and simple wire antennas. Details: [https://naqcc.info/awards\\_dxccswa.html](https://naqcc.info/awards_dxccswa.html)

### KMPW 100 AWARD

It is fairly easy to get a 1000 MPW award with the modern equipment in use nowadays. Russ N9IV wants to make it a bit harder and he suggested this award. It in-

volves making not 1, but 100 KMPW QSO's. When you work on your totals, you can find links to distance calculators [here](#). NOTE: The mileage figures listed in the QRZ.com database are NOT accurate. Details: [https://naqcc.info/awards\\_kmpwcen-turyswa.html](https://naqcc.info/awards_kmpwcen-turyswa.html)

### YEARLY PARTICIPATION AWARD

To encourage participation in club activities, points are awarded each time someone submits a log for a challenge or a regular monthly sprint. 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. Details: [https://naqcc.info/awards\\_participation.html](https://naqcc.info/awards_participation.html)



# CLUB CALLSIGN: N3AQC

## USE THE CLUB CALL

Help promote NAQCC by using our Club Call, N3AQC. Simply contact John KK4ITX via email and he'll get you going. Let him know the date(s), time(s), bands to be used, expected OPs, and location.

## WE'LL ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT

John will promote your outing via the NAQCC Groups.io and the NAQCC general news email system. Your event will be posted on the N3AQC QRZ page and is the official record of the call's use.

**By Don VE3DQN #5846**

**QSO Parties**

- Future
- This Month
- Past

June QSO Parties					
State	Times	IN	Out	Freqs	Links
Kentucky	Jun 07 1300Z to Jun 08 0100Z	RST County	RST ST	up 40	<a href="#">rules</a>
Atlantic Canada	Jun 07 1200Z to Jun 08 0200Z	RST 5-char QTH	RST ST	-	<a href="#">rules</a>
West Virginia	Jun 21 1600Z to Jun 22 0400Z	RST County	RST ST	up 45	<a href="#">rules</a>

If you're new to the State QSO Party Challenge, check out the [Soapbox](#) page to hear the chatter the "regulars" share among themselves. Sometimes it's a technique, a time of operating, a fluke that worked to their favor, a self-imposed limitation (e.g. working QRPp).



## QUESTIONS?

... or comments? Don't hesitate to write me: [don@hekman.net](mailto:don@hekman.net)

## LEADERBOARD

See the full list at [http://naqcc.info/qsoparties\\_scores.html](http://naqcc.info/qsoparties_scores.html)

## QSO PARTY CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**Steve NI8W #11335** Both CPWP and ArQP presented problems this year. Since I don't remember much about CPQP, I'll only comment on ArQP. I heard many stations working AR, but I couldn't hear anybody in AR (except for WG5M who had a nice signal and

good ears) until the last few hours of the QP. I had limited opportunity to work the QP due to out-of-town company (N6KZ and his XYL). I was also plagued with antenna and feedline problems. It was definitely a challenging day, QSO-wise. Propagation on 40m finally changed at about 2300Z, I fixed my antenna, and I was finally able to hear and work a few stations. Whew!

**Don VE3DQN #5846** CPQP: For those Parties where in-state/province operators are few, you gotta love those big guns who are on the air for hours, including CW. I got my multiplier thanks to them.

ArQP: Here my thanks goes to those rovers who operate from county lines. K5CM gave me a three-county boost near the end of the party.

**Brent WT4U #9019** CP was a tough one. Had hoped for more stations.

AR: I set a personal record for highest score for working two stations/3 QSOs. Got K5CM on a quad county (which had to be in the middle of the Arkansas River!), then 100pt bonus station W45P, then K5CM again on a triple. The 100pts mean nothing for our event, but it was a fun bit of win regardless.

Member	Mult	QSOs	Score	Award	Pace
Alan KR4AE #5847	21	1,207	25,347	Platinum	86,390
Ernie N2DGQ #11090	20	822	16,440	Gold	56,032
Ron VE3SIF #10033	22	651	14,322	Gold	48,813
Steve NI8W #11335	26	504	13,104	Gold	44,662
Don VE3DQN #5846	21	611	12,831	Gold	43,732
Mike W7LG #10391	21	332	6,972	Silver	23,763
Rick KY0Q #9647	16	355	5,680	Silver	19,359
Kevin KE3V #855	20	283	5,660	Silver	19,291
Anthony K8ZT #412	20	225	4,500	Bronze	15,337
Kevin NN3E #9851	20	224	4,480	Bronze	15,269
Brent WT4U #9019	26	147	3,822	Bronze	13,026
Don KI4MZC #10922	11	187	2,057	Bronze	7,011
Greg KB1AWM #9958	4	452	1,808	Bronze	6,162
Corry N1OI #10267	8	173	1,384	Bronze	4,717
Will NQ2W #4839	8	103	824	Bronze	2,808



