

# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 216 JUNE 2016



## KEY CLICKS

- **FIRST CALL FOR N#A OPERATORS.** Plans are well underway for our 12th anniversary celebration to be held October 10-16 and we are now issuing our first call for volunteers to put our special call signs (N1A, N2A, N3A, ... N9A, N0A) on the air during that week. 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 would like to be the one from your district that uses the special call during the sprint that week please indicate that as well (first come first served). Detailed instructions for special event operators will be sent out by the end of September but if you have any questions just ask.
- **MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A TOP PRIZE IN OCTOBER!** As mentioned in the item above the plans are being finalized for our 12th anniversary celebration in October. One of the best aspects of that celebration is the prize drawing that will be held for all of the member/ participants in the sprint that week, and you need to make sure that you will be eligible for one of the top prizes. We have announced the eligibility requirements before but it doesn't hurt to repeat them again.

To be eligible to win one of the top prizes in the drawing you must...

- Be a member of the NAQCC at the time of the sprint.
- Participate in the sprint by making at least one QSO and sending in your log.
- Earn at least 9 participation points from January through September. Points are earned by participating in our regular monthly sprints and challenges. (1 point each but a total of 3 points if both a sprint and challenge are done in the same calendar month.) Up to two additional points can be earned by qualifying and applying for one or two of our regular club awards by the end of September.

That actual prizes that will be awarded are a closely guarded secret but you can look at [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_11th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_11th_anniv.html) to see what was given away last year.

- **CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY POLLS.** Jerry, VE6CPP, puts up an interesting poll on our club website each month. You can cast your vote in the current poll and see past poll results using the links on the main club page <http://www.naqcc.info/>. The more people that cast a vote, the more interesting the results.

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- **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.”



# CHALLENGE + CHALLENGE

BY PAUL, N8XMS

I had been looking forward to the May NAQCC Challenge for several months. The challenge was to make at least 10 QRP/CW QSOs using a piece of home-brew gear (including most kits). Since just about all of my ham station consists of such gear this really wasn't going to be much of a challenge. So I ramped it up for myself with a personal twist for an added challenge - I decided to try to use all of the old home-brew projects that have been sitting on my shelf collecting dust to make my Q's.

Building is a favorite aspect of the hobby for me, and since I've never been able to bring myself to sell off any of "my babies," I had quite a few toys to choose from. Hooking up this gear in various combinations, relearning how to operate it, and overcoming some problems that developed, ended up being a ton of fun! It also generated a lot of nostalgia as memories of originally building and using the gear came to mind.

Here is a rundown of the gear that I used...

- *First up is my Elecraft K2 and Black Widow Paddle. This is actually my normal station setup. (I'm right handed but work the paddle with my left hand in the position shown.) The paddle finger pieces were made by Gregg, WB8LZG, and look and feel great. After using the different radios shown later in this report I am much more appreciative of all of the "bells and whistles" that this rig has!*



- *Back in 1979/80 QST ran a series of construction project articles written by the well known QRPer Doug DeMaw, W1FB (SK), entitled "Basic Amateur Radio." Over the course of several months DeMaw presented plans for a complete QRP station and I ended up building two of the items - a variable voltage power supply that I still use as a bench supply, and a 40-meter crystal controlled transmitter. At the time my license was expired but I was anticipating returning to the hobby that I had enjoyed as a teenager. I was living in an apartment with my wife and baby son and built the projects on a little desk set up between the hanging clothes in a small walk-in closet. I etched the boards (my own design) in the kitchen sink. Well, one thing led to another, including a second baby, and almost 10 years passed before I became N8XMS. The transmitter was never actually put on the air - but it did work. It outputs somewhere between 1 and 2 watts. (Probably closer to 1w.)*

*Notice how I had to cobble together some special clips so that I could use some modern crystals that I had.*



Scratch-built Power Supply (DeMaw Design)



Scratch-built 40-meter Transmitter (Doug DeMaw Design)

*For this challenge I made the mistake of trying to put it on the air on a weekend with several major state QSO parties and no one seemed to want to answer my CQ. Then we had some sort of solar storm that really killed the bands. After about four days of trying I finally completed a QSO with it.*

- *The TenTec 1320 (20-meter transceiver) was the first QRP kit radio that I built (in 2001) and I must say that it really was a bit of a “dog” from the very start. No matter what I did the VFO never stopped drifting. Nevertheless it was the first rig that I earned QRP WAS with. For this challenge the drift was still there and additionally the VFO was so badly out of alignment that it would only tune the upper part of the 20-meter CW sub-band. It still managed to find someone to talk to without too much trouble. Sitting next to the transceiver is a nice memory keyer that I built around 1994 into a much larger box than necessary. It still gets occasional use when I operate in something like the ARRL Nov SS contest where a sequential serial number is part of the exchange. The keyer can automatically insert and increment those numbers in a stored message.*



