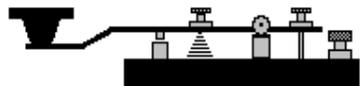


# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 206 AUGUST 2015



## KEY CLICKS

- **BETA TESTERS NEEDED FOR APPLE OS X SPRINT SOFTWARE.** I have developed a *Numbers* spreadsheet that can serve as an alternative to the GenLog program for Mac computer users for NAQCC sprint logging. It uses the membership data file that is created each month for the GenLog users and duplicates most of that programs functionality with automatic fill-in of membership information, multiplier tracking, and points calculation, all in “real-time.” It works very well on my iMac but I would like to have a few others Beta-test it before I put it on the club website for general distribution. So if you are a Mac OS X user, and are planning on operating in the sprint this month, and would like to help me test the spreadsheet, please contact me and I will send you the zip file. - Paul, N8XMS (See last page for email address.)
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR N#A OPERATIONS.** Well, it’s not so early anymore. Our October anniversary celebration is just around the corner and we still need more volunteers to put our N#A special event callsigns on the air October 12-18. Specifically we have no volunteers so far for W9, and we still need a volunteer for the sprint that week in W1, W2, W3, W4, W6, W7, and W9. And really, we can use more volunteers in every call district. (See [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) for the list of volunteers so far.) It’s a lot of fun, no special equipment or skills are needed, and your operating schedule is completely flexible. If you are interested in being an N#A operator please contact club President Paul, N8XMS (email on last page). There is no limit to the number of operators that we can have so “the more the merrier.” *If you have already signed up to be an operator but find that your schedule has changed and you now need to opt out please let us know.* (Having someone on the operator list who doesn’t actually operate complicates our record keeping and wrap-up work at the end of the week.) Detailed instructions for special event operators will be sent out by the end of September but if you have any questions just ask.
- **NAQCC FOUNDING PRESIDENT RECOVERING FROM A MINOR STROKE.** A few weeks ago our founding club president Tom Mitchell, WY3H, suffered a “minor” stroke. He is recovering but still has some residual issues to deal with, especially fatigue. Tom reports that the stroke has not had any impact on his CW and he has actually been able to get on the air for a few QSOs, including 12 contacts in our sprint last month. We certainly wish Tom a speedy recovery!
- **COLLINS ENDING PRODUCTION OF MECHANICAL FILTERS.** The famous Collins mechanical filter has been replaced by DSP technology. See the information from N4NSS in the *Member Submissions* section for complete details.

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- **DO YOU USE CLUB LOG?** We would like to get the NAQCC listed as an official club with Club Log (<https://secure.clublog.org/loginform.php>). One of their requirements is that at least 10 of the club members must already have accounts with Club Log and I am sure that we meet that requirement but I need to give them a list of the callsigns. So if you have a Club Log account please email me your callsign. I'll compile a list and submit it to Club Log. - Paul, N8XMS
- **COURTESY STILL COUNTS!** Recently I received an email from a member who is working toward an ARRL QRP WAS certificate and he commented on how few of his NAQCC sprint QSOs get confirmed on LOTW. So this is a general appeal for all of us to remember to upload all of our QSOs to LOTW, and maybe even eQSL and Club Log, on a regular basis. After being a ham for umpteen years you might not care about the confirmation but the other person might really need yours - and that should make you feel a little bit special! Everything that you need to know about how to get going with LOTW can be found at <https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/getting-started/>. And while we are on the topic, what do you do with the "old school" QSL requests that you get in the mail? Unless you are at some rare DX location I seriously doubt that postage costs are a significant concern for most of us. There is a reason that QSLing has traditionally been called "the final courtesy" and I like to think that CW QRPers are among the best on the bands with top-notch technical skills, operating skills, and ethical/courteous behavior. So PSE QSL TNX.
- **FISTS AMERICAS CHAPTER PRESIDENT KB1DSP RETIRES.** Karl Zuege, KB1DSP, has retired from his position as the FISTS Americas Chapter President. Dennis Franklin, K6DF, will be acting president until the board completes a search for a permanent replacement. We don't usually make announcements regarding other clubs but FISTS has always been very supportive of the NAQCC and has generously allowed us to give away free memberships as prizes over the years. We extend to KB1DSP, K6DF, and all of FISTS, our best wishes as they make this transition.
- **PRIZE ELIGIBILITY REQUIRES PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.** Once again some great prizes will be given away to members participating in our 11th anniversary sprint in October, and just like last year there is a throughout-the-year participation requirement to be eligible for the top tier of prizes. The requirements are not excessive, just a few sprints and/or challenges through the year will do it. Complete details can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).
- **2015 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.** We want to encourage all of you to "talk up" the NAQCC and as an incentive we will be offering a prize each quarter of 2015 to the person responsible for the most new membership applications during that quarter. (The application form includes a field where the person can indicate how they heard about the NAQCC.) The prize will be a gift certificate for 100 free QSL cards from <http://cheapqsls.com/naqcc.html>. The winner for our 2nd quarter is Doc, K5OSA. Congratulations Doc and keep spreading the word about the NAQCC.
- **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big "THANK YOU" goes out to everyone who has made a recent donation to the NAQCC treasury. The NAQCC has no membership dues and we depend on your generous donations to cover our operating expenses. If others would like to help out with a donation there are two ways that you can do it. The first way is to use *PayPal* to electronically send your contribution to Club Vice President John, N8ZYA, using the email found on the last page of this newsletter. To avoid any additional fees please be sure to check the box that says "*I'm sending money to family or friends.*" Also please add a note indicating that this is a donation to the NAQCC and include your call sign. The second way to make a donation is to mail a check or money order made out to *The North American QRP CW Club* and send it to *John Smithson, 1529 Virginia St E, Charleston, WV 25311*. Assuming that we have your correct email address on file, your contribution will be acknowledged by email with a carbon copy sent to a second club officer as a "check and balance."

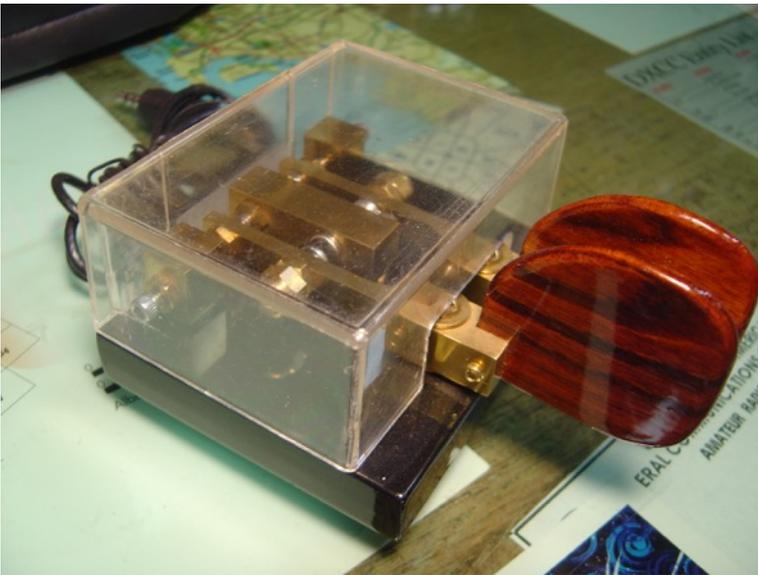


# KEY COVERS

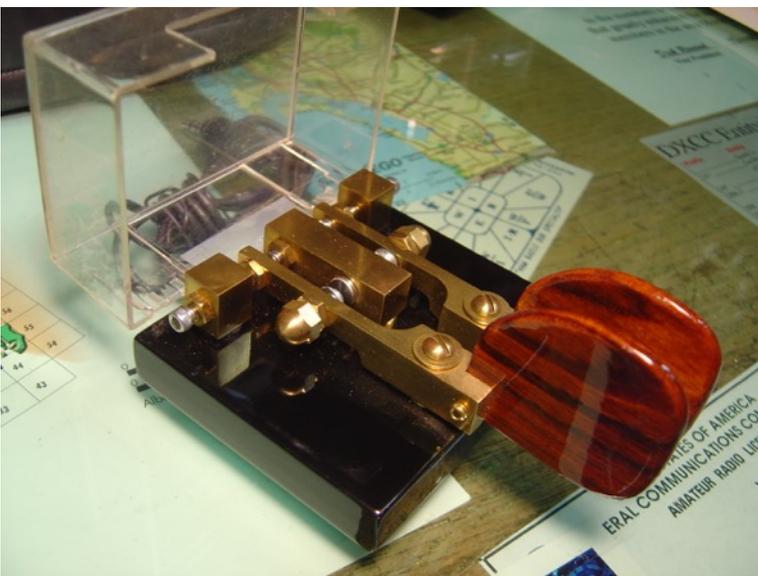
BY GREGG, WB8LZG

For many years I have been restoring telegraphy equipment as a side hobby. With all the keys out and about in the shack, I've looked for ways of protecting them from dust and dirt. Keeping that key clean can help keep it looking and performing like new. I have purchased some of the plexiglass covers from Vibroplex, and they are certainly very nice, functional and beautiful, but for the frugal ham there are always alternatives.

I began looking for old plastic packaging that was in the shape and size of the keys I wished to protect. A good scrounger can find several possibilities in the recycle bin. A bit of trimming here and snipping there, and one can easily transform these potential landfill items into homebrew covers for your key. I'm sending several pictures of some of the covers I have fashioned for my own keys, to give you an idea of the possibilities.



*The Famous K8FF Kit Key*



*The K8FF with the "top up"*



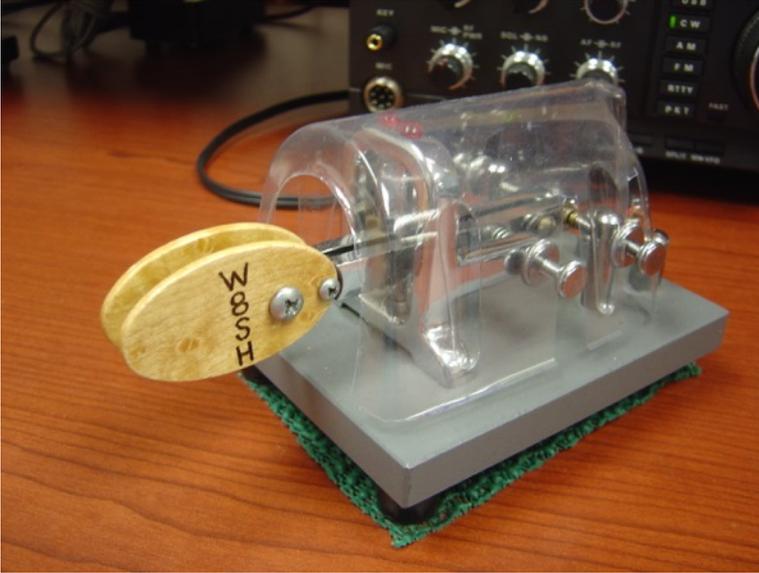
*A Vibroplex "Standard"*



*My J-38 Straight Key*



*"Zach" lambic Key*



*The Iambic in the Michigan State University Club Station*

Some may not be a perfect fit, yet if they keep the dust and dirt out of the contacts and mechanics, they serve the purpose well. Perhaps you'll be inspired to reuse some "bound for the trash" plastic to help preserve your favorite key.

