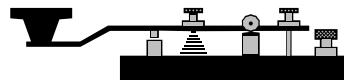


# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 331 · JANUARY 2026



## Key Clicks

- *In This Issue*

The Prez Sez; a few submissions and more crazy keys; plus Nets, QRP Events, Polls, Sprints, Soapboxes, and more.

- *State QSO Parties are Back Next Month*

- *Vice President Opening*

With the resignation of Aaron Ray N4ARY, we have an opening for vice president.

- *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). **Note that we had a bug in the system (now fixed), so if you made an update in the last month or so, check that it took and retry if it didn't.**

- *Content Submissions*

As always, keep sending us your stories and we'll keep getting them into the newsletter.



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# The Prez Sez...

## Swap and Shop

The Swap and Shop email this month has over a dozen chances for you to find a buy before the lister offers it to the general public. Take a look at the list and see if anything tickles your fancy. Remember, this service is for NAQCC members a way to offer items for sale and wanted to buy, swap, or trade. Contact information is listed for each add and you can work out any of the details. This month's email was sent out on 2 January.

To sell any QRP items, simply respond to the email usually sent toward the end of each month and send to the address listed. It's very quick and easy. The process has changed a little to simplify the effort—cut-off for ads now is midnight of the last day of each month.

## HOA Antenna Letter Campaign

I know that this is old news, but please, if you have not done so, make the effort this month to add your name to the list. It's a very simple process and you do not need to be an ARRL member.

The ARRL is promoting an HOA Antenna letter campaign, the purpose of which is to send letters from as many hams as see fit to do so to their Representatives and Senators in Congress. HOAs are all over the US and so are the ops that respond to emergencies. Some live in HOAs and need the FCC rules modified to allow antenna re-

strictions to be removed. All you need to do is click on this link [www.arrl.org/hoa](http://www.arrl.org/hoa), enter your call, name, and address, and the letters will be sent at no expense to you. We need your help even if you're not living in an HOA or if you're not an ARRL member. Your support is appreciated.

## December mW Sprint

The December mW Sprint had a pretty good turnout, yours truly did not fair so well but still was time well spent. Results are posted in this newsletter and on the website.

## 160m Sprint

In addition to the regular Monthly Sprint this month we also have the 160m Sprint, give it a try, it could be a good one!! Details on the NAQCC website.

## Donations

Donations are always needed, appreciated and required for operating expenses. Please mail your tax deductible check payable to:

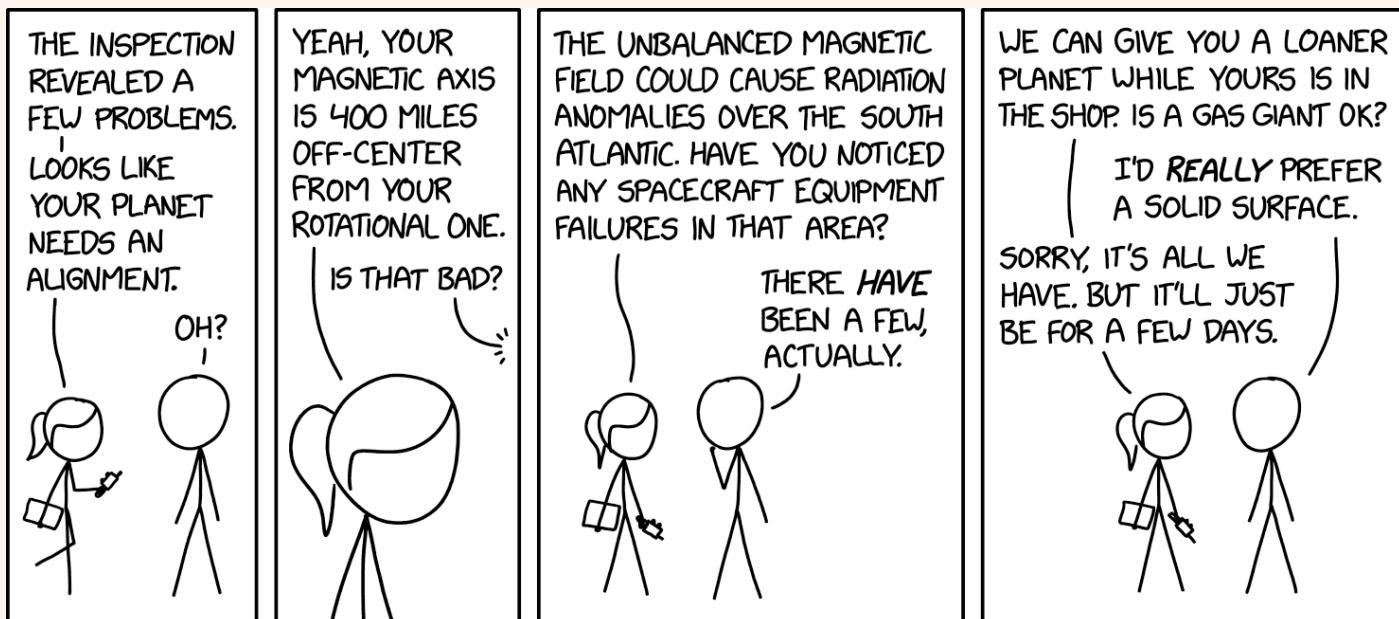
*North American QRP CW Club, Inc.  
35 Heather Circle  
Cave Spring, GA 30124*

Also an option (not my favorite) is to send to me through my Paypal account ([jleahy00@yahoo.com](mailto:jleahy00@yahoo.com)). If you choose this method, PLEASE be sure that you indicate NAQCC and your membership number.