# CAPTREE STATE PARK, LONG ISLAND

*By Ed N2GSL #9744*

*LICW face-to-face outing with QRP (and a little QRO) POTA at Captree State Park, US-2028.*

The weather was just about perfect as we headed to the park over the Robert Moses Causeway. But first things first: We started at the Atlantis Diner to eat an early lunch and catch-up face to face. Kevin KC2KC, Ken KB2KWC, Owen NA2MM, and myself, Ed N2GSL enjoyed good food and company. We all remembered Walt W2TE (SK) who could not be with us.

When we arrived at Captree State Park Mike N2PPI was busy activating from his car with his Yaesu FT-891 and screwdriver antenna. He said at first it was slow going, but was beginning to pick up on 20 meters. He was just finishing up as he had to get back to work.

John W2XS with Tom KA2D observing were also already at the park and just finishing up setting up. John's rig is the Elecraft KX2. His



John W2XS's Elecraft KX2 with Twisted Pair Doublet Antenna

antenna is a doublet constructed from twisted pair. The twisted pair as a feed line should be about 100 ohms. To make the legs of the doublet, he simply untwisted the wires. A center insulator is not needed, which reduces the weight on the telescoping mast. This was the first time John was trying this configuration and was hoping for good performance as well as light weight. He worked many stations on the 40-meter band up and down the eastern seaboard.

Meanwhile Kevin KC2KC was hunting POTA from his car, having fun with his Xiegu G-90 and Mag Mount HF Antenna. He made contacts even with all the



Owen NA2MM's Elecraft KH1 and well-appointed portable operating desk



other stations working on many different bands!

Owen NA2MM had a blast with his Elecraft KH1 and QRP Guys 49:1 EFHW. Check out his operating desk. He has everything needed and everything taped down in its place.

Lou NO2C was busy with his Xiegu 6100 with an integral telescoping whip as Mike KC2SYF kept him company. Lou tried to find his friends traveling and operation from Nova Scotia but had to settle for stations operating along the Louis and Clark Trail.



Lou NO2C and his Xiegu 6100 and integral telescoping whip

I caught up with Ken KB2KWC as he was packing up. Ken uses the Icom IC-7300 for home and POTA. His antenna is a GABIL vertical whip with coil on a tabletop tripod. He can also deploy the antenna atop a short roof mount tripod next to his car in bad weather. Ken reported contacts with England and France using this short vertical antenna. He said things were moving slowly, 16 contacts until at 1900 Z he made 17 more contacts operating in the CWT in 45 minutes.

Of course, just as the shoemaker needed new shoes, I did not take pictures of my station. I had the SBitX running 10-15 watts. I attempted to use a new tiny Z-Match manual tuner I received the day before with a random wire end fed with a 9:1 Balun but it did not work out. I had tested the tuner with my doublet at home which was able to tune 40-10. More testing is in the future. So I deployed a Packtenna EFHW with a 40 meter extension and was

good to go 40, 20, 15, and 10. Although I had received a RBN report on 10 meters in the Caribbean I made no contacts. On 15 meters I worked Stuart M0TTQ park to park as he was at GB-4591 Farlington Marshes Nature Reserve near Portsmouth. On 20 meters I was able to get out to the state of Washington, South Dakota. I got to operate when I was not taking pictures and managed 17 QSOs.

Everyone had a great time and we hope to do this again real soon.