# SPRINT OPERATING

BY FRANK, KB3AAG

*Although the primary focus in our NAQCC sprints is participation and not points, there is nevertheless a competitive aspect to them - especially the self-competition of trying to improve your own score each month. In this short article KB3AAG describes the techniques that he uses to consistently produce a top-notch keyer/keyboard-category sprint score. - Editor*

On sprint evenings we are all out playing in a familiar back yard. Sorry but there is no fence to keep a few strangers out of the yard but if one does get in be nice and invite him to stay and play. On most evenings there are over a hundred of us in the yard playing and we enjoy the game or we would not be there!

We all know the object of our game, work as many as we can and submit our log. We are all aware of the rules; five watts or less, CW, send and copy CALLS, RECEPTION REPORT, STATE, AND CLUB NUMBER. That's it that's all of the game we are enjoying. Beyond that we have no interest for a couple hours this month.

Now I like to rag chew with the best of them. There are lots of hams that know I am 80 years old, a retired pilot and operate from a hole in western Pennsylvania. But they didn't find out any of that on sprint night, on sprint night they found out I am KB3AAG 599 PA 1016 TU AND DIT DIT! That's what they got and it was just what they wanted.

I use the recorder on my radio to call CQ but I don't call CQ NA DE KB3AAG K three times and then listen. I send CQ NA KB3AAG and listen in about twenty seconds my radio sends it again this continues till I get a reply. I have my side tone set real low because when I hear a reply I have to hit a DIT to tell the recorder to shut up and I don't want to miss the guys call.

I keep my band pass pretty tight and so if I hear a call I am pretty sure he is calling me. I don't want to hear KB3AAG DE W5GYF K. I want to hear K5GYF that's all and I send K5GYF 599 PA 1016 Then I listen to 599 OK 5459. Then I send R R TU DIT DIT and listen to his DIT DIT. We are done, I am in his log and he is in mine. The only thing that he might have done is if he has tumbled to the fact that I am using a recorder is he might send DE K5GYF thereby giving me a heads up to DIT the recorder off. I have not been impolite and neither has he, we made a confirmed contact and that is what we wanted.

Unless you have to send your call several times and you become aware he is having a hard time digging you out only send your exchange once. I normally send mine only once 599 and a slightly longer break (perhaps two letters long) PA long break again and 1016. Neither state prefix nor number prefix. If he misses something a simple NR DITTY DAH DAH DITY gets it sent again in a lot less time than sending the prefixes or all sent twice.

I keep my speed set at twelve words per minute and if W5GYF is slower I simply make longer breaks between letters. If he sends much faster I ignore him, it is a slow speed sprint! The only fast is the exchange!



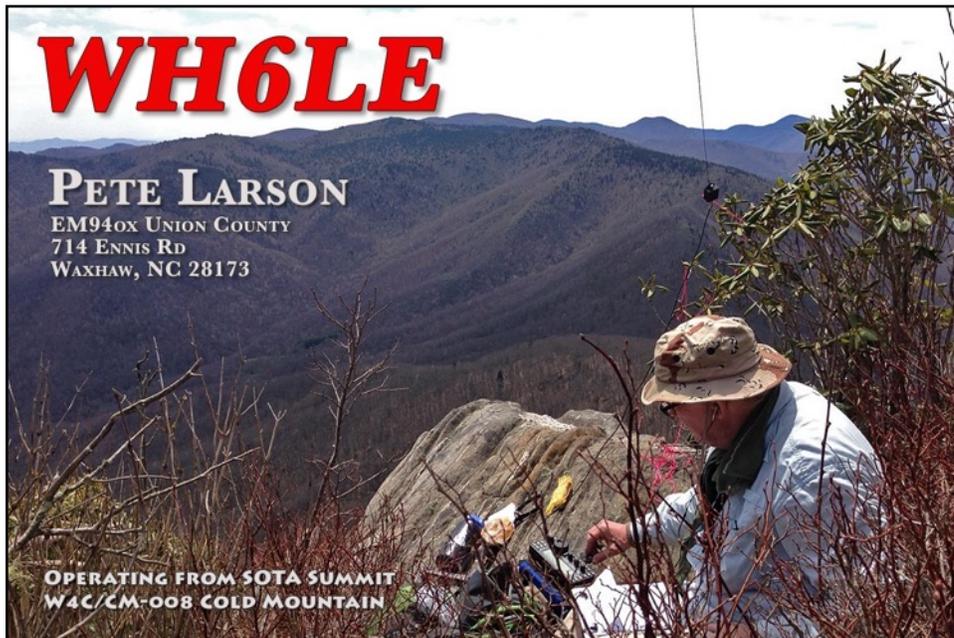
# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Each month one of our members is randomly selected and asked to share their ham radio biography with all of us. Questions or comments should go to Paul, KD2MX.

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

## PETER LARSON, WH6LE, #6328



Greetings NAQCC members! My interest in ham radio spawns from my military experience at not being able to make HF work. I could not understand why, unlike VHF FM radios, turning on an HF rig and using PTT on the hand mic didn't always produce responses. I observed a "pro" HF operator overseas make an impressive long range CW contact with a MARS station back in CONUS. "Where'd you learn how to do that?" He responded that despite being a trained Special Forces communications NCO, he learned an additional wealth of operating tricks and techniques through ham radio. "If interested," he advised, "when you redeploy, go to Radio Shack and buy the book "Now You're Talking". Good tip taken. I obtained my initial Technician Plus license and later upgraded to General while stationed in Hawaii a couple of years later (that explains the Hawaii callsign). My most memorable QSO from Hawaii back then was with VR6RC, Raelene Christian. My ears perked when she gave me Pitcairn Island as her QTH. I asked wasn't that the destination of the HMS Bounty with Lieutenant Fletcher Christian? In a matter of fact way she responded, "yes, he's my ancestor."

In the late 1990s I stowed all my radio gear, as many do, because of competing priorities: job, time available, etc. Years later, the XYL commented, "What are you going to do with all that radio stuff?" I sensed a clean out project. This provided the catalyst to unbox the ham equipment and delve back into the world of amateur radio, resuming radio operations in 2011 after a 13-year hiatus.

Shortly after getting my 1990s vintage rig set up, I stumbled onto the web site for Summits on the Air

(SOTA) <http://www.sota.org.uk/>. Perusing the SOTA site piqued my interest. This, coupled with the Youtube, "W4MPS/N4EX SOTA Activation of Moore's Knob" compelled me to stuff the rucksack with radio gear and climb a summit. I soon learned that the 1990s vintage radio was too heavy and an energy hog, which naturally provided all the logic I needed to buy new radios. I initially operated only QRP phone from summits but noted other activators racking up many more contacts on CW. With encouragement from those same two guys in the Youtube video(see above), I thought I'd give CW a go after years of inactivity. I haven't looked back yet and I view myself as still a QRS CW operator. I use morse code much more than any other mode and find digging out weak signals or concentrating to copy fast operators a fun challenge.

I enjoy the NAQCC Sprints as much as any other ham radio activity from my shack. I have also played around a bit with the 1000MPW and the mW sprints. Activating and chasing summits in SOTA, NAQCC, SKCC, and chasing DX and grid squares comprise my ham activity right now.

The photo is my current QSL card activating Cold Mountain (SOTA ref W4C/CM-008) in North Carolina with Tommy, W4TZM.

I'm always looking forward to the next sprint and working all the great NAQCC operators!



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** Our sprint this month will be on August 12, 0030-0230 UTC. That's the evening of Tuesday the 11th here in North America. Complete details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201508.html>.

Please remember to strive for that perfectly formatted "SILVER LOG" submission. It really helps our log processing. Everything that you need to know about how to have a Silver Log can be found at <http://naqcc.info/GLCheckList.txt>.

Complete sprint rules and information on log submissions can be found at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>.

We occasionally get questions from sprint participants about how to use the GenLog software to log and report their contacts. Most of the time the answers to these questions can be found in the excellent illustrated tutorial written by KB8FE and found at [http://www.naqcc.info/sprint\\_genlog\\_tutorial.html](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_genlog_tutorial.html).

**LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:** 128 logs were submitted showing a total of 196 participants and 1,918 QSOs in our July sprint. Interestingly not a single QSO was reported on 80-meters. Statistician John, K3WWP, reports that this is the first time we have had a zero on 80-meters, although we did have only one 80-meter QSO reported in sprints #37 and #106. Our lowest 40-meter count was 4 in sprint #25 and we have had zeros on 20-meters in sprints #25, #40, #73, and #76. (We didn't run the sprints on 20-meters until sprint #20 in July 2006.)

Please take a look at the comments in the *Key Clicks* item on page 2, "Courtesy still counts"

Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201507.html> and summary information can be seen in the tables on the following pages.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time log reporters. We hope that you had a great time and will return often: WB1GYZ W8LU W2IU KA2PBO KG5HCF N3CI NC4RT K4BYF

**PARTICIPATION REMINDER:** *Please remember that there is a sprint/challenge participation requirement to be eligible for the top-tier prizes that will be given away during our anniversary celebration in October. See [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) for the details.*

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1SFR	N1IMW	N1JI
W2	W2SH	AA2VG	
W3	AB3RU	N3HEE	
W4	N4SX	KB4QQJ	W4DUK
W5	W5TVW	N5NK	
W6	WK6L	NS3C	
W7	AA7VW	KC7DM	
W8	WA8AXF	K8KG	
W9	KA9FQG		
W0	N0TA		
VE	VE3EDX		
DX	CO8CML		

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2	W2IU		
W3	K3WWP		
W4	AK4NY		
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7			
W8	AB8FJ		
W9	AA9L		
W0	K0CW		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN		
W2	N2ESE		
W3	KB3AAG		
W4	K4KRW	KU4A	
W5	N5GW		
W6	KR5RR		
W7	KE7YTE		
W8	AC8AP		
W9	K9FO		
W0	NQ0N		
VE			
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY=>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K4BAI		N5RWK

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY=>	SK	BUG	K/K
	WB1GYZ	W2IU	N3CI
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
N8XEE			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	128	123	194	2/13
Participants	196	195	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1918	1664	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	949	929	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	969	735	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	861	379	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1057	1108	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	0	177	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	15.0	13.5	19.3	9/11

**SPRINT HONOR ROLL:** We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our sprints. Exact counts can be seen at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_dates.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html).

