# NORTH AMERICAN QRP CW CLUB

# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 328 · OCTOBER 2025



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# **Key Clicks**

### • In This Issue

The Prez Sez; Building the 4S Tuner; Chillycon; NAQCC 21st Anniversary Celebrations; plus Nets, QRP Events, Polls, Sprints, Soapboxes, and more.

### • NAQCC 21st Anniversary

A weeklong event in October, which will be here before you know it...

### • 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 <a href="https://naqcc.info/memberlist.php">https://naqcc.info/member\_updates.html</a>

#### Content Submissions

We got a few article submissions these past few months, so thanks! But don't let that stop you from submitting more and trust us, your articles will find their way into the newsletter soon enough.

In This Issue					
Key Clicks	1				
The Prez Sez	2				
Building the 4S Tuner	4				
Club Callsign	5				
State QSO Party Challenge	6				
NAQCC Challenge	9				
21st Anniversary Celebration	12				
Member Polls	13				
QRP Contest and Event News	14				
Chillycon 2025	15				
Sprints	19				
Nets	21				
Chapters	23				
Sponsors	27				
Club Information	28				

# The Prez Sez...

Fall is upon us. It's a great time to get out of the house and visit a park. Bring a snack or two, some water, and mostly don't forget your rig and portable antenna! Take a few pics and write some details and send it all in to our newsletter editor (Andy). You'll find his contact info in this issue.

## Flight of the Bumble Bees

The Flight of the Bumble Bees (FOBB) on July 27 was not all that successful for many of us as bad weather and deep QSB ate up the signals.

The event has two categories, those working from the field (Bumblebees) with portable antennas and batteries and Home stations at 5w. To me the results are so astonishing that I have included them here as a summary. The results shown come from the Top 10 scores in each category and no, there's no error.

	Bumblebees	Home Stations
OP Time (1)	26 hrs	24.2 hrs
QSOs Total	533	219
QSOs/Hr	20.5	9.1
Bumblebee QSO	266	149
Total Score (2)	44772	9972

(1) On air time of 8 out of the 10 Top as each category had 2 OPs with no time reported.(2) Scores contain bonus for BB QSOs

The above info was obtained on the (3830scores.com) website.

If you have any thoughts on the above, I would appreciate hearing from you via email—address is at the end of this article.

## **NAQCC VP**

A Vice President for the NAQCC is really needed due to the resignation of Aaron, N4ARY from that post.

Please contact John, KK4ITX for more information ASAP.

## ARRL HOA Antenna Campaign

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 Congress Reps and Senators. HOAs are all over the US and so are the emergency OPs that respond to emergencies as some live in HOAs and need the FCC rules modified to allow antenna restrictions to be removed. All you need to do is click on this link <a href="https://www.arrl.org/hoa">www.arrl.org/hoa</a>, 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.

## **Anniversary Sprint Prizes**

The NAQCC board has decided to suspend the awarding of Anniversary Sprint prizes for the foreseeable future. The Anniversary events will of course continue and Rich

Berger may still need N3A operators. Please contact him at: rberger5@ptd.net.

### **Sponsors**

We need several more Sponsors to help defray operating expenses. A low cost (\$50/yr) gives 12 months of newsletter and website exposure. You can help by asking QRP businesses that YOU buy from to contact me for more information.

### **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). If you choose this method PLEASE be sure that you indicate NAQCC and your membership number.

# **Route 45 Apparel**

The Route 45 Apparel website listed in the newsletter and on our website is back in business.

Until next time, enjoy of the beginning of fall but keep yer raincoat handy, along with bug spray and repellent.





# **Building the 4S Tuner**

# By Luc ON7DQ

After I won no less than two prizes in the 20th anniversary draw (see <a href="https://naqcc.info/newsletter\_318.pdf">https://naqcc.info/newsletter\_318.pdf</a>, page 4), I had to wait a long time before I had them in my



hands. I won a 4S-Tuner Kit from 4 State QRP Group, and a laser engraved callsign plate (see picture at left).

Shipping from USA to Europe would have cost more than the value of the prize, so John, KK4ITX, found another way: he shipped the package to my brother-in-law Leo, NMOU in Springfield, MO.

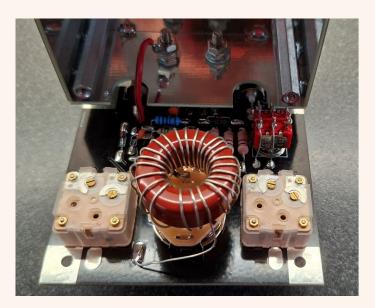
Last May, Leo came to Belgium, but another problem arose, I was in EA8 Gran Canaria at that time. So Leo left the package with my daughter, who

lives 110 km from my QTH. After picking up the package there I could finally see what I had won, hi.

I'm a big fan of kits—you get twice the fun! First to build it, then to put it to good use.