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

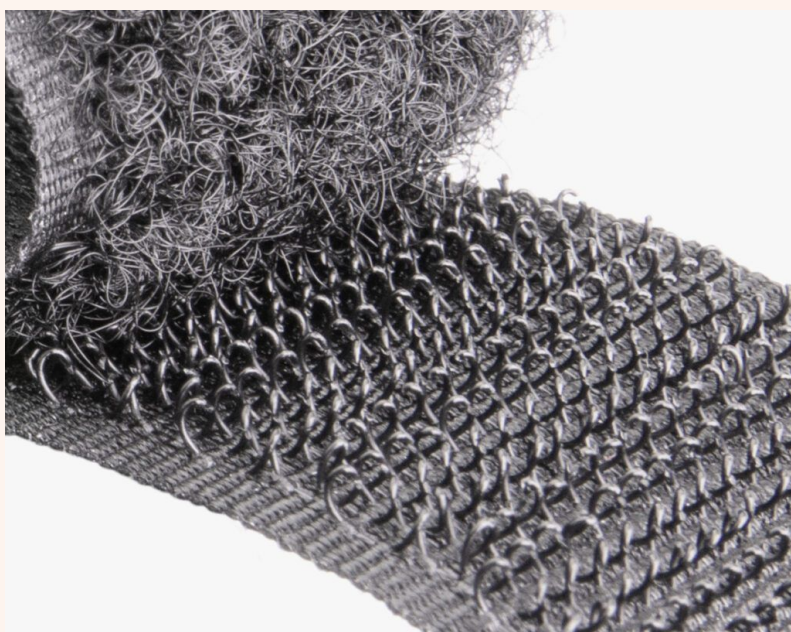
*BY GARY K1YAN #2365*

## THE VELCRO CHALLENGE

If you look in your closet, it is very likely that you will find a strip of Velcro holding something together. You can thank a curious guy named George de Mestral for that handy material. It all began in 1941 when, on a hunting trip, De Mestral found his dog and his pants covered with burdock burs. His curiosity kicked in and he brought some of the burs home for an inspection under his microscope. He saw tiny hooks that bound to almost any fabric. It struck him that if he could manufacture fabrics with these hooks and some loops for them to grab on to, he would have a new fastener. He visited fabric manufacturers in Europe and found that the hooked fabric was something that nobody could mass produce. He finally found a company who could make a suitable base fabric and the loops, but the hooks were still a problem. He could make them by hand but not in mass.

First things first, he applied for and got a patent for the product in 1955. Then he created a company to make then new product which he called velcro. The name was a combination of velvet and crochet (*hook* in French). Now he just needed a way to mass manufacture his new invention. He could make the fabric with the loops but needed to cut the loops at a precise angle to create the matching hooks. Finally a solution was found using something similar to barber's shears to cut the hooks. Now he just had to market the product. It was the early 60s and nobody was particularly interested in using velcro.

NASA came to the rescue when they needed something to fasten down things while in space. They found velcro to be just the thing. This got the product going and it then grew into the major seller we



know today. Actually, the name Velcro is the company who makes this product as well as many others and not the actual fastener.

## TIME FRAME

The first day of the month 0000Z through the last day of the month 2400Z.

## RULES

Just make these words from calls of stations you work, subject to the General Challenge Rules. Complete rules, informa-



## AWARDS

A certificate and Participation Point go to everyone making all the words and submitting their report before the deadline.

A Participation Point goes to everyone making at least 1, but not all the words and submitting their report before the deadline.

YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT AT LEAST ONE WORD TO RECEIVE A PARTICIPATION POINT!

## LOGS

For your report, list the words you made and the station used for each letter in the word. The number of stations listed must be the same as the number of letters in each word, even though you use the same station for more than one letter as in:

WORD - K3WWP N2OD WA8REI N2OD  
NEXT - NF8M W8REI N8XMS K9EYT

(Note how N2OD is listed for both the O and D.)

You may also include comments about the challenge. Please preface any comments you want posted with "SOAPBOX:" so we will know what you want posted and what is private.

## SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

Send your results as text in the horizontal format shown above to Charlie N1AOK at: charlie.wilber AT gmail.com (You must type that address into your email program.)

Subject must read: (your call) NAQCC (month year) Challenge

For example: K3WWP NAQCC January 2022 Challenge

All entries must be RECEIVED before the 10th of the following month at 2400Z.