NUMBER OF SPRINTS	MEMBERS
50+	N2ESE KC2EGL VE5BCS WA8SAN K6CSL WX4RM WD0K N8QY K4KRW N0TA NQ2W NO2D KB8FE W4DUK KQ1P WY3H AA9L KE5YUM WB8ENE WA2JSG K1IEE N4FI VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG NU7T
75+	K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN K4NVJ N8XMS KD2MX K4BAI WB8LZG
100+	W2SH W9CC W2JEK KA2KGB
125+	K3WWP



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** Our North American challenge this month is an alphabet challenge with a twist. The words all relate to ham radio antennas but the twist is that they have been given to you in scrambled order so you will need to unscramble them as well as hunt down the letters to spell them out. Please be sure to submit your results in unscrambled form and if you have trouble figuring any of them out the answers will be posted on the webpage at the end of the month but before the submission deadline. Complete details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201508.html>.

The August European challenge celebrates the recently completed Tour de France the names of the top four riders and some of their time statistics. Details at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/august-2015-challenge>.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** In September we will be challenged to make some QRPp QSOs and accumulate some milliwatt-miles. Details at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201509.html>.

Complete information about our challenges including a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges.html>.

**LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The deadline for submitting entries for the July Fireworks challenge is still a few days away so final results are not yet available. You can go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201507.html> to see what has been posted so far and the final results will also be posted there shortly after the 10th of the month.

The results for the European July Pangram challenge are at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/july-2015-challenge>.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Recently we have been receiving entries to our alphabet challenges in non-standard formats that complicate the processing of the submission. Please use a simple text report (the actual email or an attached file) where each word is listed on a separate line with the callsigns that form that word listed horizontally across that same line. For example...

WORD - K3WWP CO8CL W3WMMR KD9QS

NEXT - N8XMS K1EIR N8XMS N5PHT

etc.

**PARTICIPATION REMINDER:** *Please remember that there is a sprint/challenge participation requirement to be eligible for the top-tier prizes that will be given away during our anniversary celebration in October. See [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) for the details.*

**CHALLENGE HONOR ROLL:** We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our monthly challenges. Exact counts can be seen at [http://www.naqcc.info/challenges\\_schedule.html](http://www.naqcc.info/challenges_schedule.html).

NUMBER OF CHALLENGES	MEMBERS
25+	KD2MX N1LU KD0V K9OSC VE3HUR KU4A WY3H K1YAN
50+	VE3FUJ NU7T K1IEE
75+	N8XMS W2JEK
100+	
125+	K3WWP



# NAQCC AWARDS

We have an extensive list of awards that you can earn. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>.

## FEATURED AWARD: DXCC AWARD

This month we would like to remind you of our NAQCC DXCC award. Work at least 100 DX entities using QRP power and “simple wire antennas” and you will qualify for this award. Endorsements can be earned for 100 2X QRP QSOs as well as 25, 50, 75, and 100 QRPp DX entities. Complete information can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_dxccswa.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_dxccswa.html).

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

### 1000 MPW AWARD

0482	N0WKZ	N9ZI	-	1,120	07/27/15	Random wire
0481	N0WKZ	CE2AWW	-	1,110	07/27/15	Random wire
0480	K9EYT	WA8AXF	-	1.216	07/13/15	G5RV @ 25'
0479	VE6NS	JA3YBK	-	1,024	06/30/15	31' wire @25'
0478	K3BDQ	XE1RK	-	3,856	06/30/15	long wire



# NAQCC QRS/QRQ NETS



We have a number of nets (QRS = slow speed, QRQ = higher speed) designed to help people build up their CW operating skills. Complete information about these nets can be found at [http://naqcc.info/cw\\_nets.html](http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html). Questions should be directed to Net Manager Scotty, NU0S.

## NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7065 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Sunday 8 PM PT	Monday 0300 Z	7065.5 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Monday 8 PM PT	Tuesday 0300 Z	7065.5 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)
Midwest Net QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 9 PM CT	Tuesday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	Scotty, NU0S (in NE)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2200 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4:30 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2230 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0100 Z	7117 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PT	Friday 0200 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Great Lakes QRS Net (GLN)	Thursday 9 PM ET	Friday 0100 Z	7117 KHz	David, WA8AXF (in MI)

**Note:** On the rare occasions that there is a conflict between one of our scheduled nets and one of our regular sprints the sprint will take precedence.

Hello folks this has been a very hard month for me. On July 1st I lost one of my best friends mentor and Elmer Jerry Maxwell K0KGZ. This kind of knocked the wind out of me and took all my motivation to get down in the ham shack. I'm hoping with the new month and hopefully better weather and band conditions; I will get more operation time in the ham shack. I can feel my Morse code proficiency slipping. I hope to remedy this by a getting more rag chew time in and some longer net sessions. I want to send a big thank you to all of our club members for your support and a special thank you to all of our net control operator's thank you! thank you! Hey follow me on Twitter @NU0Slong for live net updates and QRP CW in the field...Please contact me anytime with questions or concerns with any of our NAQCC Scheduled Nets...72/73 Scotty Long NU0S NAQCC 3715 MWN NCS / Nets Manager-Coordinator.

Quick Notes from our Net Control Station Professional Ops!!!

July 01, 2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

A new station (K3RNC) from Maryland checked in with 4 watts. My friend and neighbor John (W8GDP) and I talked about field day and his recruitment efforts with his local doctor tomorrow morning. I'm always glad to hear our members are trying to bring in new people. Ed (KM4LT) and I have talked several times over the years but was his first time for the WV QRS net. He had a great signal from Richmond Virginia. Another friend and club member Frank (KA8SYV) and I talked at length about our family members. My dad will be 95 years old tomorrow morning. My brother and I will take him to dinner and eat cake. Hi Hi. I'm glad to see numbers pick back up now that field day is behind us. 72's John N8ZYA

July 22, 2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

Two new stations this evening. A non-member (KK4MCU) from Georgia and club member WB1GYZ from Connecticut. John N8ZYA

July 30, 2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

The band conditions were pretty bad tonight but it's always good to hear the locals. John N8ZYA

July 06, 2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

Great roundtable guys! I had the usual S7 band noise combined with a little line noise. Both Mike, KE6EE, and Chas, KW6G, had S8 signals after Mike put on his afterburner. My 80 watts wasn't wiggling their S-meters very much, but we were all able to copy each other just fine. QSB was slow and deep last evening. The solar report indicated poor band conditions all around yesterday, so Mark, WU7F, emailed me his regrets. He's twice the distance from me as the other two guys and said he had poor copy on everybody. We talked a bit about our July 4th weekend activities. I think all three of us have had it with fireworks - especially the illegal ones that go off at any hour of the day or night for several days. My cat doesn't seem to mind, much. But dogs and veterans with PTSD would probably be heading for cover several times a day around here. Mike's new (top secret) QRP rig is sounding great. I understand he will be adding an internal PA soon for these QRN/QSB situations. Somebody (himself) leaked information about his project a couple weeks ago. Chas not only has recently procured a beautiful vintage Hammerlund HQ-170 receiver, but he's ordered a newly refurbished Johnson Ranger transmitter. He'll be able to rack up the points the next time SKCC or another club gives bonus points and/or multipliers for vacuum tubes! What a great duo for AM and CW! I'm continuing to love my new FT-857D. I've ordered a 45-watt solar panel kit from Harbor Freight to keep the marine battery charged out on my balcony. (I've been using a car charger.) I hardly ever go into my (bedroom) shack to use my Icom rigs, anymore. Regarding my QRN, I'm now convinced that my noise is the same as everybody else's, except that my vertical polarization probably adds an S-unit or so. I do occasionally notice some line noise, mostly on 20 meters, and some occasional bands of plasma TV RFI, but it's not very strong on 80 or 40 meters. The audio DSP Noise Reducer in my radio actually cuts down regular band noise quite a bit, without adversely affecting CW signals. One can't depend on S-meter readings to be meaningful across radios or across bands on a given radio. Plus my radio has three sensitivity settings for HF: With pre-amp, without pre-amp, and with attenuator. I use the attenuator on 80 meters and sometimes 40 meters. I use the pre-amp on 15 meters and above. Those intermittent 20-second bursts of 20db/S9 hash I hear periodically in the early evenings turned out not to be a blender (my original guess). I now think it's the damned elevator motor brushes! I live in a 4-story apartment building, and most residents take the stairs. But a few lazy college students take the elevator when they come home from campus at dinner time, and I'm pretty sure it's a hash generator. It's very old, and the motor housing sits above roof level, at the same level as my vertical and about 50 feet away. I'm going to encourage all tenants to take the stairs to get their daily exercise quotas! Congratulations to JB, KR5RR, on his 1st place (6th Region) showing in a recent SKCC sprint and on achieving NAQCC's 20-state QRP challenge during Field Day! See you guys this evening on 40m FRN! I think Chas, KW6G, will be subbing as NCS. 72/73 de Rick, N6IET...

Thanks Chas! Sounds like it went well and ya'll had fun!

July 13, 2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

It has finally filtered through my dense skull that 80 meters is not really functional for FRN's coverage area during the summer because of strong D-layer absorption until sunset followed by strong electrical storm QRN thereafter. There is no middle ground on 80 meters. Propagation on 40 meters right around sunset is nearly ideal for us, with continuous coverage from local (NVIS) thru 2000 miles. Yes, electrical storm QRN can get bad at this time and place, also, but signals are usually strong, geomagnetic storms notwithstanding. Therefore, I have decided to move Sunday evening's FRN to 40 meters, but not to the same frequency as Monday evening's FRN. Let me explain. I enjoy operating out on my balcony with battery/solar power using my FT-857D, which does not have a built-in antenna tuner. To avoid complicating my balcony rig with an external tuner, and to allow me to QRO to 100 watts when necessary without a tuner, I've decided to pick a frequency closer to my AV-680 vertical's resonant

frequency (7075, smack dab in the middle of the Novice/Tech CW band). I can safely run only about 50 watts at 7125 without a tuner. So, effective immediately and for the rest of the summer the Sunday evening FRN will meet at 7058 kHz at 8:00pm PDT (0300z Monday). Scotty has already made the change to the website's listing. Here's my rationale for picking 7058 kHz. I listen and call CQ there often, rarely hearing any activity or getting a response. There are no NTS CW nets nearby, and it's below the SSB and data portions of 40 meters for Region 2. It's the FISTS calling/operating frequency, along with being one of the CW Ops alternate frequencies ("every 10 kHz on the 8s"). At the same time, neither organization has any scheduled activities or sprints on that particular day and time. It's 3 kHz above SKCC's calling frequency (and their sprints are done by that time of Sunday evening). And it's not going to trash any QRP activities, which are usually centered around/on 7030-7045. I'm loving it, and I hope you do too!

If anybody has any objections (now that I've impulsively announced the change), let me know ASAP. (Too late buddy, already changed Hee Hee Scotty NUOS...)

I hope to see you next Sunday evening on 7058 kHz at 8:00pm PDT.