The build went smoothly, with the clear instructions from the 4S Tuner manual. It took me about three hours to finish the build. The most difficult part is winding the toroid and at the same time connecting it to the 12 taps on the inductor switch.

Just one thing puzzled me for a while: One of the last steps is mounting the black and red binding posts, to use with wire antennas. The manual didn't tell where to put the plastic rings. Normally you'd put one ring inside and the other outside, to isolate the binding post from the chassis. But in this tuner, you have to put both rings on the outside. The black post is connected to GND that way, and the red one is isolated by itself anyway.



I made a few minor changes as well. I used the method for maximum inductance at position A of the switch. I added one more winding for the first three sections, to give some more inductance for the lower bands. So my count was 3–3–3, then 2–2–2 2–2–1–1–1 (see circuit diagram on page 18 of the manual). And I used another knob on the switch, just because I like orange, and it stands out more.

OK, and now let's use the tuner! I briefly tested the tuner in my shack, and it worked as expected, but for a real test, I took it on a POTA activation. Normally I take an IC-705 and an automatic tuner, but for the extra challenge, I took a real QRP rig, the HB1B, and an all band vertical, my "SOLUTION NR 2" from <a href="https://on7dq.blogspot.com/2025/04/two-versions-of-cheap-chinese-whip.html">https://on7dq.blogspot.com/2025/04/two-versions-of-cheap-chinese-whip.html</a>. It's a 5.6m Chinese whip, extended with 1.4m of wire, wound

around the base as a helical, and fed via a 4:1 UNUN. On the ground just one counterpoise of 4m length.

I could tune my antenna on 20, 30 and 40m without problems, but with only 5 Watts, and very crowded bands, it was difficult to get the needed 10 QSOs. I was at 8 QSOs when I noticed there was a German straight key QSO Party (Handtastenparty, see <a href="https://www.agcw.de/contest/htp/">https://www.agcw.de/contest/htp/</a>) on 40m, so I used the paddle on its side as a straight key, and made another 2 QSOs to validate my activation. So, good results with this minimal setup.





# 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.

# **NAQCC State QSO Party Challenge**

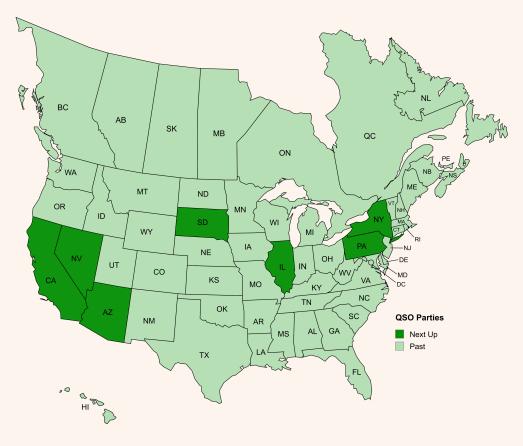
*By Don VE3DQN #5846* 

### Dash for the Line

Yes, October is the final month for the State QSO Party Challenge for 2025. Likely at the reading of this Newsletter there are two weekends and six parties left to attend. Three parties (PA, NY, IL) figure in the Top Ten for activity, so rack up the points. Two (NV, SD) figure in the lowest activity, so listen closely to capture the multiplier.



In our friendly competition we root for each other. Alan



KR4AE has top score secure, but will he, for the 2nd time, reach the Diamond certificate level? Steve NI8W and Brent WT4U have scored in every SQP this year, but will they leap cleanly over the NV and SD hurdles? A certificate or the next level certificate is within reach of a dozen of us, but will we persist?

Upcoming QSO Parties					
State	Times	IN	Out	Freqs	Links
Arizona	Oct 11 1500Z to Oct 12 0500Z	RST 5-char County	RST ARRL/ RAC section	1825, 7025-7035, otherwise 40 up	https://www.azqp.org/
Pennsylvania	Oct 11 1600Z to Oct 12 0400Z and Oct 12 1300Z to Oct 12 2200Z	RST County	RST ST	1812 and 48 up	https://paqso.org/
South Dakota	Oct 11 1800Z to Oct 12 1800Z	QSO# County	QSO# ARRL/RAC section	1810 and 40 up	https://sdqsoparty.com/
Nevada	Oct 11 0300Z to Oct 12 2100Z	RST County	RST ST	1830 and 40 up, plus 7100 & 14100	http://nvqso.com/
New York	Oct 18 1400Z to Oct 19 0200Z	RST County	RST ST	-	http://nyqp.org/
Illinois	Oct 19 1700Z to Oct 20 0100Z	RST County	RST ST	-	https://w9awe.org/ilqp/

### California Dreamin'

The granddaddy of all SQ Parties was held this past weekend, and the CA stations and the band conditions lived up to all the hype. All 58 CA counties appeared to be well-activated. Even QRP stations could rack up big numbers. 15m and 10m were the money bands for several of us. Of our NAQCC members, Alan KR4AE leaped forward toward the Diamond certificate in the SQP Challenge. A very satisfying party for all of us who attended.