TenTec 1320

CMOS Super Keyer II

- *Next is a fun little Rockmite 30-meter transceiver paired up with an Arizona ScQRPIons Paddle. This is my wife’s favorite radio. She is not a ham but likes the blue color! The rig can only operate on 2 fixed frequencies that are 700 Hz apart and it outputs about 450 mW. It is amazing to me that something so small actually has a built-in keyer. With a fixed frequency, and QRPp power, it’s not always easy to get someones attention. But over the years I’ve managed to work about 26 different states and a couple of Caribbean DX with this little radio.*



Rockmite 30

ScQRPIons Paddle

- Here is a BLT antenna tuner modified for a non-balanced transmission line, an SST 40-meter transceiver, and a NorCal keyer. The SST is a really nice little radio and that's not surprising since it was designed by Wayne Burdick, N6KR, one of the cofounders of Elecraft. It has a variable crystal oscillator that tunes in the neighborhood of 7.035 - 7.045 MHz or so. Output is just over 1 watt. I really like this radio. The NorCal Keyer worked but had some issues. Sometimes when it was powered up it would go into strange unpredictable modes and the only way to get it back to normal was to leave it turned off for a while. I'll save that for some future rainy day tinkering.



- Speaking of Elecraft, I also used my K1 and KX1 to make some challenge QSOs. Since completing my K2, the K1 doesn't see a lot of action but it remains an outstanding radio. The KX1 is the centerpiece of the portable "shack-in-a-box" station that I use in the field. Since it was already set up on my desk I went ahead and used it for my NAQCC May sprint, combined with a vintage Vibroplex bug. I didn't take a picture but it was funny to see the tiny radio connected to a bug that was several times larger and heavier than itself.



- Last up on my home-brew challenge gear tour is a really ugly straight key made from a couple of hacksaw blades. (Two blades, clamped flat next to each other, were used for added stiffness.) It's certainly nothing to brag about but it does work surprisingly well.



Well, thank you for putting up with this rather self-indulgent and nostalgic look at my old home-brew QRP projects. Using all of this gear for the May challenge gave me a real “blast from the past!” Perhaps you have been inspired to blow the dust off of some of your old gear. It’s really a lot of fun. Now I have the “itch” to find some new project to melt some solder on!

# TUNA TIN TAKEOFF

BY GENE, N5GW

Many of us remember the Tuna Tin construction articles that appeared in the amateur literature several years ago. I have used variations on this theme and would like to share some ideas.

I am familiar with two sizes of such containers: 5 oz. and 12 oz. (first pic). If the proper brands are chosen, the lip of the smaller tin will fit into a circular groove in the bottom of the larger tin to form a two compartment chassis which can be further stabilized by small brackets (first pic). The tops are best removed using a side cutting can opener instead of the traditional top cutting can opener. This allows the top to be re-seated on the can, with no sharp or irregular edges. The top can then be tack soldered in place or attached by brackets or central fixation screw. The top actually winds up becoming the bottom of most projects, and rubber feet can be attached. Some sort of plastic coating is in place on the interior surfaces of the tins, presumably to prevent the contents from attacking the metal. Instead of trying to scrape away the coating, a better idea is to use screws, star lock washers, solder lugs and nuts to achieve chassis ground connections to the bare outside metal. If large holes are to be cut, care should be exercised, as large drill bits or chassis punches may deform or tear the thin metal. It is better to start with small holes and gradually enlarge the hole using a tapered reamer or nibbling tool. Don't worry if you damage your first tins, as there are plenty of others out there (that is if your spouse doesn't get tired of eating tuna)!

The first pic is of a double decker transmitter under construction.



The second pic shows the innards of the top portion containing a heterodyne VXO/VFO. A CB crystal is VXO'd at its fundamental 9 MHz and mixed with a 2 MHz heterodyne crystal. The 7 MHz output is routed to the transmitter in the larger tin. Using two compartments allows satisfactory shielding. I first thought it resembled a submarine conning tower, but later decided it looks more like an armored machine gun nest, so I am naming it the "Pillbox"!



The third pic shows a tube transmitter built into a prune tin, fittingly named "Pruna-Tin". The tin is somewhat taller than the large tuna tin, even though it is labeled "9 oz.". It's a crystal controlled 15MF8 triode/pentode compactron tube powered by an old Heath HP-23A power supply.