May your log book be filled to overflowing this year!

72,

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



<https://xkcd.com/3192/>

## 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.

# More Weird Keys and Paddles

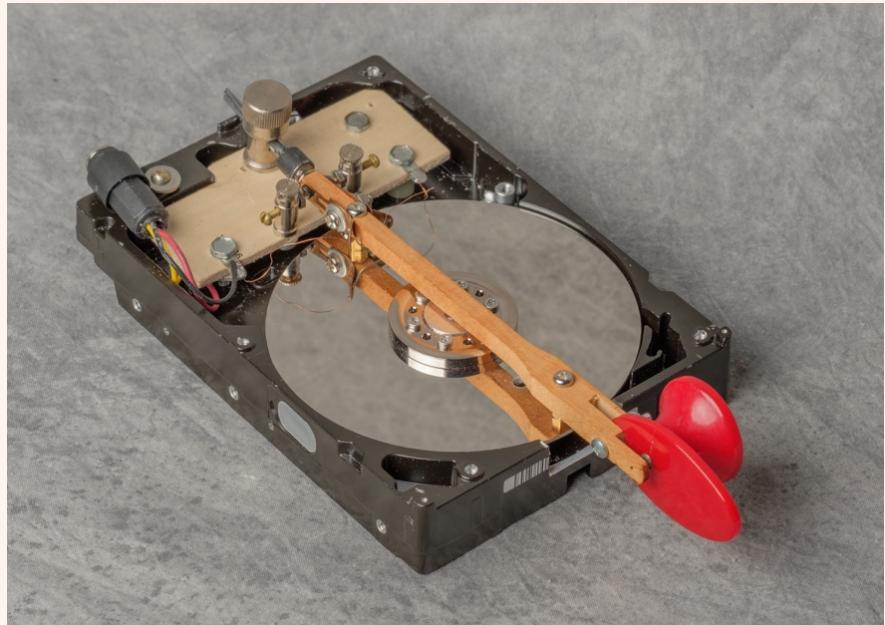
By Howard Zehr K4LXY

Like Luc ON7DQ/KF0CR in the last newsletter, I too like to make keys and paddles out of weird materials.

I've made paddles from tweezers, clothes pins, typewriters, and musical instrument parts, to name just a few. Computer hard drive parts are especially tempting because of the smooth pivots they offer, so I've tried a number of different paddle versions with them. Single lever paddles are more difficult than dual paddles because of the problems posed by centering the arm, but my preference is for them.

The paddle above right was one of my first paddles from a hard drive. It isn't exactly small, but it works OK. It uses magnetic centering. The wooden arm is from a Wurlitzer piano.

The one at right is a later effort. It works fine, though I'm not satisfied with the centering spring mechanism. I used fishing weights in the base to give it some heft. I wish I had used a bigger base to give more room to experiment with centering mechanisms.





There are a couple other versions of hard drive paddles on my QRZ page.

The shape of a piano's hammer begged to be the basis of a straight key. Most of the parts in the photo at left are from a Wurlitzer piano—I bought a box of parts on eBay.

My artist daughter and I once did an exhibit entitled “The Secret Life of Typewriters” using piano parts. The straight key center left is made from the ribbon mechanism.

My latest straight key, below left, is from a valve mechanism from an old clarinet.

I've thought sometimes that we should have a contest to see who can come up with the weirdest one, but I think Luc has already won it. Still, it would be fun to see what others have come up with.

*(Editor's Note: Let's take Howard up on the challenge! Send in your weird keys and paddles. Even a single photo and a few words is fine and we'll find a place to show it in the newsletter.)*



# QRP Contest and Event News

*By Jim K7QI/Z8IA #5020*

Happy New Year fellow QRP operators! I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas, Santa was good to you, and you survived the New Year. Welcome 2026.

I know I enjoyed Straight Key Night. I worked a few stations using my Heathkit HW-8!