## **Stay Tuned**

Check this Newsletter page next month. We'll have a summary of the achievement levels reached and a comparison with previous years' SQP participation. Prizes? Aah, we haven't reached that status yet.

## Soapbox

Check out the experiences of those who do participate in the SQPs here: https://naqcc.info/qsoparties\_soapbox.html. If crashing a party or reporting results on 3830scores.com seems a bit complicated to you, any of those who submit soapbox comments would be glad to answer your questions.

Member	Mult	QSOs	Score	Award	Pace
Alan KR4AE #5847	37	1996	73,852	Platinum	96,460
Ernie N2DGQ #11090	34	1430	48,620	Platinum	63,504
Steve NI8W #11335	42	836	35,112	Platinum	45,861
Don VE3DQN #5846	35	769	26,915	Platinum	35,154
Ron VE3SIF #10033	30	785	23,550	Gold	30,759
Mike W7LG #10391	30	531	15,930	Gold	20,807
Rick KY0Q #9647	25	492	12,300	Gold	16,065
Anthony K8ZT #412	29	359	10,411	Gold	13,598
Kevin NN3E #9851	27	368	9,936	Silver	12,978
Brent WT4U #9019	42	209	8,778	Silver	11,465
Kevin KE3V #855	26	334	8,684	Silver	11,342
Don KI4MZC #10922	20	305	6,100	Silver	7,967
Corry N1OI #10267	10	181	1,810	Bronze	2,364
Greg KB1AWM #9958	4	452	1,808	Bronze	2,361
Will NQ2W #4839	8	103	824	Bronze	1,076

## Questions?

... or comments? Don't hesitate to write me: don@hekman.net

### Leaderboard

See the full list at <a href="http://naqcc.info/qsoparties\_scores.html">http://naqcc.info/qsoparties\_scores.html</a>

# **QSO Party Challenge Soapbox Sampler**

Ernie N2DGQ #11090 It was nice working Don VE3DQN in the NJ QP contest. I did better than I thought, as the beginning of the contest was slow, and I was concentrating on getting all five (5) multipliers. In my quest to capture all, I did not hear any NH stations. Although being close

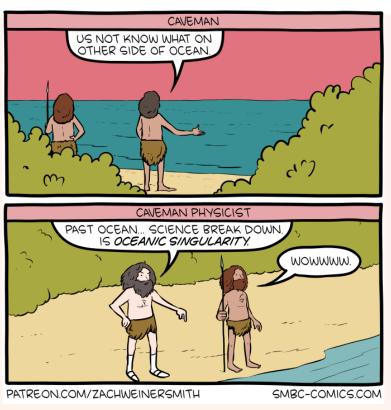
to NH 40 & 80M are my only options. Forty Meters at night was my workhorse band for the NJ QP. There were occasional signals I nabbed on 80M. Thanks to those QRP ops I worked during the NJ QP.

Looking forward to 10/11 QPs this will be my last hurrah for the QPs this season, as we will be away for the final weekend of 10/18 & 19.

Don VE3DQN #5846 For me a highlight is always having a QSO with a fellow NAQCCer. In the parties of this past weekend it was the QSO with Ernie N2DGQ, who scored big in his own state's party--NJ. This was another year of being skunked in the NH party. Living so close to NH I was surprised to hear two different stations on 20m, but they didn't even respond with a VE? as sometimes happens. I was casually active in the other four parties as other obligations crowded out my radio activity hopes.

Brent WT4U #9019 Very active parties for the most part. I managed to track down one NH and all the other needed multipliers in 34 minutes of informed dial spinning. No problem getting through on 5w.

That 2nd NH was a bit more trouble. Looks like the in-state participation for the event is just a few people and you have wait for them to get on the right band. Anyway, a fun exercise and happy to see Steve NI8W is hanging with me on the "all-multipliers" goal. Just seven more left!



https://www.smbc-comics.com/comic/beyond

OCTOBER 2025

# NAQCC Challenge - The Mail Rail System

By Gary K1YAN #2365

Delivery of the mail is a priority. You will see letter carriers and trucks everywhere getting the mail to where it needs to go. London England had an added means of mail transport for many years. It began in 1855 when the Secretary to the Post Office, Rowland Hill, proposed and underground system to link postal facilities in the city. It was an underground system that moved cars through tubes by air pressure. The Pneumatic Dispatch Company constructed and ran tests on a system from 1863 to 1866. The system worked, but financial problems made the company terminate its agreement with the Post Office. They rebounded in 1873, but, when the Post Office

would not enter a permanent agreement, the system was permanently closed in 1874.

As London grew, at the start of the 20th century weather and traffic were causing major delays in mail transport within the city. A study began and in 1911 an underground system with driverless electric cars was proposed. 1913 saw the passing of the Post Office Railway Bill which allowed construction of the proposed system. It would consist of six and a half miles of tunnels at an average depth of 70 feet linking eight stations between the East and West ends of the city. Tunnel construction ran from 1914 to 1917, but WW I and high material prices

after the war delayed the system completion until 1927. The tunnels did not sit idle during the war however. They were a safe home for many art treasures from several galleries in London.