Other combinations of different types of cans may work as well or better. Check it out on your next trip to the grocery store!



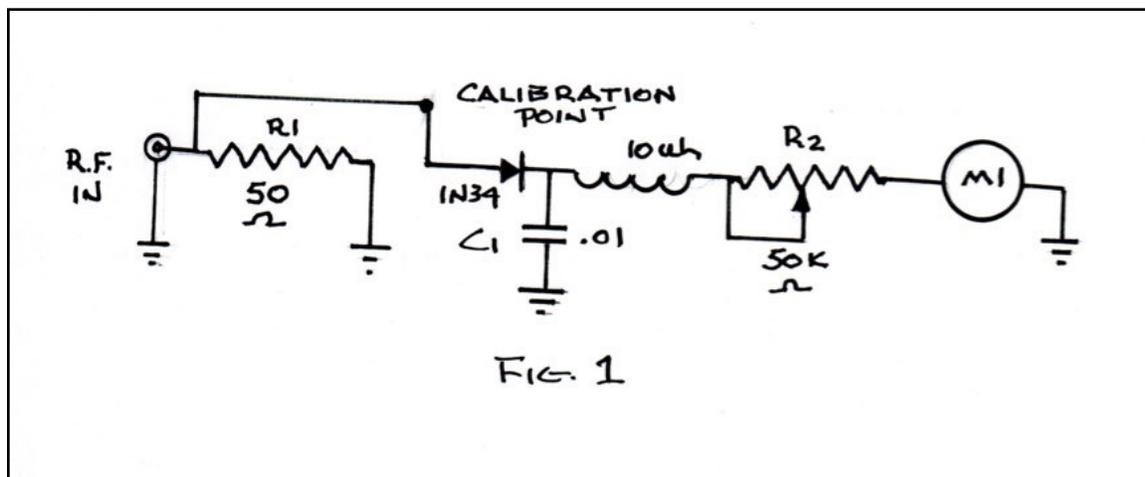
# QRP POWER METER

BY TOM, VE4AKI



A useful and probably necessary instrument for the active QRP operator is a power meter that reads accurately at the 5 watt and less level. The following is a brief description of the one I built for this purpose. It is easy to construct and does not require any hard to obtain parts.

First let's have a look at the schematic in fig 1. The R.F. power is absorbed by R1 a 50 ohm dummy load. This is fabricated by paralleling 3-150 ohm 2 watt resistors. R.F. is rectified by D1, a 1n34 diode and the resulting voltage is read by meter M1. C1 and RFC1 are used to filter out any stray R.F. The meter I used came from an old Heathkit lab meter, a 1ma. meter. Pot R2 is a 50K ohm trimpot and is used to calibrate the meter at the 5 watt level. Calibration requires a variable voltage DC power supply and an accurate multimeter.



With the dummy load disconnected at the calibration point DC voltage is fed in. R2 is adjusted to read full scale at 22.78 volts per Chart1. This is the 5 watt level. Other power levels are set per the chart voltage WITHOUT CHANGING THE VALUE OF R2. The face of the meter was carefully marked at the various levels. Reconnect the dummy load and you are good to go.

CALIBRATION TABLE	
WATTS	DC VOLTAGE
5	22.78
4	20.38
3	17.65
2	14.40
1	10.19
.9	9.67
.8	9.11
.7	8.52
.6	7.89
.5	7.20
.2	4.56
.1	3.33

I packaged the components up in the Heathkit lab meter enclosure with a SO239 connector on the rear for RF input. I have found this instrument to be very handy for testing and monitoring various QRP rigs.



# FDIM REPORT

BY GREGG, WB8LZG

Spring is the time when a young ham's thoughts turn to Dayton ! Again this year I made the trip to Dayton to be with the QRP/ARCI group at their annual convention called Four Days in May. Many years ago I started going to this gathering, and the QRP crowd here is so friendly that I just keep coming back.

The first day (Thursday) is filled with forums. That night starts out with Vendor night, where all sorts of kits, gizmos, gadgets, and homebrew supplies are available – a veritable QRPer's "gold mine" as it were. I was happy to see many of my old friends and had some good conversations catching up on the year gone by. All too soon it was late , and with the "Hamvention" kicking off early in the morning, it was time to turn in.

The next morning, Hamvention was in full swing. I browsed the flea market for some bargains and passed up a few. Mostly I was content to see many of the ham gang from MSU and Alumni. Friday evening found us all at "Rob's" for dinner and fellowship. There was a good turnout there, I counted seventeen of us Hungry Hams.