## NAQCC CHALLENGE SOAPBOX

**VE3KZ** Geomagnetic Storm = No DX and lots of digging! Thanks to the 26 sets of expert ears that made these QSOs possible! 73 Bob VE3KZ NAQCC 899

**NN9K** Hopefully better band conditions next month!

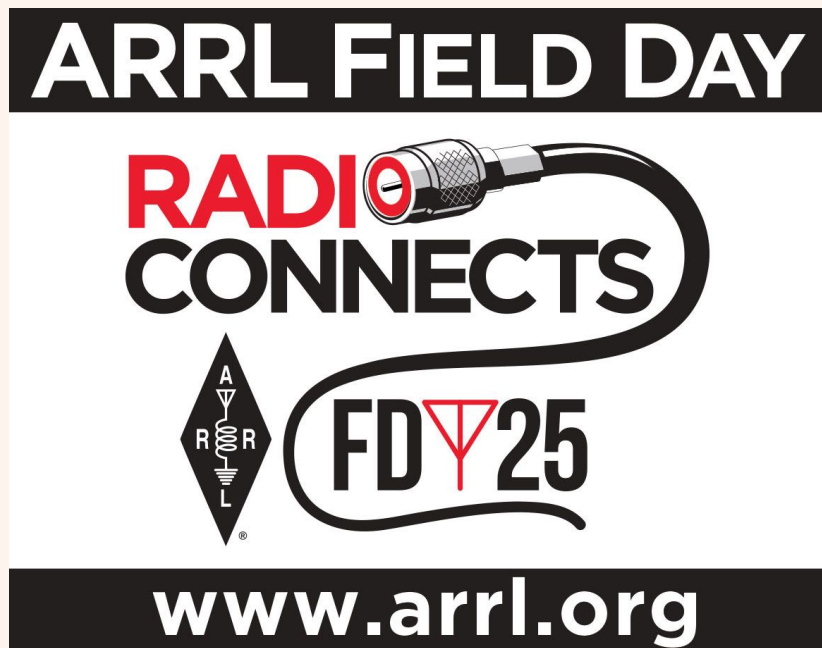
**NQ8T** Lots of O's!!! TNX! WO4O!!! C U next month! MNY TNX! for this activity! 72 Steve NQ8T

**W4JL** TNX FR another Great Challenge! It was challenging with our conditions, but I prevailed! 72 W4JL DAVE WNC #10660

**AK3X** Yet another fun challenge. Thought I was done on the 10th of June but the app said I needed one more S. Just finished a nice ragchew with N8LSB to finish it off on the 11th.



## THE ARRL FIELD DAY CHALLENGE



The annual FD Challenge is one of our most popular challenges according to the number of logs submitted. Work at least the required number of ARRL/RAC Contest Sections during field day, either from your home station or portable from the field.

### TIME FRAME

As in the ARRL FD Rules.

### RULES

ARRL Field Day rules govern all aspects of the contest for purposes of this challenge, except as noted.

You must use QRP or QRPp power. The other station may use any power. You may use any type of antenna.

If you are part of a multi-op FD station, no matter what call sign is used, even if it is your own, only the QSOs MADE BY YOU PERSONALLY at QRP or QRPp power count.

Entities to be counted are the ARRL/RAC Contest Sections used for the FD exchange, not US States.

The ARRL/RAC Contest Sections, which include US States, Canadian Provinces, Puerto Rico (PR), Virgin Islands (VI) and DX ( a single entity consisting of any country aside from those just mentioned ), are listed below.

The DX entity may be counted ONLY ONCE regardless of how many different DX countries you work.

A number of states and provinces have multiple contest sections. Each section counts toward your total worked. For example: New Jersey has southern NJ, SNJ and northern NJ, NNJ. Each counts toward your total.

### ARRL/RAC CONTEST SECTIONS:

W1 CT EMA ME NH RI VT WMA  
 W2 ENY NLI NNJ NNY SNJ WNY  
 W3 DE EPA MDC WPA  
 W4 AL GA KY NC NFL SC SFL WCF TN  
 VA PR VI  
 W5 AR LA MS NM NTX OK STX WTX  
 W6 EB LAX ORG SB SCV SDG SF SJV SV  
 PAC  
 W7 AZ EWA ID MT NV OR UT WWA WY  
 AK  
 W8 MI OH WV  
 W9 IL IN WI  
 W0 CO IA KS MN MO NE ND SD  
 VE AB BC GTA MAR MB NL NT ONE ONN  
 ONS PE QC SK  
 DX DX

### CERTIFICATES

If you work all Continental US sections OR all VE sections we'll send you a NAQCC

FD CLEAN SWEEP certificate. Make all contacts at QRPp power, 1 watt or less, and get a QRPp endorsement. For the US certificate only, there are endorsements for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands and DX sections. Submit a statement that you have worked the required contacts and for a QRPp endorsement the maximum power used to make the required contacts. You may use both QRP and QRPp power during the contest as long as all the required contacts for a QRPp endorsement are established and completed at 1 watt or less. Contacts for this certificate are only from the current year contest and do not accumulate from year to year. There are no antenna restrictions for this award. NOTE: DEADLINE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR THIS CERTIFICATE IS THE SAME AS THE CHALLENGE SUBMITTAL DEADLINE (see LOGS section below).