The original fleet of 90 cars ran through the 9 ft. diameter tunnel on a 2 ft. gage track. The original fleet was replaced in 1930 with single, 27 ft. long cars carrying four mail containers. The containers each held 15 bags of letters or 6 bags of packages.



Over the years the system matured. The system was renamed as "Mail Rail" to mark its 60th anniversary. Rolling stock was updated and replaced. A computer system for controlling the entire system from a single location, rather than from each individual station, began operation in 1993. Each year in the 1990s saw more than six million bags of mail run through the system. As mailing habits changed in the late 90s and early 2000s, the system became uneconomical to run and was closed in 2003.

It is gone but not forgotten. Exhibits and even a ride are available to the public.

### **Time Frame**

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

#### Rules

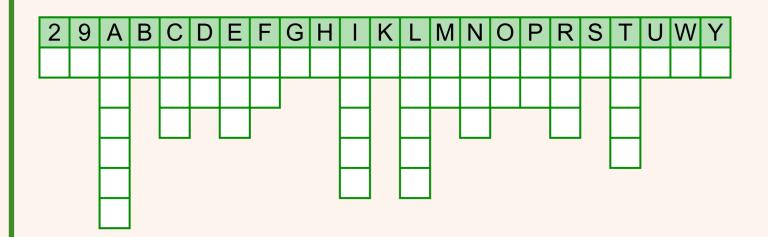
Just make these words from calls of stations you work, subject to the General Challenge Rules. Complete rules, information, and a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge along with detailed general rules and submission instructions can be found at <a href="http://naqcc.info/challenges\_rules.html">http://naqcc.info/challenges\_rules.html</a>

### Words

- ROWLAND HILL
- PNEUMATIC DISPATCH COMPANY
- POST OFFICE RAILWAY BILL
- 9 FT DIAMETER TUNNEL
- 2 FT GAGE TRACK
- MAIL RAIL

**Challenge Tracker** 

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. You can download a printable version of this month's tracker at: <a href="http://naqcc.info/challenge\_tracker.pdf">http://naqcc.info/challenge\_tracker.pdf</a>



The 93 total letters contain these 23 different letters and numbers: A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P R S T U W Y 2 9

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 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 dead-line.

YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT AT LEAST ONE WORD TO RECEIVE A PARTIC-IPATION 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 21st Anniversary Celebration

*By Rich KC3MIO* #9942

We have a little more than a month to go for the anniversary of the founding of the North American QRP CW Club. This year is the 21st anniversary and we invite all our members to participate. If you have participated before, you know the story; if you are one of our newer members, it's an opportunity to get some concentrated QRP CW activity. I first participated in 2019, less than four months after my first CW QSO, and I was hooked on QRP. You don't have to be fast or experienced to have a lot of fun.

So far, 18 volunteers have signed up as shown on the following table. We have regions 1 through 5, 7 through 0, and KP4; I'm looking for /6 and hope for HI and AK. I have designated

sprint ops for 1, 4, 5, 9, and KP4 and would like to fill in the other regions.

### Here are the details:

- The weeklong celebration starts on October 11, at 0000 UTC and ends on October 18th, 2359.
- During the celebration, our members will make QSOs while using our N3A call signs and contact the N3A operators with their own call signs. Of course, all N3A ops will operate QRP CW.
- Any member can apply to use an N3A call with a designator for the region from which they are operating, e.g., N3A/4.
   There is no limit to the number of N3A opera-

Member	Callsign	NAQCC#	Region	Sprint?
Teri Beard	KO4WFP	11279	3&4	
James Pratt	K7QI	5020	7	
Tony Camillocci	KA3BPN	3178	3	
Jim Kennedy	K2PHD	9194	2	
Charles Tanksley	N4IIT	12027	4	
Cathy Goodrich	W4CMG	10520	4	
Juan Lopez	AC6ZM	9722	4	
Juan Lopez	AC6ZM	9722	KP4	Y
Kevin Miller	KI4DEF	247	4	Y
Fred Schebor	K8NGW	8949	8	
Bud Householder	W3IQ	8511	8	
Dave Belville	NI9M	8323	9	Y
Ed Ridolfi	K1RID	7121	1	Y
George Armstrong	K9GA	1736	9	
Gene Warren	N5GW	5353	5	Y
Marvin Hope	кв5Qно	11203	5	
Jerry Pereria	K4KBL	8806	4	
Jim Kilby	KG0RD	3813	0	

tors. The only restriction is that no more than one N3A/ operator from each region can be on the same band at the same time. To enforce this restriction, we will have a spotting page where you will indicate operation time, band and frequency.