Event	When	Link
4 States QRP Group Second Sun. Sprint	Jan 12 0100Z-0300Z	<a href="http://www.4sqrp.com/SSS/sss_rules.pdf">http://www.4sqrp.com/SSS/sss_rules.pdf</a>
AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest	Jan 14 2300Z to Jan 15 2300Z and Jan 17 2300Z to Jan 18 2300Z	<a href="https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/linc-cundall-memorial-cw-contest/">https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/linc-cundall-memorial-cw-contest/</a>
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	Jan 15 0000Z-0100Z and Jan 16 0200Z-0300Z	<a href="https://qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20/">https://qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20/</a>
Winter Field Day	Jan 24 1600Z to Jan 25 2159Z	<a href="https://www.winterfieldday.com/">https://www.winterfieldday.com/</a>
QCX Challenge	Jan 26 1300Z-1400Z	<a href="http://www.qrp-labs.com/party.html">http://www.qrp-labs.com/party.html</a>
SKCC Sprint	Jan 28 0000Z-0200Z	<a href="https://www.skccgroup.com">https://www.skccgroup.com</a>
Marconi Club ARI Loano Slow CW QSO Party	Feb 1 1300Z-2300Z	<a href="https://www.marconiclub.it/contest1/slow-cw-qso-party/submit-log-slow-cw-qso-party">https://www.marconiclub.it/contest1/slow-cw-qso-party/submit-log-slow-cw-qso-party</a>
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Feb 2 0000Z-0100Z	<a href="http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html">http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html</a>
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Feb 2 1300Z-1400Z	<a href="https://internationalcwcouncil.org/mst-contest/">https://internationalcwcouncil.org/mst-contest/</a>
QRP Fox hunt	Feb 4 0200Z-0330Z	<a href="http://www.qrpxohunt.org/winter_rules.htm">http://www.qrpxohunt.org/winter_rules.htm</a>
A1Club AWT	Feb 4 1145Z-1300Z	<a href="https://a1club.org/contest/awt/">https://a1club.org/contest/awt/</a>
CWops Test (CWT)	Feb 4-5	<a href="https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/">https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/</a>
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	Feb 5 0000Z-0100Z and Feb 6 0200Z-0300Z	<a href="https://qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20/">https://qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20/</a>
Vermont QSO Party	Feb 7 0000Z to Feb 8 2400Z	<a href="http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html">http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html</a>
Minnesota QSO Party	Feb 7 1400Z-2400Z	<a href="https://www.w0aa.org/mnqp-rules/">https://www.w0aa.org/mnqp-rules/</a>
British Columbia QSO Party	Feb 7 1600Z to Feb 8 0359Z	<a href="https://www.orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.html">https://www.orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.html</a>
North American Sprint, CW	Feb 8 0000Z-0359Z	<a href="https://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf">https://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf</a>
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	Feb 9 0100Z-0300Z	<a href="http://www.4sqrp.com/SSS/sss_rules.pdf">http://www.4sqrp.com/SSS/sss_rules.pdf</a>
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	Feb 14 1100Z-1300Z	<a href="http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt">http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt</a>
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	Feb 14 1200Z to Feb 15 2400Z	<a href="https://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/">https://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/</a>
OMISS QSO Party	Feb 14 1500Z to Feb 15 1500Z	<a href="http://www.omiss.net/Facelift/qsoaparty.php">http://www.omiss.net/Facelift/qsoaparty.php</a>
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	Feb 15 2300Z to Feb 16 0100Z	<a href="https://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/">https://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/</a>
QCX Challenge	Feb 23 1300Z-1400Z	<a href="http://www.qrp-labs.com/party.html">http://www.qrp-labs.com/party.html</a>
International DX -- CW	Feb 21-22	<a href="https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx">https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx</a>

# NAQCC Challenge

## Railroad Signal Systems

*By Gary KIYAN #2365*

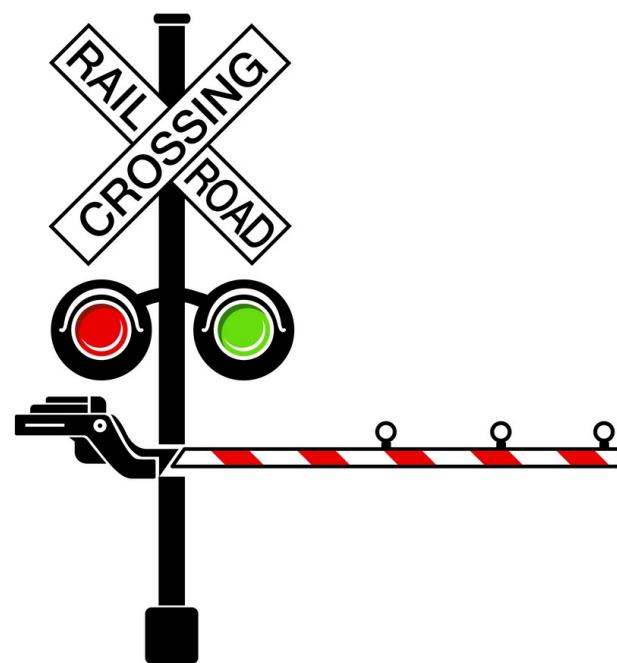
You approach a railroad crossing and are met with flashing warning lights and a gate across the road. The train passes by, the lights go off and the gate rises. Ever wonder what kind of system controls those crossing safety devices? It is actually pretty simple, quiet, and low profile.

Railroad tracks are divided into sections called blocks. Each block of track has an insulating joint at each end that electrically separates it from the adjacent blocks. Take a close look at a run of track and you will see that each segment of rail has a jumper wire that bonds it to its neighbor. This creates an electrical conductor made of rail with an insulator at each end.