Friday night also brought something new, "Club night" at FDIM. I hung out the "MSUARC" banner and the NAQCC club signs too. I got several folks to stop by to say hello. The night also showcased homebrew builders. Homebrewers bring in the projects that they have been working on all year for show and tell. There's even a contest, judging for best build. I always look forward to Richard Meisse's (WB9LPU) new "key". He is an accomplished machinist, and every year he dazzles us with a new creation. This year was no exception. He came up with a new "straight key" that would be the envy of any CW operator.

Here's a photo of the FB work he does.



Absolutely fantastic! And the "feel" ? SUPERB !

There were also all sorts of different homebrew offerings to catch your eye and imagination. Many times I've been inspired to build something after viewing the projects presented here. The following are but a few pictures of the many entries. Some even rival commercial equipment in both specs and looks!



Here are some more examples of real craftsmanship in action!



I had a very nice time getting to know Steve WB4OMM #5913, and several other NAQCC members as well. Thirteen in all signed the sheet. It's always fun to finally have an "eyeball QSO" with people who I work in many of the sprints. Sprints are FB fun, but I sure like "chewing the rag" with a fellow QRPer in person. Many have become good friends and I look forward to seeing them again next year.

What did I get in Dayton ? Well I didn't need anything ..... , but I ran across a super bargain on a MARCH paddle in nice condition, and also a beaten, broken-down, old Vibroplex iambic that had some

pieces missing. It was cheap, so it will make another good "project key" to fix and restore, use for a spell, and then gift to an aspiring CW Op!

All too soon it was over. It is sure true that time flies when you're having fun. Now another year to reminisce about good friends and good times.

I hope you enjoyed the pictures as much as I did taking them. Perhaps this will give you some inspiration too! 73 Gregg WB8LZG



# 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.

## CHUCK STROUD, KA8HDE, #4696



I got my Novice ticket in 1979 while in high school (Orrville, OH). My friend's dad took me to a class at the Wayne Amateur Radio Club in Wooster, OH, taught by a ham named Goose (W8AV). Shortly after that I also took the Tech/General test including the 13-wpm code test, but just missed passing. The teenage life quickly took over - sports, girls, college - then marriage, kids, career, etc. and I never got on the air. However, the desire to be a ham never left. Since then I've found out that many hams have had similar experiences as well, so I am not alone in this.

Thankfully my Dad, AC8IB, helped me keep my Novice license and original call (KA8HDE) active for 25 years by reminding me to renew. Then shortly after moving to Minnesota I upgraded to Tech in 2004, but still no QSOs. Finally with the encouragement of my wife and a work friend (NØTYE), I bought an HT and got on the air in August 2009 - exactly 30 yrs to the date that my Novice ticket was issued. I also passed my General in 2009, but didn't try HF (SSB) until January 2010 at my friend's QTH. Three months later I bought my first HF rig.

My main rig has been a Yaesu FT-897D with a LDG Z-11 Pro II tuner and a G5RV over my house - nothing special, but I've had a blast. My keys are a J-37, Amoco K-4, and a Czech Army. I've also built

an Arizona ScQRPions Bigfoot paddle along with the K1EL USB Winkeyer and AA0ZZ's EZ-Keyer.

I quickly rediscovered that my original interests in amateur radio were in electronics and CW. In late 2009 I joined the MN QRP Society (now MN Amateur Radio Technical Society – MN-ARTS), and started to relearn CW and build kits. That group is awesome and has many well-know QRP enthusiasts. If you're ever in the Twin Cities make sure to check us out ([www.MN-ARTS.org](http://www.MN-ARTS.org)).

My first CW QSO happened in September 2010. I knew it was going to be rough day so I decided to just take the day off of work. That morning Russ, W8KI, in MI came back to my CQ – what a nerve-racking thrill. The following month I had my first QRP contact with N5A in TX during the NAQCC sprint. Since then I've worked many QRP contests and NAQCC sprints and enjoy the challenge of 2xQRP. In the process I've also earned WAS/QRP and DXCC/QRP. I'm also regularly active with SKCC.

Since I've always thought that being a ham meant that I needed to build something as well as relearn CW, I took every opportunity to build with MNQRP/MN-ARTS. My first build was AA0ZZ's EZ Keyer, who is also a member of MNQRP. Our club has built many other kits over the years as well. A couple of years ago I built an Elecraft K1 with the help of my friend Bob, K9OSC. Bob also helped me build a portable vertical antenna to take on the road.

Outside of the radio world, I work for a university in administration and teach part-time. I've been married for 30 years this summer to a wonderful wife who is OK with my rekindled interest in radio. I also have two daughters, one who has a license (KD0YZS), and a two-year-old granddaughter who I have big hopes for. She has been listening to the ABC song in CW since she was born. My son-in-law's grandfather was also a ham, so occasionally I try to get him interested too, but nothing yet. Other interests include most sports, particularly college football (The Ohio State Buckeyes!) which is my real passion.