- During the monthly sprint, October 15th 0030-0230, only one N3A operator is allowed per region. The sprint operator designation is first come, first served.
- After the anniversary is over, N3A operators will submit logs of their contacts.
  Sprint operators will submit a separate

sprint log, as is usual for a sprint, but with the N3A designator.

More detailed instructions will be made available to all N3A operators who have signed up by September 1st. If you would like to sign up, email me your call sign, name, NAQCC number and region at <a href="mailto:hamberger@ptd.net">hamberger@ptd.net</a>. If you would like to be the sprint operator, let me know.

If you have any questions, please contact me at <a href="mailto:hamberger@ptd.net">hamberger@ptd.net</a>.

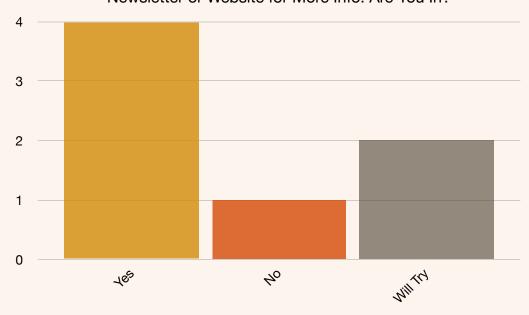
# **Member Polls**

### **October Poll**

The NAQCC 21st Anniversary Celebration is coming up! Are You In? <a href="https://naqcc.info/pol-new.html">https://naqcc.info/pol-new.html</a>

## September Poll

Coming Up! "NAQCC 21st Anniversary Celebration!" Check the Newsletter or Website for More Info. Are You In?



# **QRP Contest and Event News**

# By Jim K7QI/Z81A

Hello fellow QRP hobbyists. This is the month NAQCC will celebrate our 21st anniversary from the eleventh through the eighteenth. Mark your calendars and join in on the fun. Rich (KC3MIO) has provided a list of operators who will operate the special event call (N3A).

Last month was pretty exciting with the Texas QSO party, the annual Salmon Run QSO party in WWA, the New Hampshire QSO party, etc. I can't remember the last time I operated so much in one weekend. Great fun.

Now onto bigger and better things. With my medical issues now being as stable as they will get, I have decided to build QRP Labs newest adventure, their latest QMX+. I miss building, so stand by for future updates.

Event	When	Link
QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party	Oct 11, 0000Z - 2359Z	http://qrparci.org/contest/fall-qso-party
Arizona QSO Party	Oct 11, 1500Z to Oct 12, 0500Z	https://www.azqp.org
Pennsylvania QSO Party	Oct 11, 1600Z to Oct 12, 2200Z	http://paqso.org/pa-qso-party-rules.html
South Dakota QSO Party	Oct 11, 1800Z to Oct 12, 1800Z	http://www.sdqsoparty.com
PODXS 070 Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint	Oct 11, 2000Z to Oct 12, 2000Z	http://www.podxs070.com/o7o-club-sponsored-contests/160m-great-pumpkin-sprint
New York QSO Party	Oct 18, 1400Z to Oct 19, 0200Z	https://www.nyqp.org
Run for the Bacon QRP	Oct 19, 2300Z to Oct 20, 0100Z	http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	Nov 1, 2100Z to Nov 3, 0300Z	https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
High Speed Club CW Contest	Nov 2 1400Z - 1700Z	http://www.highspeedclub.org/
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	Nov 29, 0000Z to Nov 30, 2400Z	https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm



# Chillycon 2025: QRP, Cold Fingers, and Warm Friendships on the Rideau River

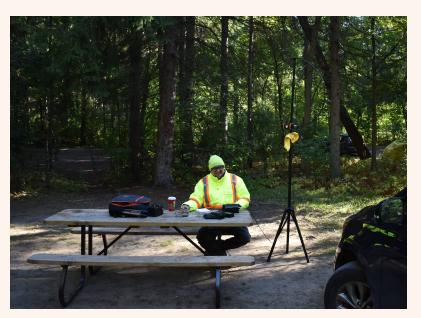
By Tom VA2NW #2846

Each September, when the leaves begin to turn in Canada's capital region, members of the Ottawa Valley QRP Society pack their radios, antennas, and other accoutrements for one of the most anticipated events on the local ham radio calendar: Chillycon. This year's edition ran from September 19–21, 2025, at Rideau River Provincial Park (POTA CA-0365 / WWFF VEFF-0365).

Chillycon traces its roots back to 2006, when members of the Ottawa Valley QRP Society proposed a casual fall weekend camp-out focused on low-power operating and camaraderie. A poll chose the name "Chillicon" in honour of Jim, VE3XJ (SK), who cooked a big pot of chili for Saturday dinner each year. As the event evolved—and pizza replaced chili on the menu—the spelling shifted to "Chillycon," a nod both to the brisk autumn weather and to similar QRP gatherings like Lobstercon and Salmoncon.

Chillycon is intentionally low-key. There's no rigid schedule—just plenty of casual operating, friendly conversation, tips and tricks shared around the fire, and endless curiosity about each other's portable radio setups.