If you work all 50 states, we'll send you an NAQCC WAS certificate. For the WAS certificate, you must have used only simple wire antennas. See the awards page for details.

If you work all 8 Canadian provinces, we'll send you an NAQCC WAVE certificate. For the WAVE certificate, you must have used only simple wire antennas. See the awards page for details.

## LOGS

For your report, just tell us the number of ARRL/RAC Contest Sections worked and list them alphabetically by their abbreviations. Also tell us if you worked from HOME or PORTABLE so we may put you in the correct category.

Please preface any soapbox comments with "SOAPBOX:" so we will know what you want posted and what is private.

TO AID IN PROCESSING YOUR ENTRY, PLEASE USE THE EXACT FORMAT SHOWN BELOW:

[Your call] [space] [total sections claimed]  
[space] [alphabetical list of sections worked, single spaced]

Example: K1YAN 6 EMA KS LA MI ND WV

There should be no special formatting, no extra characters like commas, hyphens etc., only plain text in a horizontal format with no tabs and single spaces between items.

## SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

Submit your entry to Charlie N1AOK just like for the regular monthly letter challenge as described in the previous section.



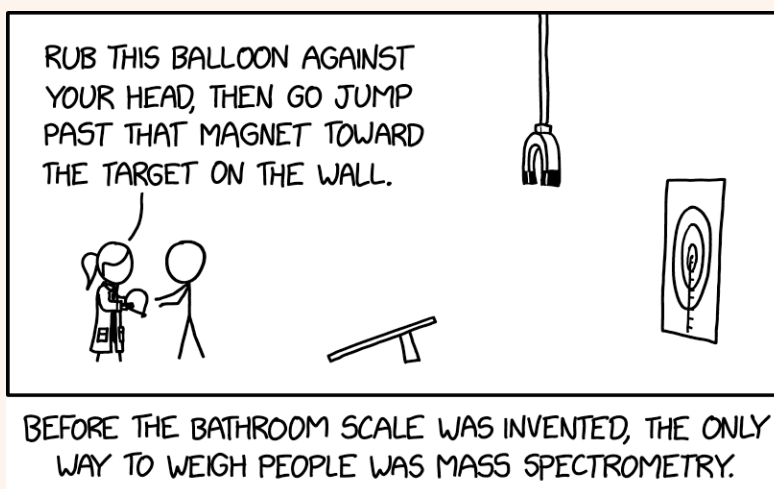
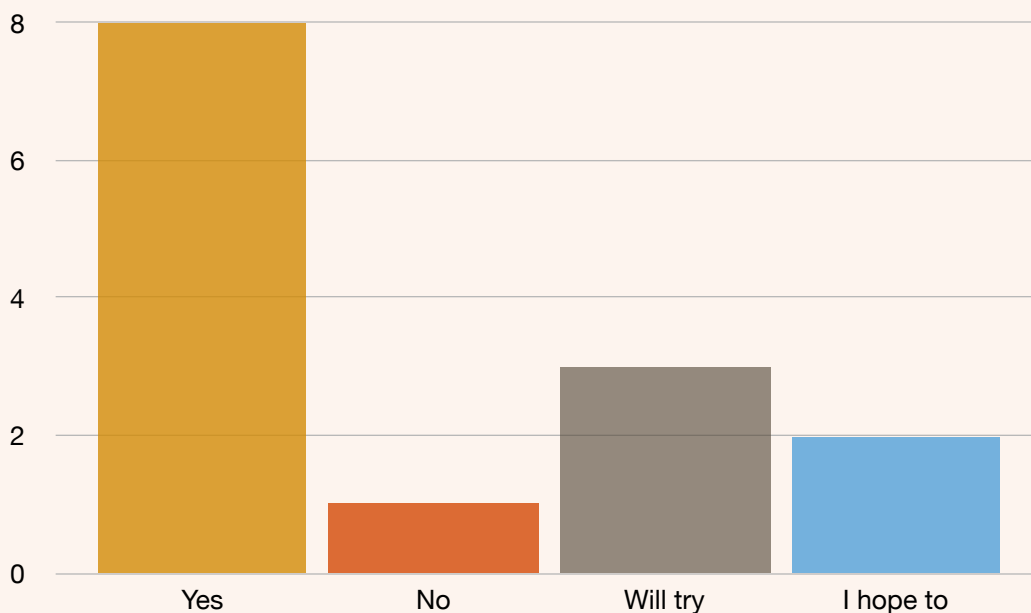
# MEMBER POLLS

## JUNE POLL

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Are You going to try QRP CW? [https://naqcc.info/poll\\_new.html](https://naqcc.info/poll_new.html)

## MAY POLL

Summer is fast approaching! Are you getting ready for outdoor QRP CW activities?