72/73 de Rick, N6IET West Los Angeles

July 27, 2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

Let me officially announce that the FISTS board members have asked us to NOT hold this net on their calling frequency, and I fully understand their objections. I may continue to use that frequency as my own personal hangout. But I've decided to join JB in moving the Sunday roundtable to a new, hopefully QRM-free frequency. I had provisionally decided on 7056.5 but both JB and I have found that to be a pretty busy frequency, also, during the evenings, often with QRP activity. In fact there was a strong signal there this evening at net time. And so, despite the fact that the non-US Region 2 band plan for Mexico and Canada puts SSB contesting between 7060 and 7070, we think 7065.5 has been very clear and QRM-free and will do nicely for the FRN for the remainder of the summer. So let me put it this way: Whatever frequency JB decides to move Monday's FRN to, I'm moving Sunday's FRN to the same frequency, so we don't have to remember two different frequencies on the same band. And, besides, my vertical resonates around 7075, so 7065.5 is even better than 7058 for me for using my balcony station without a tuner. We did meet on 7058 this evening, after I found strong QRM on 5056.5, and 7058 had cleared up just in time for the roundtable. N7HRK/M was the first QNI with a nice 589/479 signal. He is now calling himself "PBR", for Polar Bear Rick, for the FRN only, to avoid confusion with myself, who shall continue to be "Rick". We got another very weak check-in, and neither of us could get the other station's call after two tries, so we lost him. I always feel very badly to have to give up on a weak signal. No sooner than PBR had related how he'd installed a knob to help him more conveniently adjust the SWR using his tuner, than KR5RR checked in with a 599+ signal. The three of us had Q5 copy for the next 45 minutes or so and segued to a less formal QSK type of interactive roundtable. That was fun! JB is getting more used to his single-lever paddle and making and listening to recordings of the net to give him not only feedback about his fist but to give him head copying practice. And PBR is doing the same thing, even playing the recording back at a higher speed. We're all trying to constantly improve our CW skills, which is what FRN is about. My high-speed practice this week came from a 27 wpm QSO I had with W7QC on 17 meters yesterday. He had a great fist and a strong signal. Every time I matched his speed, he'd up his speed by another wpm. So I took the bait. I was getting about 90%. Also, last Friday morning, PBR and I had a nice QRQ QRO QSK QSO on 7058 for about half an hour. I'll usually call CQ a few times on that frequency every morning between 2330z and 2400z. The Monday evening FRN will meet for the last time on 7,123.5 kHz tomorrow evening, after which look for a formal announcement from both of us of a change to the new frequency beginning Sunday and Monday next week.

72/73 de Rick, N6IET

July 07, 2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California

Today is one of those "I need to go to work to rest up from my day off" kind of days.

WAY TO GO USNWT! CONGRATS!

72/3 de JB.KR5RR

July 14, 2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California

Band conditions were challenging. Mike, who is usually 20/S9 with 5w was barely 439 with 200 watts tonight. Mark & Rick/6 both started at S9 but progressively degraded to 559. Doug sent me an email saying he could hear something but could not copy. Chas is traveling but had sort of predicted these conditions based his experience last few days. BTW, thanks again for your first CW NCS! And, what appears to be a regular Monday night Mexican SSB sked was so strong they overrode several transmissions. So... We QSY'ed to 7058. Apologize if you were looking for us after about 8:20 as we wuz gone. Rick/6 sent an email to FISTS to see if they had any issues with us using this frequency on Sunday's - we should push our luck and try for Monday's also? New paddle, different rig and operating position for me tonight: J-38, American Morse Bushwhacker, TS-480

72/3 de JB.KR5RR

July 21, 2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California

Hello Everyone! Sorry, Mike was very weak and we lost him early, much like Doug last night. Just two main topics tonight, Rick/6 SOTA, and Rick/7's visit to the Glacier Waterton Hamfest. Rick/6 described his aluminum mast, fan dipole antenna setup, and the effort it took to setup and take down. Randy had some good info and suggestions based on his experience with fiberglass masts. Rick/7 gave us some info on the Glacier Waterton Hamfest. It is the oldest in the USA at 79 years, and runs for three days. Sounds like Rick was one of the few CW ops and he did a lot of demonstrations and made quite a few QSOs, and thinks he may have a few converts. Glad to be back home after eight days of parked mobile ops. Sure is nice to have a decent antenna above me! It's all about the antennas! Thanks to all!

72/3 de JB.KR5RR

PS (1): Thinking of moving to 7067.5 or 7065.5 to get away from the SSB QRM;

PS (2): I surprised Scotty/NUOS by checking into the MWN tonight.

July 28, 2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California

WOW! Really, really, crummy conditions tonight! Thanks everyone for persevering! I did not have 100% copy on anyone. Everyone from PBR in MT, to Rick in LA, to Mort in CO, faded in and out, sometimes S9+, sometimes buried in the S6/S7 QRN. I could just barely hear, but not copy, Mike who is just 17 miles distant, so no NVIS tonight. Gary's FT817 probably had the most consistent signal but still was R4 at times. I apologize for the bad code tonight, I was switching between my Pico Keyer and the TS480 internal keyer. I thought (hoped) the single lever paddle might tame the beast, but no joy. Time to move on with that. The last 10-12 minutes, after almost everyone else QRT'd, the band suddenly came alive on the 400 mile path between here and LA, S9++ signals. Rick & I had a nice discussion about logging. He seems to have decided on [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) and is entering his paper logs in that. I mostly use GenLogger32, the NAQCC logger, but also at least three other logging programs, depending on which contest or "thing" I'm participating, and really no longer have a main log. I believe Mark is a N1MM user. Curious, what do you do? Got a nice email from Doug, explaining that life is happening this summer and radio is taking somewhat of a back seat until DST goes away. Thanks, and looking forward to your return. Will keep you on the distribution list. 72/3 de JB.kr5rr LAST TIME ON 7123.5 - NEXT WEEK 7065.5

July 07, 2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

Terry (YUM) was in NTX with a wire hung in a tree and 579.

Andy (YGA) was 599 from AR.

Roger (RWK) was using an FT950 turned down to 5 watts.

Allen KA5TJS

July 14, 2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

The band was crazy. YUM was 579 when he checked in and just went away totally when I called him.

DRG/3 was in Pennsylvania mobile with a whip on his car and gave me a 119. I gave him a 229.

Allen KA5TJS

July 21, 2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

No net. I dug up a busted water line and fixed it and was dead tired by 7:00pm.

Sent out an email to the regulars that I would not make it.

Allen KA5TJS

July 28, 2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

All but one were QRP tonight. K5OAI in San Angelo was a first timer and welcome Sam.

Had some QRM but all signals were 100% copy.

Allen KA5TJS

July QNI Reports, NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss WA8AXF, Michigan

It has been more than a year now since starting the GLN. Thanks to all my regular check-ins as your calls have become very familiar and thanks to the new stations that stop by from time to time. Operating as an NCS for the NAQCC has been a true pleasure for the last year and hopefully for a long time to come!

David WA8AXF

NAQCC CW Net QNI Reports All Stations  
July/2015 Please note: Dates are in UTC

NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

80M, 3.574 MHz

07-06-2015 QNI (3) NCS N6IET, KE6EE, KW6G

07-13-2015 QNI (2) NCS N6IET, K7KY

07-20-2015 QNI (9) NCS N6IET, K7KY, KW6G, KE7LKW, KR5RR, N7HRK, WU7F, N6KIX, NM5S (7058 KHZ)

07-27-2015 QNI (3) NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, KR5RR (7058 KHZ)

NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California

40M, 7.123.5 MHz

07-07-2015 QNI (7) NCS KW6G, KE6EE, N7HRK/M, WU7F, WB4SPB, N6IET, KE7LKW

07-14-2015 QNI (5) NCS KR5RR, WU7F, N6IET, KE6EE, N7HRK/M

07-21-2015 QNI (5) NCS KR5RR, N6IET, KE6EE, WB4SPB, N7HRK/M

07-28-2015 QNI (6) NCS KR5RR, N7HRK/M, N6IET, K7ZNP, N7NLN, KE6EE

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

40M, 7.065 MHz

07-07-2015 QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N5RWK

07-14-2015 QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N5DRG/3, KD5SFK

07-21-2015 QNI (1) NCS KA5TJS

07-28-2015 QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N5DRG, K5OAI

NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska

40M, 7.117 MHz

07-07-2015 QNI (1) NCS NU0S, Net called due to weather storms

07-14-2015 QNI (1) NCS NU0S, Won't lie I actually fell asleep in my ham shack chair waiting for net...must be getting old...

07-21-2015 QNI (7) NCS NU0S, KR5RR, KA5T, AC8JW, KB7KY, K0JFJ, WB0QQT

07-28-2015 QNI (5) NCS NU0S, K0JFJ, AC9JW, N7NLN, KB7KY

NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) Dale Putnam WC7S, Wyoming

20M, 14.062.5 MHz and 40M, 7.062.5 MHz

07-02-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, N7GES, WB9R

07-07-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, N7GES

07-07-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, WA2DWX

07-09-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, N7GES

07-09-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, AA7CU

07-16-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, N7GES

07-16-2015 QNI (5) NCS WC7S, KA5T, AA7CU, WA4ZOF, W06M

07-21-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, N6IET, KA5T

07-23-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S

07-23-2015 QNI (5) NCS WC7S, AA7CU, N6IET, N1IX, KA5T

07-28-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, N7GES, W5EEF

07-28-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, WA2DWZ, KA5QQA

07-30-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, KA5QQA

07-30-2015 QNI (4) NCS WC7S, N6IET, KE6OIO, AA7CU

NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

40M, 7.117 MHz

07-01-2015 QNI (5) NCS N8ZYA, K3RNC, W8GDP, KM4LT, KA8SYV

07-08-2015 QNI (1) NCS N8ZYA

07-15-2015 QNI (4) NCS N8ZYA, WA2DWX, W8GDP, WA8SIE

07-22-2015 QNI (5) NCS N8ZYA, KA8SYV, W8GDP, WB1GYZ

07-30-2015 QNI (5) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP, AC8LJ, WA8SIE, KM4LT

NAQCC Pacific North West QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) Stewart Fletcher KE7LKW, Washington State

80M, 3.574 MHz

07-03-2015 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, W7ANM, WB4SPB, AD7BP, K7JUV

07-17-2015 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, K7JUV, WB4SPB, N6KIX

07-24-2015 QNI (3) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB4SPB

07-31-2015 QNI (3) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, N6KIX

NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss WA8AXF, Michigan  
40M, 7.117 MHz

07-03-2015 QNI (2) NCS K9EYT, KD0WF

07-10-2015 QNI (7) NCS WA8AXF, K9EYT, K3NLT, WE8UPJ, KD2FVG, N8RVE, KM4LT

07-17-2015 QNI (3) NCS WA8AXF, AE4G, K9EYT

07-24-2015 QNI (8) NCS WA8AXF, WB0QQT, K9EYT, KG0YR, VE3LB, KB9BVN, AC8JW, WE8UPJ

07-31-2015 QNI (4) NCS WA8AXF, K9EYT, WA2DWX, WB8LZG



# HELP FOR BEGINNERS



Items in this section are from CW Assistance Project Coordinator Brion, VE3FUJ, unless otherwise credited. If you are interested in helping out or need some help yourself please contact VE3FUJ. Additional help is also available on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/cw.html>.