Now we add a battery and a relay, connected by the two rails and we have the basic control circuit. The batteries are usually found in a vault or other secure enclosure and provide a low voltage, around 20 volts or less. At the other end of the circuit we find a gravity drop relay. When it is energized, its normal state, its contacts are electrically held open. When de-energized, the relay contacts close by gravity. This provides a fail safe property for the system. If the battery fails or something causes the rail conductor to open or short out, the relay drops and its

contacts close. This puts the crossing into a warning state, stopping traffic. Better to stop traffic with no approaching train, than to not stop it with a train actually coming through!

This is all nice, but how does the approaching train make the signaling respond. Those steel sets of wheels bridge both rails and create a short circuit. This causes the relay to drop out, activating the crossing warnings. After the train passes through, removing the short circuit on the block of track that controls the relay, the relay resets, clears the warning system, and allows



traffic to again pass. This idea is also used in the control of switches and the movement of trains between main lines and sidings.

### 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, 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)

### Words

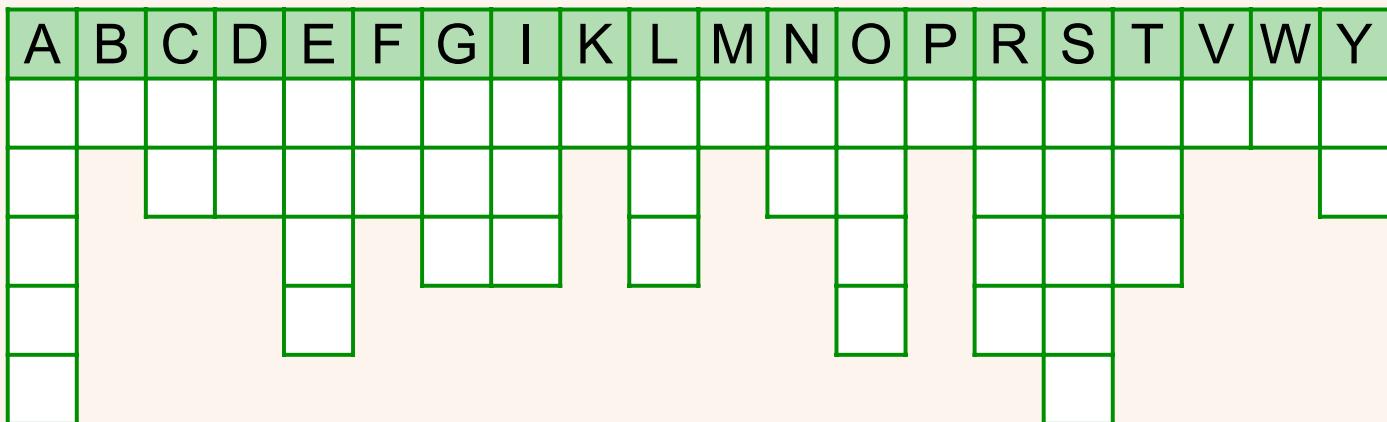
- ROAD CROSSING WARNING SYSTEMS
- BLOCKS OF TRACK
- GRAVITY DROP RELAY
- LOW VOLTAGE BATTERIES
- FAIL SAFE DESIGN

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.

### Challenge Tracker

The 88 total letters contain these 24 different letters: A B C D E F G I K L M N O P R S T V W Y

You can use each letter in a call TWICE. For example you could use K3WWP for 2 K's, 4 W's, and 2 P's.



Subsequent QSO's with the same station cannot be used for additional letters. For example, no matter how many times you work K3WWP, you can only use his call for 8 of the letters in the words.

See General Rule #5 for more details on what callsign letters can be used.

If you need some help with your alphabet challenge record keeping take a look at our Alphabet Tutorial page for everything from some great pencil & paper methods to fully computerized tools.

### Awards

A certificate goes to everyone making all the words and submitting their report before the deadline.

### 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 Awards

The NAQCC offers an extensive array of awards, at least one of which should appeal to every member's tastes. Some duplicate other organizations' awards, but ours are FREE. Others we believe are unique to the NAQCC, unless they have been copied by other organizations since their inception here.

In November, KJ7KVD worked HA9RE to get the [1,000 MPW Award](#) with 1,084 miles per watt.

Check out the awards page here: <https://naqcc.info/awards.html>

## A Letter from Jim N7RCS

Would you travel 2700 miles for a QSO with a station 3700 miles away?

For our 40th anniversary, our children, their spouses, and their children joined us on a weeklong vacation (November 4-11) to Kauai, HI. The tiny island is a rainforest paradise with amazing beaches and mountains with spectacular waterfalls.

Although I had never done it before, I decided at the last minute to bring my radio gear in the hopes of working exotic DX from the north Pacific. My KX3, AX3 antenna, Tufteln clamp mount, N6ARA Tiny Paddle, headphones and other miscellaneous bits, plus a 12v Bioenno LiFePo battery all fit into a small backpack with room to spare.

I didn't know how much time I would have to play radio considering we had four grandchildren to enjoy, but I had great expectations for radio adventures.