XKCD: <https://xkcd.com/3094/>

# 40 METER FLEA POWER

*By JIM WT2W #7501*

About 30 years ago, I had this idea to build a small QRP transmitter. I scoured the handbook and old ham magazines looking for something I could call my homebrew rig.

Hark! I found something. It's called the Michigan Mighty Mite. Credit goes to W3FQJ and KY8I. It's a 40-meter CW transmitter using a handful of parts including a 2N2222 transistor. This was it. I had to try.

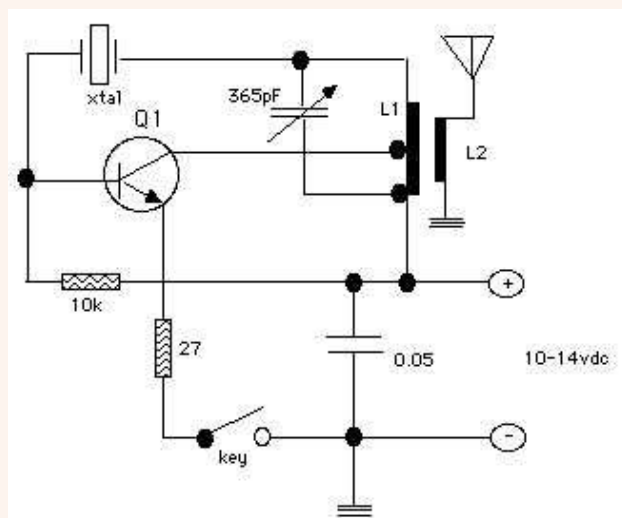
It was a KISS transmitter for sure. I wound the coil on an empty plastic pill bottle and soldered the few parts together on a makeshift board. I could see via my SWR/Power meter that the needle on the meter was flickering. Yes! Flea Power.

I began calling CQ and listening. Hours went by full of nothing. Finally I called a ham friend that lived about 10 miles from me on the local 2-meter repeater. Hey, can you listen for me? Sure enough he came right back to my call, and gave me a 589. 589? Holy Crow! I was not expecting the 8 or the 9. Hi.

I just had to be patient. I waited for a QRP week-end Contest. What a delight ! I worked 11 states, all running what I determined to be 250 milliwatts to a dipole. I can still remember the fun it was. I was hooked on low power ops after that.

Sadly that little radio is long gone so I don't have photos. However I do recall using two transistor sockets in parallel so I could easily plug and unplug various NPN transistors looking for better tone quality or power output, etc. It had one TO-220 socket and the other was for the 2N2222. I ended up using the 2N2222 but it was fun to experiment. An alligator clip acted as a heat sink on the 2222.

More recently I built a single Tube 80m transmitter using an EL84. Again, a pill bottle for a coil form. Then I added a plate modulated audio section just for fun. Now that was crazy. 75m AM? The AM'ers were all excited when I said I had built my own AM transmitter until I told them it was a little audio tube. For those guys, anything less than 150w is unheard of. Five watts of AM? I wasn't much of an AM kinda guy but it was fun! That little transmitter really worked great on CW though. It's built on a pine board like the hams of 1929 used to 'breadboard' their builds. My approach was from my AWA 1929 Hartley Oscillator adventures. The complete story is one for another day, but KISS is always the best!





# NAQCC SPRINTS

## JUNE SPRINTS

Our regular Sprint this month was on Wednesday 11 June at 0030-0230Z. That was the evening of Tuesday 10 June in North America.

This month we also have the June QRP/CW mW Sprint on Wednesday 18 June at 0030-0230Z. That is the evening of Tuesday 17 June in North America. The additional rules are simple: Operate at 1 watt or less to be eligible for any awards or prizes. Others running higher power are welcome to participate and submit logs, but will be considered QRO.