I joined this year's event a day early, driving the 45 minutes south from Ottawa on Thursday, September 18th. After greetings and handshakes, I set up my portable station: an Icom IC-705



running 5 watts into an AlexLoop Hampack magnetic loop mounted atop a Pyle speaker stand. For CW, I brought along a vintage Vibroplex Blue Racer bug, fitted with an AI4UH pendulum extension to bring my sending speed down to a comfortable ~18 wpm.

Conditions were good right from the start. Thursday evening, I called CQ SKCC for Straight Key Century Club's Canadian Straight Key Month and soon logged a contact with a station in Italy



on 20m followed by a US SKCC member on 40m.

On Friday, I decided to stray from Parks on the Air and simply called CQ on 30m. That led to a relaxed 20-minute ragchew with Sam in southern Ontario, an SKCC member who told me about his 1930s Les Logan Speed-X bug—a welcome change from the usual "599 TU" rubber-stamp exchanges.

That afternoon I grabbed my J-38 straight key and jumped into the K1USN Slow Speed Test (SST). I logged over a half-dozen QSOs, including my 25th contact with N7US, one of the SST regulars who make that twice-weekly event such a fun staple.

As sunset approached, the DX hunt began in earnest. A brief opening on 20m around 7 p.m. brought two highlights: a park-to-park contact with M0TTQ in England and a QSO with YT2AAA in Serbia, more than 7,100 km away. That QSO stood out as my best DX of the weekend.

Later, a particularly memorable QSO came when I spotted W2C Erie Canal Special Event on 10 MHz. Since Rideau River Provincial Park sits on the Rideau Canal system, I couldn't resist the

canal-to-canal connection. To my delight, I broke through on the first call and worked op Matt—a highlight of the weekend.

Chillycon lived up to its name on Saturday morning, when temperatures dropped to 2°C (36°F). A hot chocolate run into town helped me thaw out before diving into the Scandinavian Activity



Contest, a fantastic chance to work European DX and add new country-band combinations to the log. With 10m wide open, I worked several Nordic stations. When front-end overload from a nearby 15m SSB station crept in, a VA6AM band-pass filter solved the problem completely.

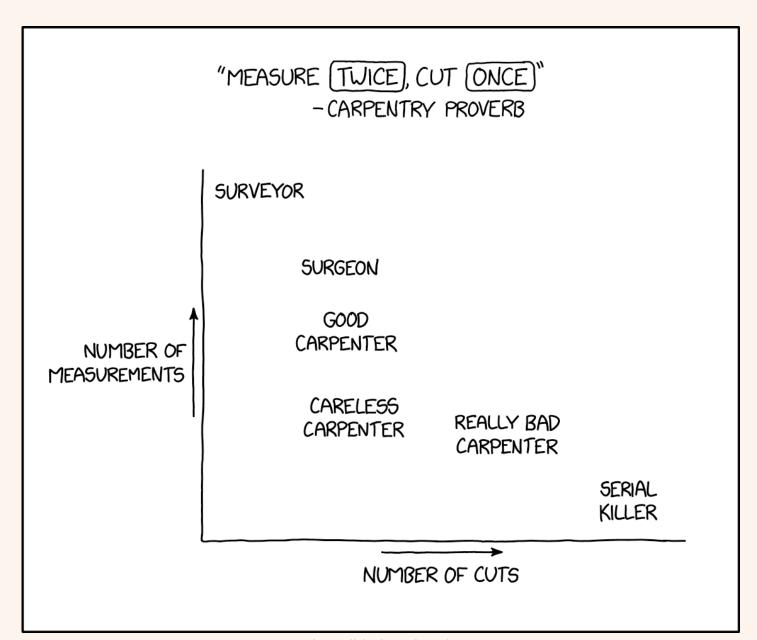
In the afternoon I traded the campsite for the river. Renting a tandem kayak, I set one seat for myself and one for my dry bag of gear. With a modified Quansheng UV-K5 HT—loaded with custom firmware and hardware tweaks to enable straight-key CW, I paddled onto the Rideau Canal system (POTA CA-4882). Using the IC-705 back at camp with a mag-mount vertical on the van, several attendees completed CW QSOs with me while I was kayak-mobile. I also logged a couple of 2m FM contacts for good measure.

As dusk fell, the group gathered for pizza and beverages. A fascinating presentation followed on WWII military radios, focusing on the Wireless Set No. 48 manpack (supporting CW and AM groundwave comms). Afterwards, awards for best phone, CW, and digital contacts were presented. The evening wrapped up with fire-side socializing until the woodpile ran out. At one

point, a curious raccoon wandered into camp, seemingly eager to join the party.

Sunday morning dawned just as cold as Saturday at 2°C. Four of us headed to Hard Stones Grill for a hearty Canadian breakfast, swapping stories of past adventures and sketching ideas for future ones. By midday, radios were packed, antennas came down, and friendships were renewed—another successful Chillycon in the books. At least one brave soul stayed for the Flight of the Bumblebees QRP Contest.