Regardless, Old Sol had different ideas. My expectations for fun and exotic DX evaporated shortly after arrival in Kauai as I learned about approaching CMEs and associated geomagnetic storms.

During our week in Kauai there were G3 and G4 class magnetic storms underway. The storm was so intense it produced Auroras seen in the southern hemisphere and also in my home state of Washington. According to Australia's Bureau of Meteorolo-

gy on November 12: "It is quite an intense geomagnetic storm, one of the largest that we've seen in recent years." Space Weather's site reported that "auroras spread across the Americas as far south as El Salvador. The lights were seen in at least 45 US states."

As a result, while in Kauai, scanning 20m, 15m & 10m revealed very limited radio activity whether morning, noon or night; although I did hear stations early on November 5th from Australia, Lebanon, Chile, Argentina, Japan and the US. Unfortunately my tiny CW signal was squashed by the geomagnetic storms raging above.

Multiple CME events made making even one QRP QSO unlikely. But the one I did manage to complete was a keeper.

Here's what happened. I essentially flew 2700 miles (4300 km) to Kauai, Hawaii to make a quick 15m CW QSO at 0430z (2030 local time) with KH2/A50G (Bhutan) who was on Guam, some 3700 miles from Kauai, the westernmost Hawaiian island. I was running 3W from my AX3 mounted on a hotel balcony railing about 30 feet (10m) up. Considering what was happening in the ionosphere I'm still not sure whether the QSO was made via ground wave (if such a signal propagation mechanism is possible over water) or sky wave. A50G gave me a 559 report. I gave him a 579. I was unable to learn anything about A50G as he is not listed in QRZ or HamLog.

So, was this single contact effort a disappointment? Absolutely not! If anything, it has whetted my appetite for future QRP adventures far and near.

Key takeaways:

- I learned that carrying QRP gear through TSA checkpoints was painless. On the leg from Seattle to Kauai I had my KX3, field kit gear and a 12v Bioenno battery in a small backpack. No questions were asked as it was scanned through. On the return flight I put the same gear into my main travel duffel and it passed through TSA screening, again with no questions.
- Conditions were quite windy during our stay so I was glad to have my Tufteln antenna mount for the AX3, instead of the default tripod legs that come with the AX3.
- Although the KX3 is compact, I think I will bring one of my QRP Labs QMX rigs on subsequent trips instead, which are smaller and lighter than the KX3. The downside is I'd need resonant antennas for the QMX rigs as I prefer not to bring along another piece of gear for tuning. That said, one significant advantage of the KX3 is its ability to automatically tune and then scan bands to dig out hidden signals.
- The N6ARA Tiny Paddle is quite capable but is a bit of a challenge to operate with the KX3 with its left-side paddle port. I'm right-handed so it was tricky using it left-handed. That said, it's a great match for the QRP Labs QMX+ with its front-facing paddle port.
- I operated at night several times and the hotel deck lacked lighting but my iPhone case has a handy kickstand which allowed me to light a small enough area for note taking on my Rocket book mini.
- Using the World Radio League app I created a log-book for this trip on the fly, which allowed setting my location so QSOs would reflect my actual location as opposed to capturing Qs in my main WRL logbook which is set for my home QTH. (See screenshot at right.)

Was it worth bringing my QRP field kit for the trip? Absolutely! I learned a lot about operating really far from home. My success at contacting A5OG, on Guam from Bhutan, came after being very patient and persistent, requiring about 10 minutes of patiently calling him.