## RULES

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at <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/contest-s.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).

MAY SPRINT				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Total QSOs	934	1012	3,154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	606	628	1,704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	328	384	1,450	4/17
20m QSOs	209	454	1,232	8/13
40m QSOs	670	556	2,203	4/17
80m QSOs	55	2	1,417	2/13

## MAY SPRINT RESULTS

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202505.html>. High scores can be seen in the following tables.

## SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**KG8Y** First time. Running my new ic705 @ 5w and a wire dipole at about 25' or so.

**K4KBL** 20 meters was great, working Pete N02D in CO, Ron AA0W NE, and John KC7DM in OR. Also worked many of my usual buddies. 40 was ok but noisy as usual here in GA. Great time as always !!!

**N02D** Been using a paddle for a while but switched to my trusty Lafayette straight key tonight. Very much out of practice. Thanks to all who make the sprints possible. Pete, N02D.

**KN2G** A very good night for me. I have yet to break 30 contacts... (got 28) but maybe someday! I enjoy our well mannered group and good fists. 80 was summertime crunchy, 40 fair and 20 was productive but very low noise for me. I expect some high scores tonight. June is coming! 2 sprints and Field Day too. See you there. 72

### SWA - STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	K1IX	-
W2	KN2G	K2OID	KB2GKC
W3	K3JZD	KC3MIO	WA3FIR AK3X (TIE)
W4	KC5F	W4NLT	K4WY
W5	KA6J	N5GW	KA5HZV WA5LSV (TIE)
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	KC7DM	-	-
W8	W8GG	-	-
W9	WB9HFK	K9QEW	N8HWV
W0	NN0SS	KD0DK	AA0W
Canada	VA3KRJ	VE3IIM	-
DX	-	-	-

### SWA - BUG CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	NN3E	-	-
W4	AF4PX	K3RLL	-
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	KI8FV	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	KD0V	-	-
Canada	VE3IDS	VE3HUR	-
DX	-	-	-

### SWA - KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	N1OI	N2CN
W2	N2ESE	WA2FBN	WA1GWH
W3	KD3CA	-	-
W4	K4KRW	WB0CJB	K4KBL
W5	-	-	-
W6	KF6NCX	-	-
W7	KF7Z	-	-
W8	NF8M	WI8J	WA8SAN
W9	N9EEE	KY0Q	AB9BZ
W0	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	DK1VD	-	-

### GAIN ANTENNA CATEGORY

Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	-	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	VE3DQN	-	-

### SPRINT FREQUENCIES

Band	Frequencies
80m	3555-3565 kHz Be courteous to FISTS operating on 3558 kHz
40m	7030-7045 kHz
20m	14059-14065 kHz

# 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 7:00 PM CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7067 kHz (summer) 3566 kHz (winter)	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CDT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7:00 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (WA)
East Coast QRS Net (ECN)	Off the Air			Craig KE4CR (VA)

*Note: On the rare occasion 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 7:00 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0000 UTC, on 7067 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

**May 06** No net (thunderstorms)

**May 13** QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA

Conditions pretty good tonight. YUM was short time and quick 73's. YGA headed to Little Rock tomorrow and hoping for good WX.

**May 20** QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, N4NN

Conditions to AR were poor tonight, YUM was 329 on check in and NIL copy when called for reports. Allen in GA was 579. He did a POTA yesterday. Nice WX in GA this weekend. Still real bad QSB on the bands the last few weeks.

**May 27** QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA

Had a nice chat with Andy tonight and only check in. Memorial Day had been slow. Guess all are having a great time with family and friends. Have a good week and CUL.

### NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

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

**May 06** QNI (2) NCS W0CC, WB9HFK

Despite the intense QRN and "crashes", Mark had a 569 signal from Urbana, IL!

**May 13** No Net

**May 20** No Net

**May 27** QNI (1) NCS W0CC

A lot of QSB but not too much QSO!