ChillyCon remains what it has always been: a mix of camaraderie, curiosity, and cold fingers. The Ottawa Valley QRP Society has built more than just an event—it's a community ritual that celebrates both radio and friendship. Chillycon continues to embody the heart of QRP: doing more with less, together.



https://xkcd.com/3149/

# **NAQCC Sprints**

## **October Sprint**

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Wednesday, October 15th at 0030–0230Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, October 14th in North America. Complete information on our website here.

### Rules

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found on our website <a href="here">here</a>. 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.

SEPTEMBER SPRINT STATS				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Total QSOs	705	723	3,154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	432	437	1,704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	273	286	1,450	4/17
20m QSOs	175	195	1,232	8/13
40m QSOs	490	508	2,203	4/17
80m QSOs	40	20	1,417	2/13

## **September Sprint Results**

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found on our website <u>here</u>. High scores can be seen in the following tables.

### **Sprint Soapbox Sampler**

AA5LH Great to be back. Tonight, 4 storms rode thru the Springs, many carrying hail & large amounts of rain. Yet I wanted to get back into the swing of things. 20M was moderate length w/QSB. 40M was nearly wiped out by static crashes. Extremely hard to break thru there. Thank to those worked & see you all next month. Take Care. 72/73.

WG8Y Hi all, Only worked part of the first hour. Did little too much yard work today. Started on 20m and worked N7KM in UT thought, h Boy, but didn't hear anyone else so went to 40m. Went up the band & worked 6 Q's. Went back to 20m and heard and worked KD0V in MN. then 2 more on 40m then pulled the plug. 72 all from N.C. Mark WG8Y

KN2G Late start and early finish tonight. Fun to see 20 open so late and snag a couple there before hitting 40 for a while. 45 minutes total time... As always, good fun! See you in October!

SWA - STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY				
Division	1st	2nd	3rd	
W1	K1MZM	KN1H	K1WOR	
W2	KA2KGP	N2XTO	K2OID	
W3	K3JZD	K3IY	КСЗМІО	
W4	KC5F	K4BAI	W4NLT	
W5	KE9DR	N5GW	-	
W6	-	-	-	
W7	N7KM	-	-	
W8	NF8M	-	-	
W9	WB9HFK	N9JFZ	W9DWR	
W0	AA0W	KD0DK	AA5LH	
Canada	VE3IIM	-	-	
DX	-	-	-	

SWA - BUG CATEGORY					
Division	1st	2nd	3rd		
W1	-	-	-		
W2	-	-	-		
W3	NN3E	-	-		
W4	N5BO	KJ4R	K3RLL		
W5	-	-	-		
W6	-	-	-		
W7	N7QR	-	-		
W8	K8NGW	-	-		
W9	-	-	-		
W0	-	-	-		
Canada	-	-	-		
DX	-	-	-		

SWA - KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY					
Division	1st	2nd	3rd		
W1	KB1M	-	-		
W2	N2ESE	-	-		
W3	-	-	-		
W4	WB0CJB	WX4RM	K4KBL		
W5	-	-	-		
W6	-	-	-		
W7	-	-	-		
W8	WI8J	W8GG	WA8SAN		
W9	-	-	-		
W0	-	-	-		
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-		
DX	DK1VD	-	-		

GAIN ANTENNA CATEGORY					
Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd		
SK	-	-	-		
BUG					
K/K	-	-	-		

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 on the website <u>here</u>. 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 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)			

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 CDT, which is Tuesday 0000 UTC, on 7067 kHz +/- (Summer) or  $3566 \, \text{kHz}$  +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

### Sept 02 QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, WB5EVO

Pretty good signals tonight. YUM was 559, YGA 599 and EVO 579. WX good but humid for all. Temps down but not much.

### Sept 09 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KD5KKI, N4NN

Good signals tonight, welcome to Ross and sounding good from central TX. Allen was 579 from GA. Cooler weather for all but heat coming back!

### Sept 16 QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA

Only Andy tonight but good conditions. 599 from AR. Terry YUM should be back next week, I hope.

### Sept 23 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, WB5EVO

Good signals last night here. Good to hear Paul again from OK. He was running 8 watts but solid copy most of the time. No power report from Andy in AR but he was 599 most of the time. CU next week.

### Sept 30 QNI (1) NCS KA5TJS

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

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

### Sept 02 QNI (3) NCS WOCC, WB9HFK, KCOTYA

Several stations around 7.031 so, had to QSY to 7.03025 and both Mark and Mark had no difficulty finding me with their good signals!

### Sept 09 QNI (2) NCS W0CC, W1TM

Had to QSY to 7.03050 and Tim had no trouble, with his strong signal, finding my 529 signal!

### Sept 16 QNI (2) NCS W0CC, W1TM

As usual, Tim did an awesome job with my poor signal and didn't miss much Monday Night Football!