# NAQCC State QSO Party Challenge

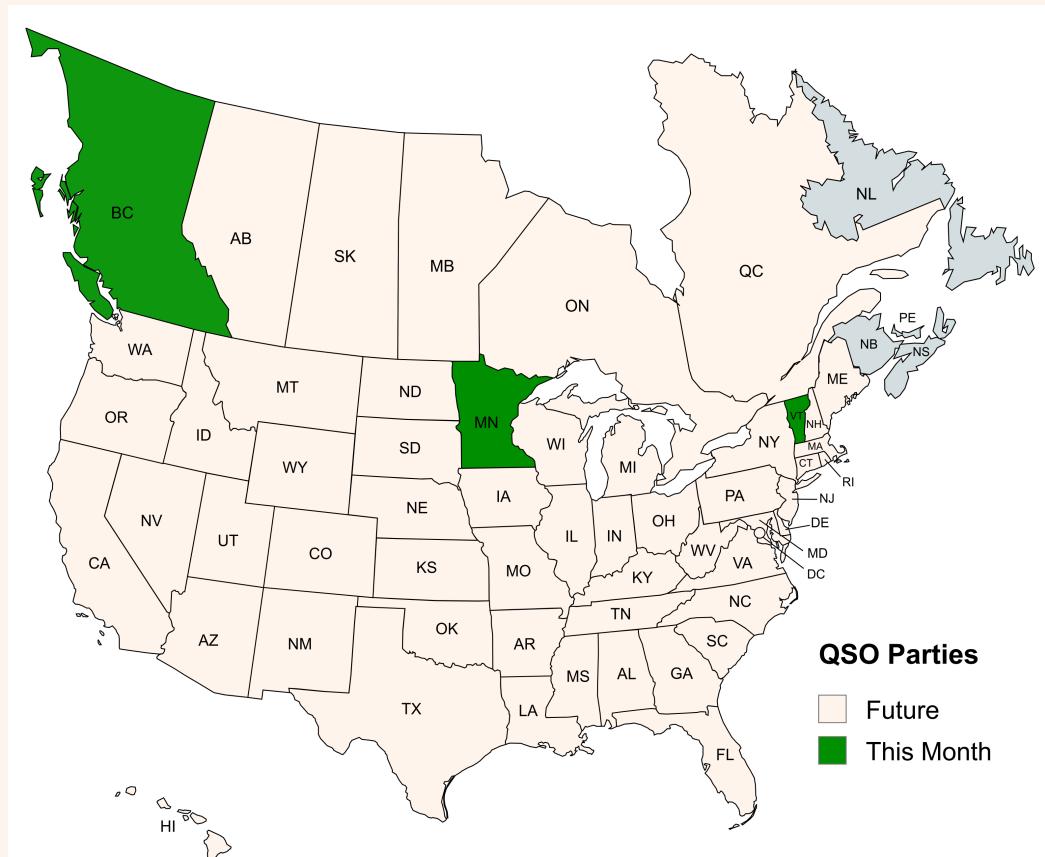
*By Don VE3DQN #5846*

## Yes, We're Back

A one month absence from the NAQCC Newsletter, but for those of us active in State QSO Parties, it's a three and a half month pause. The State QSO Party season begins again the weekend of February 7-8, and I can't wait.

## Party Time

State QSO Parties are, for the most part, low level contests—"casual contests" I call them. They are something of a bridge between the friendly NAQCC Sprints and high level contesting. Everyone tries to contact as many stations as possible of the particular state, or province, or region sponsoring the party. There's a place for everyone at these parties, beginners or veterans, slow CW or whiz kids, QRP or high power. Folks are willing to accommodate, they'll dig



Upcoming QSO Parties					
State	Times	IN	Out	Freqs	Links
<b>Vermont</b>	Feb 07 0000Z to Feb 08 2400Z	RST County	RST ST	up 50	<a href="http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html">http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html</a>
<b>Minnesota</b>	Feb 07 1400Z to Feb 07 2400Z	Name County	Name ST	up 50	<a href="https://www.w0aa.org/mn-qso-party/">https://www.w0aa.org/mn-qso-party/</a>
<b>British Columbia</b>	Feb 07 1600Z to Feb 08 0400Z and Feb 08 1600Z to Feb 08 2400Z	RST District	RST ST	1815 and up 35	<a href="http://www.orcadxcc.org/bcq_rules.html">http://www.orcadxcc.org/bcq_rules.html</a>

your signal out of the noise, they'll slow down to your speed. And if you're not used to "running" in a contest, trying it out in your own State QSO Party is a great place to begin.

## The Challenge

There are 48 State QSO Parties (or, SQPs) from February through October. A team of folks came up with the brilliant idea of linking participation in them together in a season-long Challenge, promoting activity by tracking scores and awarding certificates at the end of the nine-month season. Details can be found here <https://stateqsoparty.com/>. The NAQCC QSO Party Challenge is our version of the State QSO Party Challenge where only QRP CW contacts count. Details for this can be found at <https://naqcc.info/qsoparties.html>. (The SQP Challenge is not to be confused with the NAQCC monthly Challenge of matching callsign letters with a set of words or phrases.)

## Multipliers

If you've followed along on any of my previous articles, you've likely noticed how I stress "multipliers." Your total score at the end of the nine-month SQP season depends more on how many SQPs you've entered than on your individual QSO count in any one of them. Score a minimum of 2 QSOs in an SQP in order to gain the multiplier. Brent WT4U did just that (plus a few more in some SQPs) in 2025 to earn the full set of 48 multipliers and gain the Gold certificate.

## Let The Party Begin

The season begins Feb 7 @0000Z with the Vermont QSO Party. The VT Party is spread over 48 hours, and you have to be alert to catch the few CW operators who are on. The opening of the VT party is followed soon by the MN and the BC parties, where you have the chance to rack up significant QSO points. Three parties on one weekend? That's well worth a couple hours of operating time. Or more, if you're really into this.

## Questions?

Our NAQCC website is the go-to spot for answering your questions and seeing the most recent scores (once the 2026 season gets going) <https://naqcc.info/qsoparties.html>. And if you've thought about joining in with the SQP Challenge fun, but some details still seem confusing, don't hesitate to ask [don@hekman.net](mailto:don@hekman.net).



# NAQCC Sprints

## January Sprint

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Thursday, January 22 at 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, January 21 in North America. Complete information at <https://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202601.html>.

## 160 Meter Sprint

Our bonus Sprint is on Thursday, January 29, 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, January 28 in North America. Complete information at: [https://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202601\\_160.html](https://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202601_160.html).