## CW Round-Tables.

I've made some observation about CW Round-Table discussions. Stations seemed to be all over the place taking up a good deal of room. So from that I asked myself the question "how can that be improved"? The answer seemed quite obvious - - -

One station ought to be the the base to which all other stations Zero-beat. The way I see it, is to proceed in an orderly fashion in rotation according to check-in order, then rotate in that order. If a new Station checks in, wherever his BK appears would then be his spot, after he's given a chance to state his reason why he broke in. Perhaps he has a message for one of the participants, or just wants to join the discussion. When a round-table is in progress only the call of the station transmitting should be given at the beginning and end of the transmission. I think this satisfies the rules. For example, " de VE3FUJ bla bla bla blab AR de VE3FUJ" then the next station takes over with the same procedure. In an effort to keep unnecessary Blab to a minimum. That way everyone knows when the discussion changes hands. The AR serves as a warning.

One important consideration is that everyone is Zero-beat and I suggest, to the first station on, or perhaps better, the most stable station to minimize drift, so everybody don't have a need to constantly re-tune and thereby the space needed is kept to a minimum.

I'm also sure that a little experience will make things run smoothly, and you'll have an enjoyable Round-Table QSO.

72 Brion. -30-



# HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #2062, has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very talented cartoon artist. Dick's cartoons appear monthly in the *KY9A Telegraph*, a free ham radio eZine published by the Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club ( <http://www.k9ya.org/> ). We are very pleased and honored to be allowed to reprint his cartoons here. Dick has also authored the book *HI HI - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons* available at <http://www.ky9a.org/w9cvt/>.

## HAM LINGO " Ham Band "



" Ham Band."



# NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Central Texas, Illowa, and Florida - but we would be more than happy to expand on that list. Chapters are more or less independent local gatherings organized by NAQCC members in a geographical area and subject to a list of guidelines from the NAQCC. They provide opportunities to have fun and to promote our parallel passions of QRP and CW. If you are interested in forming a local chapter please contact Club President Paul, N8XMS.

If your chapter is planning a portable operation activity and would like to have it promoted on the club email list or in the newsletter, send an email with the subject "NAQCC Portable Operation" and with the exact wording of the announcement to Vice President John, N8ZYA, at the email address listed on the last page about a week before the operation. Please be sure to include the UTC time for the event and not just the local time.

A report about your chapter activity should appear here. Please send them to KD2MX or N8XMS at the email addresses listed on the last page.

NAQCC chapters located in the United States are welcome to use the NAQCC Club call, N3AQC for their special operations. Please contact call sign trustee Paul, N8XMS, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

Chapter Reports Begin On The Next Page

## CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER



Items in this section are from Central Texas Chapter President Danny, N5DRG, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him.

The chapter is located in the Austin, TX area.

Greetings from the QRP Capitol of Texas!

July has been a non-typical typical month here in Texas, beautiful days with clear skies, with warm not excessively HOT temperatures, just a little below the daily Century mark, but we are not complaining, even though the last few days have been very warm, but it will get HOTTER as August comes in.

The Central Texas Chapter has recovered enough from the Divide and Conquer 2015 Field Day to have a QRP in the Park event on July 25<sup>th</sup> at Devine Lake Park, in Leander Texas.

Devine Lake is one of several water conservation lakes in Williamson County, it's a great place to go fish, have a picnic, fly an RC plane, Quadcopter, and a really great spot to have a QRP in the Park event.

The central Texas Chapter had a turnout of about 11 hams, to that end 7 were Chapter members.

Chapter Members in attendance Joe K5BRY, Larry WB5BEK, John KN5L, Lester WD4IFU, Roy WA5YZD, Russ KK5E, and myself Danny N5DRG.

The Temperature was in the Upper 80's when we started at 14:30 UTC, and by the closing time of 17:00 UTC it was right at 101 degrees F.

Equipment Used:

Radios:

Elecraft K2 (KN5L), Elecraft K1 (WB5BEK), Elecraft KX3 (K5BRY), Yaesu FT 857D (N5DRG) Turned down to 5 Watts. N5DRG was the odd man out on the Elecraft full house.

Antennas:

Dual Band Dipole for 15 & 20 meters (KN5L), End-fed 10 thru 40 meters (K5BRY), and a Homebrew End-fed Vertical 10 thru 40 meters (N5DRG)

Joe K5BRY started off on 40 meters, John KN5L on 20 meters, and I on 30 meters. We used the N.A.Q.C.C. spotter page, so it would be great to know if any of the contacts we made were actually gleaned from the spotter itself.

**The chapter worked 26 contacts, 14 states, and of the 26 contacts, 20 of them were fellow N.A.Q.C.C. members.**

Roy WA5YZD has produced a Drone Video of the event, with still photos, the video can be found on YouTube @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gL5KlvAi9v0>, as always Local Chapter information can be found at <http://naqcc-centraltexas.net/>

Below are photos of the Park, and a screen shot of the Contact Log.

We look forward to our next **QRP In The Park**. A big thanks to all who may have heard, and worked us.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
	Operator	#	Time	Call	Name	R	S	State	#	NAQCC NR	BAND
1											
2	John-KN5L	1	-	AC8LJ	ERIC	-	-	WV	1	6261	20
3		2	-	W2KJ	JOE	-	-	NC	2	0396	20
4		3	-	W4VHH/4	TOM	-	-	NC	-	-	20
5		4	-	WD9F	WOODY	-	-	IL	3	1628	20
6		5	-	WA8Y	STEVE	-	-	OH	4	-	20
7		6	-	KN6X/4	BILL	-	-	IN	5	-	20
8		7	-	W0RW/M	PAUL	-	-	CO	6	2500	20
9											
10	Larry-WB5BEK	1	14:46	AE0EE	BILL	559	559	MN	7	-	20
11		2	16:33	W4VHH/4	TOM	559	559	NC	-	-	20
12		3	16:33	WD9F	WOODY	579	579	IL	-	1648	20
13		4	16:50	W9JOP	BOB	579	549	VA	8	0241	20
14		5	17:00	AI4BJ/P	MARK	559	549	KY	9	-	20
15											
16	Joe-K5BRY	1	-	NF5U	JERRY	-	-	TX	10	0142	40
17		2	-	W5IQS	EVAN	-	-	TX	-	3924	40
18		3	14:46	KA5TJS	ALLEN	-	-	TX	-	4512	40
19		4	-	KE5YGA	ANDY	-	-	AR	11	5493	40
20		5	-	N5LB	LIONEL	-	-	TX	-	2253	40
21		6	-	W9JOP	BOB	-	-	VA	-	0241	40
22											
23	Danny-N5DRG	1	14:25	KZ8R	DON	559	559	NC	-	-	30
24		2	15:08	W15H	CURTIS	449	549	TX	-	7128	30
25		3	15:20	WN0I	ANDY	559	559	MO	12	7518	20
26		4	15:26	KA4WJB	JOE	559	559	FL	13	7508	20
27		5	15:50	KB3CA	DON	529	539	PA	14	6602	20
28		6	15:52	K3SWZ	GLENN	569	579	PA	-	3793	20
29		7	16:00	W9JOP	BOB	559	559	VA	-	0241	20
30		8	16:05	KG4UPO	WILEY	569	559	VA	-	5675	20

Screen Shot of Contacts made, and by whom.  
Are you on the list?



Left to Right in Photo  
Alan KE5TNO, Larry WB5BEK # 7534, Joe K5BRY #6666, Danny N5DRG #5861, Bob W5EMC, John KE5RS, John, KN5L #4831, Lester WD4IFU #7676, & Russ KK5E #7540



Danny N5DRG & Jack KB5TXS



Joe K5BRY at the Key



Bob W5EMC, Danny N5DRG, John KN5L



Lester WD4IFU, John KE5RS, Jack KB5TXS



Danny N5DRG at the key



Roy WA5YZD, Russ KK5E



One of three antenna setups.

Left to Right

N5DRG, WD4IFU, KE5TNO, W5EMC & K5BRY

Thanks to all for a great turnout, and look forward to our next outing, next time I hope we get to eat!

Bar-B-Que Sounds Good!

As Always  
Keep Calm  
&  
QRP ON

## NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER



Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him. The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

The European Chapter has its own monthly challenges to compensate for the Atlantic Ocean. However all are welcome to participate, not just members in EU, and we regularly receive challenge logs from North American participants. Please see the chapter web pages for dates and details.

### *Upcoming activity day*

It's just over two weeks until the chapter's next activity day! It will be held on Wednesday, 19th August. The activity days are an excellent opportunity for members to meet each other on the air, and are based around a friendly competition. They are fun, informal events designed to be enjoyable to radio amateurs with all degrees of CW experience. The goal is to boost CW/QRP activity and awareness, whilst enjoying ourselves at the same time! As with all chapter activities, the activity days are open to every NAQCC member, so stations outside of Europe are most welcome to participate and make contacts with those in Europe!

The activity days are a proposed a 24 hour period (0000Z-2359Z on 19th August), in which members can spend as much or as little time operating as is convenient and enjoyable. We award points for QSOs based on the distance between the two stations, and normalize scores based on how much time in that 24 hour period you have spent operating. The idea is to facilitate a convenient opportunity for member-member contacts whilst being flexible to allow for the many commitments that members have outside of the hobby.

The activity days are worth 6 points in the participation contest to win the Kent-KT1 Straight Key. For more information, see: <http://naqcc-eu.org/prizes>

The results of the activity day will be published immediately after the two week deadline for submitting entries has passed. Please join us on the 19th of August, no matter where you are located, to help keep our chapter activity days growing! For a full description of the upcoming activity day, please refer to <http://naqcc-eu.org/activity-days>

### *Current European challenge*

The premise of the August alphabet challenge is to construct the top four results from last month's Tour de France. Full details are available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/august-2015-challenge>

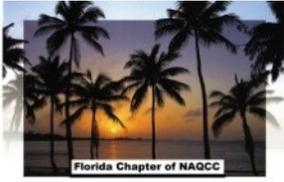
We have a very exciting new concept lined up for the September European challenge! It's up on the website if you'd like a preview; alternatively it will be described in full in next month's newsletter.

### *July challenge*

We have so far had 6 successful entries for the July challenge: from G0DJA, K1IEE, PA7PYR, PA0XAW, SM5ELV, and SM5MEK. The premise of the challenge was to construct two pangrams. It was suggested by Peter, G3JFS. The letter Q was the hardest to construct; PA0XAW, G0DJA and PA7PYR all reported difficulties with the letter. Dave, G0DJA, completed the majority of the challenge using the 6M band.