### Sept 23 QNI (2) WOCC, W1TM

Despite the QRN, Tim did an excellent job finding my signal!

### Sept 30 QNI (1) NCS W0CC

According to QRZ, the band conditions were "Fair". Very few stations on the band and no QNI. Probably, the Monday Night Football!

# NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) Control Station Report

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

Sept 05 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB4SPB, WB7WHG, N7QR, NB6M

Sept 12 QNI (9) NCS WB4SPB, AD7BP, KE7LKW/P, KB7DYP/P, N0DA/P, K7JUV/P, WB7WHG, N7QR, NB6M

Sept 19 QNI (5) NCS WB4SPB, KE7LKW, AD7BP, KB7DYP, KI7SJE

Sept 26 QNI (5) NCS WB4SPB, AD7BP, KE7LKW/p, N7QR, N0DA

# **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.

Meet up at Hempstead Lake State Park

Ed Conway N2GSL NAQCC #9744 and Howard Bernstein WB2UZE NAQCC #9693 met at the Venus Restaurant for an early lunch before heading to Hempstead Lake State Park (US-2072) located in West Hempstead, NY. Kevin Corrigan KC2KC NAQCC #9704 and Drew N2AKJ



NAQCC #11666 would meet us at the park later. Weather was perfect: Warm but not hot and full of sunshine.

Ed and Howard set up a HF Signals sBitX V3 with an End Fed Random Length. An LDG Electronics Z-11ProII antenna tuner was in line to tune the 41 ft wire.



The bands seemed OK and successful contacts were made with Europe: On 15 meters Poland, on 17 meters Lithuania and Italy, and on 20 meters Slovenia. We made a total of 12 QSOs and we all enjoyed the time we spent together.





# **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.

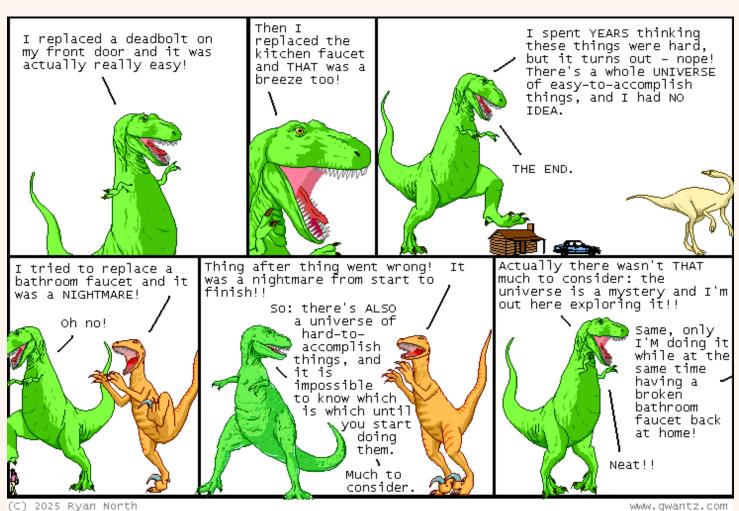
The chapter is located in the Hancock and Washington counties area of Maine.



## **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.



www.qwantz.com

https://www.qwantz.com/index.php?comic=4386

# **NAQCC Prize Sponsors**

### **LNR Precision**

LNR Precision, Inc. is a North Carolina based company that specializes in the manufactur-



ing of QRP transceivers, namely the Mountain Topper series designed by Steve Weber (KD1JV).

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



## **QRP Builder**



Kits, projects, and ideas for the QRP community. Paddles, antennas, PTO kits, and more. <u>qrpbuilder.com</u>

## **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



## **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. <a href="mailto:route45apparel.com/">route45apparel.com/</a>

# **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 in formation 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.

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				
Florida Chapter	Nikki KM4SBQ	nickies1130@aol.com				
Illowa Chapter	Tim N9BIL	n9bil@arrl.net				
West Florida Chapter	Ron N9EE	n9ee55@gmail.com				
Long Island Chapter	Howard WB2UZE	wb2uze@yahoo.com				
Newsletter Submissions and Member Spotlight	Paul KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net				
Newsletter Editor	Andy KO4EPY	andyKO4EPY@naqcc.radio				
NAQCC CW Nets	Mark W8EWH	mark.yergin@gmail.com				

NAQCC Board of Directors 2024-2025						
President	John Leahy	KK4ITX	kk4itx@proton.me			
Vice President	OPEN					
Secretary	Charles Powell	NK8O	nk8o@arrl.net			
Treasurer	Dennis Shoaf	W4DWS	w4dws90@gmail.com			
Director Northeast	Bud Householder	W3IQ	w3iq@yahoo.com			
Director Central	Larry Hill	WA5LSV	wa5lsv@gmail.com			
Director Southeast	Jerry Pereira	K4KBL	digilink@gmail.com			
Director West	OPEN					
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: <a href="http://www.naqcc.info">http://www.naqcc.info</a>

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