## Rules

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found on our website [here](#). 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 from our website [here](#). 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 on our website [here](#).

DECEMBER SPRINT STATS-1				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Total QSOs	614	705	3,154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	390	412	1,704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	224	293	1,450	4/17
20m QSOs	62	25	1,232	8/13
40m QSOs	333	403	2,203	4/17
80m QSOs	219	277	1,417	2/13

mW SPRINT STATS-1	
Total QSOs	254
Hour 1 QSOs	118
Hour 2 QSOs	136
20m QSOs	4
40m QSOs	83
80m QSOs	167

## November Sprint Results

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found on our website [here](#). High scores can be seen in the following tables.

## Sprint Soapbox Sampler

**K9NUD** I gave it an hour and got more contacts than last week. I managed contacts in all three bands, and worked Steve (KC5F) on two. Rig tonight: KX3 @ 900mw using a cootie, eftw up 40'. Thanks for the great contacts!

**K3JZD** The NAQCC mW Sprint is typically one of my favorite events. But not tonight. Flooded 40m and 80m with my 900 mw for a little over an hour. But the grinch stole the propagation. K4 @ 900 mw to a dipole on 40m and a 107' EFRW on 80m. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 72, Jody - K3JZD

## December 2025 QRP/CW Sprint

SWA - STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY-2			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KQ1P	-	-
W2	KA2KGP	KN2G	-
W3	KC3MIO	N3RDG	KA3BPN
W4	KC5F	WG8Y	K4WY
W5	KN1H	N5GW	KE9DR
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	K8AG	-	-
W9	WB9HFK	N9JFZ	K9NUD
W0	NOTA	AA0W	NN0SS
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA - BUG CATEGORY-1			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	N2TNN	N2DGQ	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	AF4PX	W4NLT	W4CMG K3RLL (TIE)
W5	KD5ZCQ	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	KD0V	-	-
Canada	VE3IIM	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA - KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY-1			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1YAN	-	-
W2	N2ESE	WA1GWH	WA2FBN
W3	KM3D	WA3FIR	N1BIV
W4	K4KBL	N4MJ	NI4U
W5	KA6J	KE5CW	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	KF7Z	-	-
W8	WI8J	K8NGW	NF8M
W9	N9EEE	AB9BZ	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SPRINT FREQUENCIES-1	
Band	Frequencies
80m	3555-3565 kHz Be courteous to FISTS operating on 3558 kHz
40m	7030-7045 kHz
20m	14059-14065 kHz

## December 2025 QRP/CW mW Sprint

SWA - STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY-2-1			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1Mzm	KA1DBE	NA1L
W2	KA2KGP	KN2G	KB2GKC
W3	K3IY	K3JZD	KC2EGL K2DEP (TIE)
W4	KC5F	WG8Y	K4WY
W5	KN1H	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	KC9IL	K9NUD	WB9HFK
W0	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA - BUG CATEGORY-1-1			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	N2TNN	-	-
W3	AK3X	-	-
W4	W4NLT	K3RLL	-
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	N7QR	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	VE3IIM	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA - KEYER/KEYBOARD			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N1BRL	KB1M	-
W2	WA2FBN	-	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	WB0CJB	WA4AAK	W8GG
W5	N5GW	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	WI8J	-	-
W9	KY0Q	-	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

## 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 on the website [here](#). Direct questions to Net Manager Mark, W8EWH.

NAQCC Net Schedule				
Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7:00 PM CST	Tuesday 0100 Z	7067 kHz (summer) 3566 kHz (winter)	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CST	Tuesday 0130 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)	Thursday 5:00 PM PST	Friday 0100 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (WA)

*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.*

### NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Control Station Report

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 7067 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

**Dec 02** QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, KN2CZZ

Had to go down to 80 meters to hear each other. Good QSO and John called from NY. That was a surprise. Conditions are changing and may have to use 80 now.

**Dec 09** No Net

**Dec 16** No Net

**Dec 23** No Net

**Dec 30** QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA

Good signals on 3.566. 67 was busy. Cool WX but sunny and all staying inside for a few days. All looking forward to the new year.

### NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Control Station Report

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0130 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas).

**Dec 02** QNI (1) NCS WOCC

Unfortunately, work had me run 5 minutes late. Although QRZ said that the Band conditions were good, there was very little activity on CW and most was FT-8.

**Dec 09** QNI (1) NCS WOCC

While I was running the Net on 7.031, there was a lot of traffic trying to work VY0ZOO/VF2 on 7.032 and TO9W on 7.033. The QSB was not helpful. At the end of time, I was wondering if my signal was getting out. I was able to "break" a small pile-up and get Harry, K4IBZ, on the first call, in FL with a 579 report!

**Dec 16** QNI (1) NCS WOCC

In order to test the rig, four minutes prior to the Net Start Time of 1930 Local (CST), I received a 599 (running 5 watts) from KP3S in Puerto Rico, on 7036; however, on the Net Frequency of 7031 +/-, there were several "wide signals" and I may have been "drowned out" despite trying to find an "open" spot.