Congratulations to all who completed the challenge! There are still a few days left to submit your entries, if you have not done so already.

## NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Steve, WB4OMM.

No report available.

## NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Pete, NN9K.

The Illowa Chapter operates in the "Quad Cities" area of Davenport, IA / Moline, IL.

The monthly meeting of the Illowa Chapter of the NAQCC was held on Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup> with five members attending. The discussion revolved around the upcoming excursion to the Mississippi Palisades Park. All of the usual operating away from home items were covered, departure time, carpooling, what antennas would be available, radios that would be used and so forth. After a stimulating discussion, pie and coffee we all headed for home to start gathering and packing our gear.

### Mississippi Palisades Park July 17th

Promptly at 08:30CDST Tony, N9YPN and I (NN9K) left my house for the park. It is a pretty drive along the Illinois side of the Mississippi River. Just as on my scouting trip a couple of weeks before we arrived at the park after a little over an hours drive. We drove to an area with a large pavilion holding six picnic tables and oriented so the tables would be in shade most of the day. The pavilion was located on a strip of land that was large enough to allow for good antenna separation so as to avoid interstation interference.

Tim, N9BIL arrived a few minutes after we had parked and started to unload our gear. The site met with his approval and so we began setting up antennas. Then the bad news—one of our members who had been planning to operate with us had a minor surgical procedure early in the morning. It went well but the doctor told him to stay out of the heat and humidity. And of course this was a 90 degree day with 60% humidity, one of those days where you perspire while sitting and doing nothing. So that meant only three of us would be operating.

N9BIL had a brand new Buddipole he was setting up on 20-meters, N9YPN was using a G5RV Jr. suspended from a convenient tree branch and I set my Buddipole up in a vertical configuration on 30-meters.

Tim brought his K2, K1EL keyer, paddles and Netbook for his station. Tony 's station consisted of a Ten-Tec Scout with the power turned down, a couple of Scout modules and a manual tuner. Tony planned to operate a little QRP sideband in order to provide a little diversity to our operation. My station consisted of a KX3, a no-name straight key and a Netbook. We did have Internet access so the Netbooks made it easy to place spots on [QRSPOTS.com](http://QRSPOTS.com).

We were joined for lunch by two of our other members John, WS0G and his wife Ann, W0ANN. They had not planned to operate but wanted to see how we set up equipment and antennas.

July 17<sup>th</sup> was not a great day for propagation. Solar Flux was 97.4, the "A" index 4 and the "K" index 3. Very little was heard tuning around on the various bands but we were able to log contacts in CA, CO, FL, NC, NJ and NY.



Tony, N9YPN, trying to stir up some SSB activity.  
(Although we are a CW club some occasionally stray over to the dark side! 😊 - Editor)



Tim, N9BIL, happily using his new Buddipole.

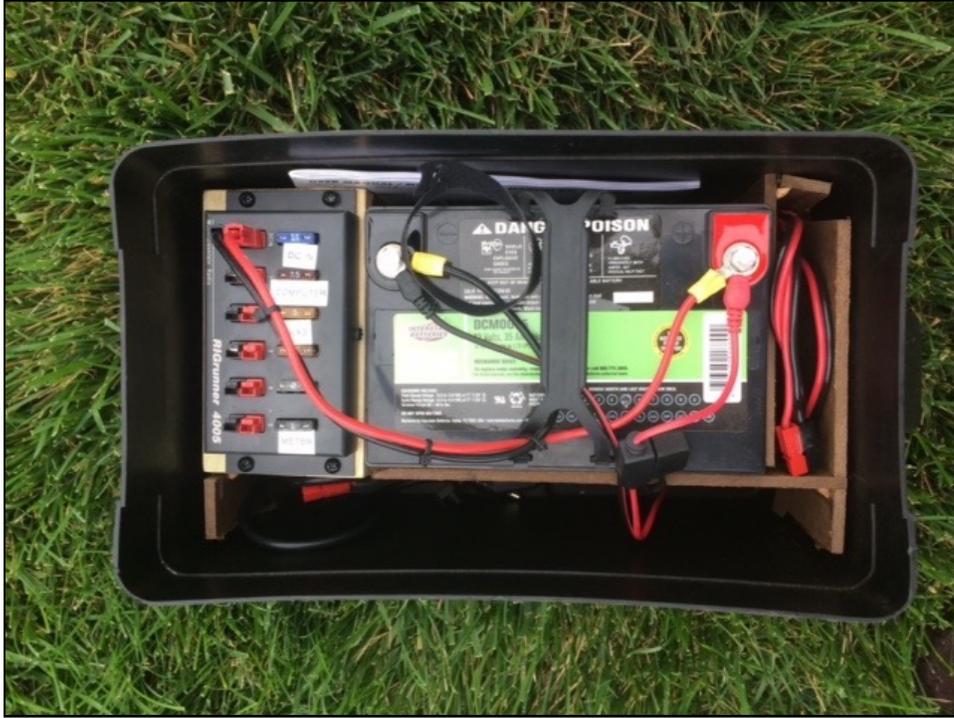


Peter, NN9K, banging away on a straight key while wearing his QLF hat.



A useful addition to a Buddipole - inexpensive plastic canteens filled with sand.  
(The canteens can be found on Amazon.)

Tim, Tony and I collaborate on a lot of different ham radio projects. To power our portable operations we all purchased 35ampour SLA batteries. Maybe a bit of overkill capacity wise but it does allow for operating a Netbook or sharing battery power with a fellow ham. We have standardized on using Anderson Power Poles and RIRunner power distribution panels. Tony built partitions in each of our battery boxes that securely hold the battery as well as providing compartments to store spare cables and such. Here is one of the boxes.



The battery charging cable has a quick disconnect jack and plug which allow it and the RIGrunner input cable to be permanently attached to the battery. A simple but effective method of providing battery power to several devices.

#### **Lessons learned:**

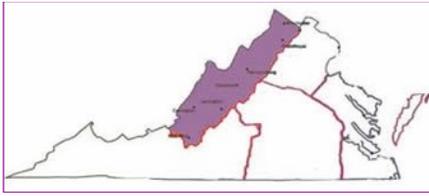
--Midwest outings in July can be interesting!

--Towels to wipe the perspiration and lots of bug spray to ward off the mosquito squadrons are essential.

--If our outing was a preview of the propagation facing us in the next few years it is going to be interesting.

--**Nothing beats sharing an adventure with friends!!**

## NAQCC SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Shenandoah Valley Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Russ, K3NLT.

Not much to report this month. Most of our gang has been out and about traveling and it has been very hot and humid, even on the mountains.

We do have a new member, Clay K3NGV, NAQCC # 7775, with whom I have been trying to complete skeds. He became a member of NAQCC and then was looking for a chapter to relate with. He is a bit out of our area, being near Philadelphia, but those were my old stomping grounds, and our calls are nearly sequential "?" and he is getting back into ham radio and doing it with QRP! CW! So I am trying to give him all the help and encouragement I can from here. We have so far had one brief QSO which the QSB killed, but he is trying an NVIS configured antenna. I have hope that the next time will be better.

August will likely be repeat of July, but I will try to have a fuller report.

Russ K3NLT #2906

## NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Virginia Chapter unless otherwise credited. The chapter's web site is at <https://plus.google.com/102627005227155262259?hl=en&partnerid=gplp0>. Questions or comments should go to John, N8ZYA.

The weather in West Virginia this month has been terribly hot again. As I write the newsletter, the temperature is around 90 F, but the heat index is 107 degrees. I will be glad when it cools down and things return to normal. Hi Hi

Due to the heat, my normal routine this month has been an early morning bike ride, a snack at the local [coffee shop](#), and often times, a visit to the local hospital. The early morning hours are the only time I can spend quality time outdoors. By noon, the heat is intolerable.

My morning bike ride usually means playing a "[public piano](#)" as I stop for a few minutes to cool down from the rising heat. I like playing music and consider it a universal language; much like Morse code. The rhythm and spacing of the notes are *everything* when playing music. I know the CW ops in our club understand what I'm saying here.



Several of our WV members in the valley have been suffering from a variety of health problems, or out of town on business this month. Steve Ashcraft (KC4URI) is BACK in the hospital, Joe Miller (KD8SGV) is battling cancer, and Jim Stephens (NX8Z) had heart surgery to install a pacemaker. Jeff Imel (K9ESE) has been out of town on business. It's sort of quiet around here and a bit lonely. Hi Hi

I've made some changes in my operating mode this month. Living here in the valley, I have access to only one 2 meter repeater. That has changed dramatically since last month.

I mentioned in last month's WV newsletter that I downloaded the echo link software on both my desktop and my Samsung tablet. I've discovered this is a valuable [tool](#) to spread the news about the NAQCC club.

This month I've been able to share the good news of the NAQCC club with groups from all over the world. Hawaii, England, and Ireland are just a few examples. Surprisingly I've found some good CW ops in these groups too.

In February of every year, our WV Chapter operates from the [Huntington Museum of Radio and Technology](#). This special event allows us to use an enormous beam with a small QRP 5 watt radio. Sadly, I've previously been unable to make regular contacts with this group. That has changed now since I'm using the echo link software to check into their weekly nets. I know several of their club members on a first name basis now. It's easy to talk about the NAQCC club at these times and pass along information about our sprints, monthly challenges, and a variety of CW nets we offer in the US.

There's a Hamfest coming up soon.

Eric (AC8LJ) and I plan to attend the [August Huntington Hamfest](#) of the Tri State Amateur Radio Association. We both have a few fleas to sell and I look forward to meeting some new friends in the Huntington area. The club has invited me to do a NAQCC club presentation next year and possibly a Skype interview at a club meeting. I'm looking forward to both of these events. This now means two presentations a year. I will also do my normal presentation at the Charleston Hamfest.

DX has certainly been rare this month. I was able to work a station in Budapest which was running a KW into a massive beam but that's been my only long distance contact. I simply don't have the time to spend time searching and pouncing for stations along the gray line. Family obligations are still a priority for me as my father moves past the age of 95, and is living independently in another town near here. Those five grandkids also keep me busy.

I've made a small change to the WV [QRS](#) net schedule. I like working the "sprints" and have decided to give them priority when there's a conflict with the QRS net. This rarely happens; but I like passing out the WV contacts to all those looking for different states. A few extra "states" in the log book can make a big difference in sprint scoring.

I apologize for the two different "Swap and Shop" notices this month. The list server inadvertently kicked the original list "out" because the file was too large. I think that means the new service is being used and liked by the membership. I'll make adjustments next month to the "Swap and Shop" mailing list to avoid this problem.

I'm still meeting with a group from the local radio club on most Saturday mornings for breakfast. The WV Chapter folks are also meeting on the second Wednesday of every month for breakfast. It will be good to see Jeff Imel (K9ESE) again this coming weekday.