### 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)

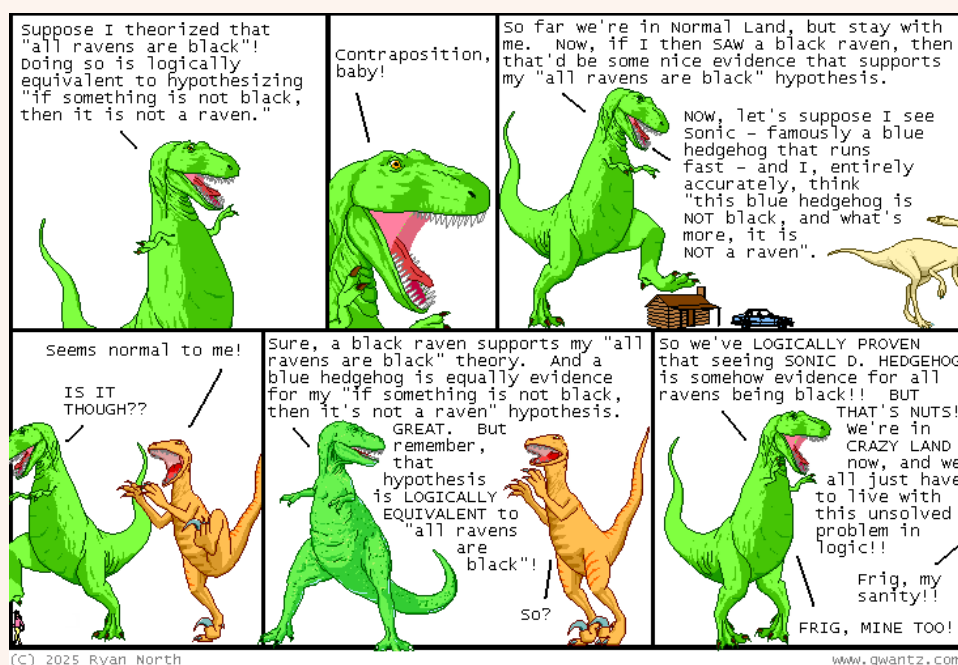
**May 02** QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, KB7DYP, KI7SJE, WB4SPB, AD7BP

**May 09** QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, KB7DYP, NB6M, W7OS, AD7BP, W7ANM, K7JUV

**May 16** QNI (7) NCS WB7WHG, NB6M, KB7DYP, AD7BP, WB4SPB, W7ANM, KE7LKW

**May 23** QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, KB7DYP, W7ANM, WB4SPB, AD7BP, N0DA

**May 30** QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, KI7SJE, K7JUV



Dinosaur Comics: <https://www.qwantz.com/index.php?comic=4342>



# NAQCC CHAPTERS

## START A LOCAL CHAPTER

The North American QRP CW Club currently has six local chapters - 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 John KK4ITX.

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 John, at the email address listed on next to 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 at the email addresses listed on the next to 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, Club President John KK4ITX, to schedule the use of N3AQC.



## 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>



## 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 website is:

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



## 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.



## 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.



## 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.

# NAQCC PRIZE SPONSORS

## LNR PRECISION

LNR Precision, Inc. is a North Carolina based company that specializes in the manufacturing of QRP transceivers, namely the Mountain Topper series designed by Steve Weber (KD1JV). [www.lnrprecision.com](http://www.lnrprecision.com)



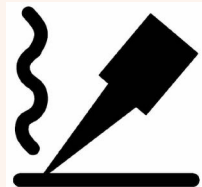
## FOUR STATES QRP GROUP

Four States QRP Group is devoted to low power (QRP) amateur radio building and operation. We offer quality kits to the QRP community with all proceeds going to fund our annual Conference, OzarkCon. [www.4sgrp.com](http://www.4sgrp.com)

[www.4sgrp.com](http://www.4sgrp.com)

## QRP BUILDER

Kits, projects, and ideas for the QRP community. Paddles, antennas, PTO kits, and more. [qrpbuilder.com](http://qrpbuilder.com)



## GREEN SWAMP WCF

Green Swamp WCF is a chapter of the NAQCC, Inc. located in PASCO County, Florida in the area of the Green Swamp. [zaarc.org/gsqrp.html](http://zaarc.org/gsqrp.html)

## ROUTE 45 APPAREL

Route 45 Apparel creates custom decorated products such as shirts,

jackets, hats, mugs, & more for NAQCC and the Amateur Radio Community. Please visit our website and let's see if we can help you.

[route45apparel.com/](http://route45apparel.com/)



# 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, include a link to the club website at: <http://www.naqcc.info>



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THIS NEW SUNSPOT CLUSTER HAS RAISED  
CONCERN AMONG ASTRONOMERS

XKCD: <https://xkcd.com/3096/>

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 John Leahy KK4ITX  
3513 Aquamarine Way  
Zephyrhills, FL 33540 USA