**Dec 23** QNI (1) NCS WOCC

Significant QRN

**Dec 30** QNI (1) NCS WOCC

Not many stations on the band. Not able to make any QSO with other stations shortly before or after "NET time". Maybe I missed Primetime"?

## NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)

### Control Station Report

Thursday evenings 5:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0100 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

**Dec 05** QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, NB6M, AD7BP, KI7SJE, KE7JOG, N7QR**Dec 12** QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, KB7DYP, KB7WHG, AD7BP, KI7SJE, KE7JOG**Dec 19** QNI (3) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, KI7SJE**Dec 26** QNI (4) NCS WB4SPB, KE7LKW/p, AD7BP, N7QR

# NAQCC Chapters

## Start a Local Chapter

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters – West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, Florida, Southern Tier New York, 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 Darryl N4VLP.

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

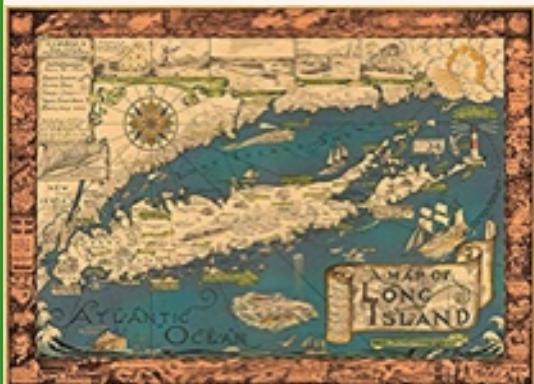


## NAQCC West Florida Chapter

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 Southern Tier New York Chapter

Items in this section are from the Southern Tier New York Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Tom, W2TJ.

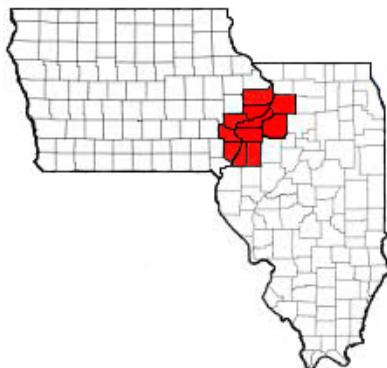
The chapter is located in the Broome, Tioga, and Chenango counties area of New York.



### 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.

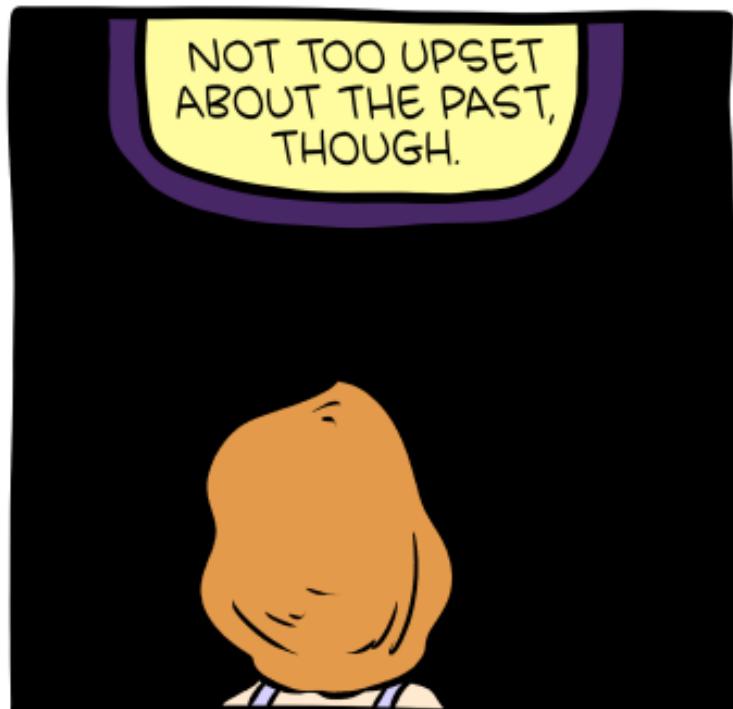
The chapter is located in the Hancock and Washington counties area of Maine.



### 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.



[PATREON.COM/ZACHWEINERSMITH](https://www.patreon.com/zachweinersmith)

[SMB-COMICS.COM](https://www.smbc-comics.com)

# NAQCC 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)



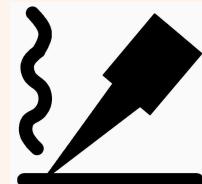
## Four States QRP Group

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.4sqrp.com](http://www.4sqrp.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 contester 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 QRPs.

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.

NAQCC Contacts		
NAQCC President	John KK4ITX	kk4itx@proton.me
NAQCC Treasurer	Dennis W4DWS	w4dws90@gmail.com
Downeast Maine Chapter	Jeff KA1DBE	j.hanscom@gmail.com
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Illowa Chapter	Tim N9BIL	n9bil@arrl.net
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NAQCC Board of Directors 2024-2025			
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Director Canada	John Leonardelli	VE3IPS	ve3ips@gmail.com

## Reprint Policy

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

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 Non-profit 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