That's about it for the West Virginia news this month. I hope it cools down soon and our member's health improves. I'm looking forward to the Huntington hamfest in a few days. (August 8<sup>th</sup>)

Happy Trails,

John Smithson N8ZYA

## NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Western Pennsylvania Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to John, K3WWP.

There was not a lot of WPA chapter activity in July except for the FOBB sprint near the end of the month.

Mike KC2EGL visited on the 22nd after a local meeting here in town. He had to get up early the next day though, so he couldn't stay long. We did have a pizza to top off the priorities of the visit. After that we made plans for our Bumblebee outing on Sunday, a visit to a Skyview meeting Tuesday evening, and the Skeeter Hunt in August.

While cleaning out some things in my attic, I came across an old Britannica article about building a crystal radio set. I thought that would be an interesting project for one of Mike's visits. I asked him if he ever build such a set when he was young, and he said no. I did build one many years ago and had fun with it. So that's on one of our future agendas. We also hope to get in some good sky viewing during a week in August when Mike will be on vacation.

The FOBB (Flight Of the BumbleBees) had its moments, good and bad, in the Kittanning Community Park on Sunday July 26. Initial set up went well. We arrived about 30 minutes before the start and except for a couple of balky golf balls and a couple stubborn trees that slowed down our antenna launchings a bit, we still made it in plenty of time. However after a couple QSOs, we lost our pavilion. The pavilions are first come, first served if they have not been reserved ahead of time which they usually aren't, and generally that works well so we don't have to pay to reserve one. Today though just minutes into the FOBB, a couple and their kids arrived with a reservation in hand for a birthday celebration. So we had to move to another pavilion and set up all over again. that also went well although we had a couple strange orientations for our antennas due to the arrangements of trees at that pavilion. However with the center of Mike's dipole only 5 feet or so high, it worked well as did my dipole at maybe 10 feet at most. Mike took 40 meters, and I did 20. There wasn't a lot of activity or if there was, we weren't hearing it. I made 15 QSOs and Mike made 14. We both worked almost all the stations we heard on both bands. We both decided we pretty much ran out of stations and called it quits a little over an hour before the end of the contest.

Some pictures now. In order below - 1. Mike operating, 2. Me operating. 3. Mike's antenna. 4. My antenna.





Our next big activity will be the Skeeter Hunt from the Kittanning Community Park on Sunday August 9. Hopefully Mike and I will be joined by Tom WB3FAE for that one. We did quite well in the Skeeter Hunt the past couple years, finishing 2nd overall in 2014 (top multi-multi), and 6th overall in 2013 (top multi-multi). We hope to repeat or do even better this year.

On the last Sunday in August, we'll (K3WWP, KC2EGL, K3RLL, WB3FAE) be attending the Skyview Swap and Shop as we did last year and put our QRP rigs on the air from there as a demo of QRP/CW.

It wasn't really a WPA Chapter activity, but a personal one for K3WWP. I'm speaking of my QRP/CW presentation at Skyview on July 28 described below in my personal news. Mike also attended and helped me out. Thanks Mike.

I hope more areas around the country will form NAQCC Chapters and have as much fun as we here in WPA do.



# MEMBER SUBMISSIONS



This section is a forum for you to tell other members what you've been up to on the ham bands or to submit a short article dealing with some aspects of CW and QRP operation or equipment. Just about anything that would be of interest to our members would be welcomed. Send your items to our News Editor Paul, KD2MX.

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

From Chuck, N8NK, #7519 —

This Field Day, I used about as simple a wire antenna as one can use! This antenna makes my old 40' indoor dipole antenna in Seattle seem quite... grandiose.

I'm in a period of transition, having moved back to Michigan to care for a family member. And currently I'm in no position to erect an outdoor antenna. But I wanted to at least have a little fun on Field Day- so I strung up a piece of wire in my bedroom. I use it with my homebrew Z match. The wire is connected to the unbalanced terminal of my Z match, and rises about 5' to the ceiling, crosses the room for 10' and then down to the floor. The total length is about 23 feet. For a counterpoise, I just threw about 12 feet of wire on the floor along two sides of the room. And I was able to obtain a SWR of 1.2:1 on 40 through 15 meters.

I was hoping to make a contact or two... but every single ham that I called came right back to me except maybe one or two! I had such good results at 5 watts that I turned my output down to 2 watts for a few contacts just for fun. I only had a couple of hours to operate- but had hoped to make the '20 state' mark. I almost made it- but time ran out. I did manage to make contact with 19 states using this very simple indoor wire antenna and QRP. The most important thing is that I had a great time. No Yagi, no linear, and no microphone needed (or wanted)!

From Kyle, N4NSS, #2019 —

\*\*\* NEWS FLASH \*\*\* No More Collins Filters!

They say that Collins will no longer manufacture those wonderful mechanical filters that so many of us love after the imminent, and limited, final production run. Seems that DSP technology and the concomitant ever dropping cost has finally doomed these fine Collins products after over 65 years since their introduction. In case you are not aware, it takes about 12 weeks to manufacture one of these filters!

Those of you who own the FT-817/ND, FT-857, FT-897/D, FT-1000MP, Field, & Mark V, FT-2000/D, IC-703 (Plus), IC-718, and so on should consider seriously if you don't already have the filters you want, to go ahead and purchase them while these filters are still available (and the prices have not risen yet).

Collins says that when they are gone, they will be gone forever.

If you want these filters, check with [www.w4rt.com](http://www.w4rt.com) , [www.gigaparts.com](http://www.gigaparts.com) , [www.hamradio.com](http://www.hamradio.com) , [www.aesham.com](http://www.aesham.com) , etc. All of these organizations also offer the dual CW/SSB filter for the FT-817 made by W4RT Electronics.

From Danny, N5DRG, #5861 —

*Danny sent in this link to a video of the recent Central Texas NAQCC Chapter parkpedition. It doesn't actually show a lot of the ham radio operation but it will give you a good idea of what can be done with a camera mounted on a drone. A complete report on the outing can be seen in the Chapter News section of this newsletter.- Editor*

The title in this video is not correct as stated, but I cant complain about the PR. It was not a HAM-Buds event, it was the [NAQCC Central Texas Chapter July QRP in the Park Event](#).

14 states, 26 contacts and 20 fellow NAQC members in total, all done with 5 watts or less, and S.W.A.

Had a great turn out, wish the bands would have been better. Wound up with just 20 meters being usable, with 4 ops, we had to take turns at the key.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gL5KlvAi9v0>

From Greg, WB8LZG, #1444 —

“ Spread Out Men!”

For a few years now I've been going “old school” in our monthly sprints. I put the K2 with all of the narrow filters on the sidelines, and use an old Ten-Tec Argonaut 509. Many of you Ol' time QRPers out there will remember it fondly. First introduced in the early 1970s, it was a premier QRP rig, all in one neat little package. It had everything except for narrow filtering for the cw operator. The receive passband on the 509 is about 3 or 4 Khz wide, and you hear EVERY signal in that window. With no external CW filtering, it is “as wide open as a barn door !”. It sure gives the “filter between the ears” a good work out. And sort of reminds me of Field Day or Sweeps !

With our numbers growing every month, I've noticed that there seems to be a lot more Ops out there every sprint. This is a good thing, right ? More Ops = More QSO's = More Fun, right ? Well..... not exactly.

The problem I've noticed lately is that we're all calling on the same frequency. Hundreds of sprinters all crowded around the QRP “watering holes” In short “Mayhem on the Bands!” Have you ever had this happen to you? Two or three callers all calling CQ NA on the same frequency. You answer W8KKK, But both W8KKK and W4AAA hear your call and both stations send you their exchange info. You copy W8KKK's info OK, say GL es 73's es put him into the log. W4AAA hears ur 73 es thinks he has worked you also. This has happened all to often to me.

To add to the frustration, I'd run upon W4AAA later in the contest, try to work him and be told “DUPE”. I know several of you guys are nodding your heads in agreement on that one. But it's just a sprint right? Right ! Let's all remember to keep it fun and friendly. But we can still try and make it more fun and less frustrating.

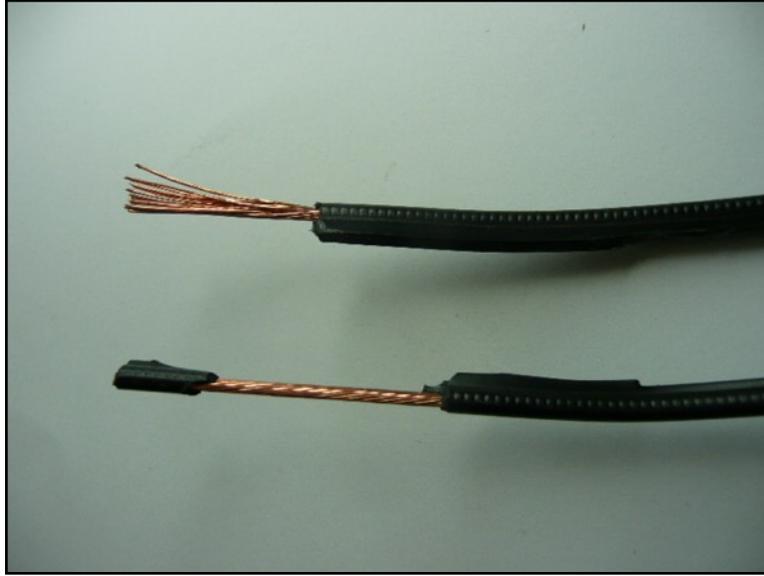
Remember what the Sargent always says to the men as they go out into “unknown territory”. “SPREAD OUT !” Strategy designed to ensure maximum survival in a hostile environment. Famous lines from old TV shows and war movies. But good advice.

Let's all make an effort to stray a bit more from the 14.060 and 7.040 watering holes. Yes I know some of you already do play +/- 5khz. Good for you! With our ever increasing membership, it's getting quite busy on sprint night, and it's only going to get busier. Together we can help keep it fun. Perhaps it's time we all listen to what the Sarge says, Eh ? “SPREAD OUT MEN!”

From Gene, N5GW, #5353 —  
Splicing stranded ladder line.

I thought that documenting my method of splicing ladder line might help make it easier for those working with ladder line for the first time.

The first image shows a specimen of 552 ladder line ( #16 gauge, 19 strand copper clad steel conductors) being prepared for splicing.



The insulation on the lower conductor is partially removed with a pocket knife, taking care not to nick the strands, leaving the tip covered with insulation to prevent the strands from untwisting. The upper conductor shows what happens if the insulation is completely stripped.

The second image shows a partially stripped upper conductor that has been tinned, and the tip can now be cut off. An alternate way of tinning involves applying the soldering iron to the tip of the wire, as shown on the lower conductor. The insulation can then be completely stripped, and the tinning completed toward the tip of the conductor to prevent untwisting.



Image three shows two conductors stabilized in contact side by side. The soldering gun is applied, fusing the conductors.



An alternate way of stabilizing the solder joint is shown in image four, in which small gauge copper wire is first wrapped around the tinned conductors.

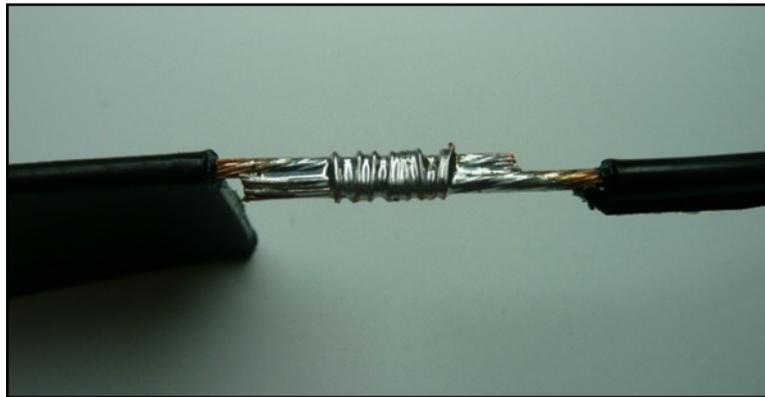
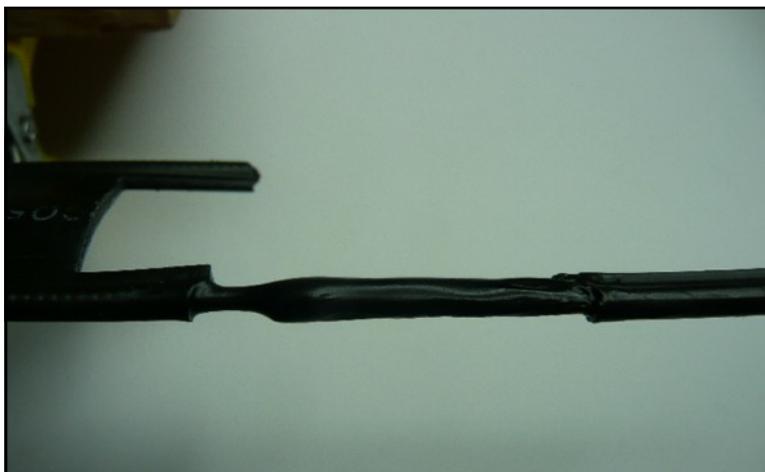


Image five reveals the finished splice covered by two coats of liquid electrical tape.

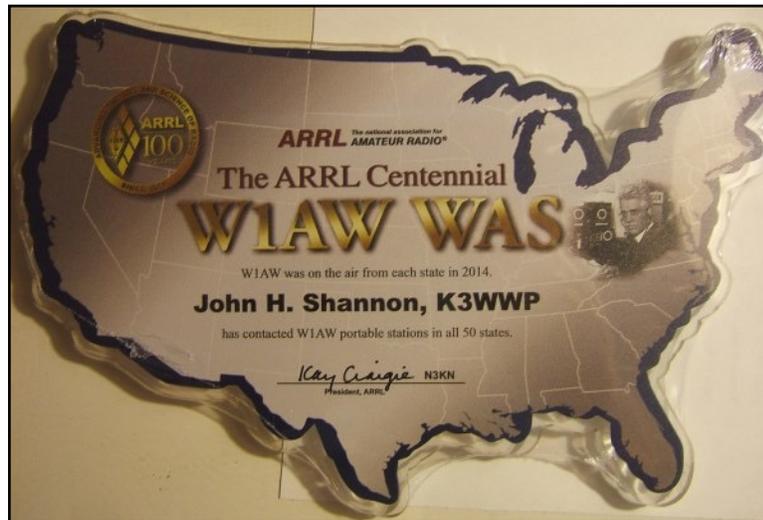


From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

July was a pretty quiet month for ham radio, with a couple exceptions.

I struggled with my DX streak some days during July, but in the end I got the DX to keep the streak going.

I got some nice things in the mail related to ham radio this month. First a certificate from the 2014 CQWW DX contest. A mailing from the ARRL DX Bureau giving me 3 new band-entities confirmed Z81X 15, CY0P 30, and J88DR 15. Also confirmed in the mailing were a dozen new prefixes. Z81X was also a new band zone - 34 on 15M and actually a new overall country via QSL card although I do have a LoTW verification. Another item in the mail was my W1AW WAS plaque pictured here:



It's made of plastic about 1/4 inch thick. It came in a huge box with a postmark from Utah. It had me puzzled as I knew the only real thing I was expecting was the plaque and the box and postmark didn't seem to indicate that, but that's what it was. It's now hanging proudly on my wall. My effort (a pleasant effort) was certainly worth such a fine award.

I was thinking the following belonged in the WPA news, but although the NAQCC was mentioned, it was more of a personal thing.

Bob WC3O had been wanting me to come to a meeting of the Skyview Radio Society (near New Kensington, PA) for some time now to give a presentation on QRP/CW. We finally settled on July 28. I asked Mike KC2EGL, Tom WB3FAE, and Don K3RLL if they would like to come along. It turned out that Don had company and wouldn't be able to come.

Mike had to work that day, so he had to wait to come here till he was done. We still got to Skyview in plenty of time. In fact we were the 3rd and 4th persons to arrive. We were sorry that Tom WB3FAE couldn't attend because he got a bug and a fever and had to stay home.

The first order of business was to set up for the presentation. I figured I would just use my web site as a source for all the info since I really couldn't add anything else to what is there. They have a projector and a big whiteboard so I could project my laptop images for all to see. I had a bit of trouble with hooking to the projector since I hadn't done so for several years since we used such a setup at our computer club meetings. One of the members knew exactly what to do, so that hurdle was overcome. While members were arriving and chatting, I set up the pages I wanted to use in different pages in IE so they would be ready to use.

After a nice introduction from Bob, and applause from the members, he turned it over to me for the presentation. I planned the presentations in five stages - Showing my location, station, and antennas - Showing what can be done with such a setup - Showing how anyone can do the same with a similar setup - Comments from Mike and Tom (but he couldn't make it as I mentioned) - Finally a 'hands-on' demo of the KX3/PX3 hooked to the club's big antenna farm. Here's a picture of me getting started with the presentation.



I started off with Bing maps showing my location here, and then went on to pictures of my station with the KX3/PX3, antenna switch, etc. In fact it was the first picture on my Pictures page in the Home section of the web site. After that, it was on to the antenna pictures from my OneDrive site. I sensed a feeling of surprise from the members that the antenna system was so minimal. I used the line, "It's not really an antenna farm, but more of an antenna victory garden". The victory garden analogy came from my friend Alan KB7MBI. I think they got a kick out of the random wire especially seeing all the bends in it. I said at one time, I counted 21 bends. One member asked if I knew just how long it was. I said about 110 feet but squeezed into about 70 feet of space. Here's how the picture of my 6 meter dipole looked on the whiteboard.



After the 'show and tell' with the pictures, I went on to show some of the pages that give tips on succeeding with QRP/CW. I didn't take the time to read or show all the info there as I did want to get to the KX3/PX3 demo as I sensed several of the members were interested in seeing that. There was great

interest in the presentation as I think is amply shown by this picture.



Although the actual section of comments from Mike kind of got lost in the shuffle, Mike did contribute a lot of helpful comments along the way, which I appreciated very much. One that comes to mind was the story of how I 'converted' him to QRP/CW not long after we met when he (as a postman) delivered a QSL card to my house. He also added some other anecdotes of interest. Thanks Mike.

Now it was off to the radio room, where I hooked up the KX3/PX3 with help from Bob and others. I mentioned it would be nice if I could add to my DX streak from there, but it would have to be with a 'simple wire antenna', not one of their huge beams on big towers. So we hooked up to their 80/40 dipole antenna, but loaded it with the KX3 internal tuner to 20 meters and got the usual KX3 match of 1:1 with virtually anything it is fed into. The PX3 showed a strong peak to which I tuned to find it was Josh 6Y5JW whom I worked several times. I figured he would be an easy catch, and he was. We exchanged brief greetings and my streak QSO was in the log. As I mentioned, there was great interest in the KX3/PX3 and we got several questions about it. One member asked if we found any shortcomings in the setup. Mike and I both said no, except possibly for the audio quality from the speaker which didn't really matter and wasn't all that bad anyway. Another asked about the price of the rig. Mike looked that up on his phone and gave out the info. There were other questions also about the rig that I can't recall right now. Here's a picture of the setup with the old man (me) looking at the PX3 for someone to work. While Mike behind me is explaining something to a member.



Some more tuning around revealed very little in the way of DX outside of some SA stations which we couldn't seem to raise, possibly because of the orientation of the dipole. Probably had we hooked to

one of the beams, they would have been easy QSOs, but we didn't try that as time was moving on. We almost worked 9A/S55Z, but couldn't quite make it past K3WW?. Ironically when I got home and set my station back up, I worked him easily from there.

All in all it was a very enjoyable event. I usually don't enjoy being the center of attention in such an event as the presentation, but I have nothing but good 'vibes' from this one because of the great behavior and attention shown by all the Skyview members. Thanks very much. Thanks especially to Bob WC3O for the opportunity to do the presentation. I think it may have peaked some interest among the members who told me they were going to study my web site some more and one said he was definitely going to try to get back to CW again. Another said he was going to join the NAQCC.



# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

By Founding President Tom Mitchell, WY3H

We realize that QRP and CW operation do not appeal to everyone. We have no "axe to grind" with the QRO (high power) fraternity. We recognize that there are times when QRO operation is invaluable. During disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or terrorist attacks, radio amateurs provide vital, life-saving communications for which QRO operation is often necessary. QRO operators also provide an invaluable public service in health and welfare traffic and routine traffic handling.

Amateur radio has something for everyone, including SSB, other forms of digital communication and AM and FM operation. However, for a small but dedicated group, QRP (and QRPp) CW operation provides the greatest challenge and thrill amateur radio has to offer.

Each month the club will host a different challenge such as the GAW (Get Acquainted Week) or the Turkey challenge (making words relating to Thanksgiving from letters in call signs of stations worked). Also we will have a 2 hour sprint each month alternating between Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with a bonus multiplier for using a straight key.

In addition to QRP CW operation, the club encourages (but does not limit operators to) the use of simple wire antennas. The club offers free membership to any licensed radio amateur (or shortwave listener) anywhere in the world who is willing to use and promote QRP (or QRPp) CW for at least part of their operating time.

We don't have all the answers, but we are willing to answer questions concerning QRP and CW operation from newcomers to the hobby and veteran amateurs alike. Let's put the thrill back into amateur radio and work together to encourage everyone to just give it a try.

We welcome all who share our view to join us and become part of an elite amateur radio fraternity.

The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has more than 7000 members throughout the world. 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 also be sent to

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Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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