Hope to catch all of you on the air soon and thanks for reading this.

72/73 de chuck ka8hde



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** Does anyone remember the old advertising line “double your pleasure, double your fun, with double mint, double mint, double mint gum?” This month we have the chance to double our sprint pleasure! Our regular sprint will be on June 15, 0030-0230 UTC. That's the evening of the 14th in North America. Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201606.html>.

About a week later we will have one of our semiannual Milliwatt sprints on June 23, 0030-0230 UTC. (The evening of the 22nd.) Details at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201606mw.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). Alternatively, a logging spreadsheet for Mac OS X computer users is available at [http://www.naqcc.info/sprint\\_macs.html](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_macs.html).

**LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:** Participation in the May sprint was a little bit down with 107 submitted logs. The high levels of QRN that were reported by many operators probably had something to do with that. We have entered into the spring thunderstorm season so the noise is not unexpected. But as far as I am concerned, “playing the cards you're dealt” just makes the game more fun.

Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201605.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: AB8RL KJ4RV K2ZA WB9HFK AB3WW VE3SV

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please remember that there is a throughout-the-year challenge/sprint participation requirement to be eligible for the top tier prizes in our October anniversary celebration sprint. The requirements are the same as last year and can be seen at [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_11th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_11th_anniv.html).

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1IEE	WB1GYZ	
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	
W3	W2JAZ	AB3RU	
W4	WG8Y	K2UFT	WX4RM
W5	WI5H	WB5UAA	
W6	K6MGO		
W7	KF7WNS	KC7DM	
W8	WB8LZG	AB8RL	
W9	NN9K	W9CC	
W0	W0EJ	NN0SS	
VE	VE3DQN		
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2	N2HTT		
W3	K3WWP		
W4	AK4NY		
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7			
W8	K8SMS		
W9	AA9L		
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN		
W2	K2YGM		
W3	KB3AAG		
W4	KJ4RV	N4MJ	
W5	N5GW		
W6			
W7			
W8	WA8SAN		
W9	K9EYT		
W0	K9OSC		
VE	VE3GNU		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K4BAI	AA4NN	

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
N2CN			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	107	124	194	2/13
Participants	160	195	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1746	2108	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	915	1145	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	809	964	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	659	769	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	974	1200	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	91	140	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	16.3	16.9	19.3	9/11

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

NUMBER OF SPRINTS	MEMBERS
50+	KA9FQG K6MGO NA4O N8BB AA7CU KC2EGL VE5BCS N2ESE K6CSL N8QY WA8SAN N0TA WX4RM WD0K K4KRW NQ2W KB8FE NO2D WY3H AA9L KQ1P W4DUK KE5YUM WB8ENE NU7T
75+	WA2JSG VE3FUJ K1IEE N4FI KD0V K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN K4NVJ N8XMS KD2MX KB3AAG
100+	K4BAI WB8LZG W2SH W9CC W2JEK
125+	KA2KGP K3WWP



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** It doesn't get much better than this! First it was two sprints this month and now it's two challenges as well! (But you don't get double participation points by doing both of them.) Our month-long challenge is an alphabet challenge that works with words associated with the "Ghost Army" of WW2, one of the most famous military deception operations in history. You can find the list of words and a little bit of information about this WW2 operation at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201606.html>.

Our other challenge opportunity this month is our annual Field Day challenge where the goal is to make at least 20 QRP Field Day contacts from your portable setup or from your home station. Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201606fd.html>.

The European challenge is to construct the names of European "border rivers" and the countries that they separate. See <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/june-2016-challenge> for details.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The North American challenge in July will have your mouth watering and your stomach growling with a list of words associated with that great American invention - the backyard barbecue. See <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201607.html>.

The European challenge for July will work with the major European languages and the numbers of native speakers. See <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/july-2016-challenge>.

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>. Detailed general rules for our challenges can be found at [http://naqcc.info/challenges\\_rules.html](http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html).

**LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The deadline for submitting entries for the annual May Home-brew Challenge is still a few days away so final results are not yet available. You can go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201605.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 European challenge results will be available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/may-2016-challenge>.

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NUMBER OF CHALLENGES	MEMBERS
25+	KD2MX N1LU KD0V K9OSC VE3HUR KU4A WY3H
50+	K1YAN VE3FUJ NU7T
75+	K1IEE
100+	N8XMS W2JEK
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: ALPHABET PREFIX AWARD

This month's featured award is a simplified version of CQ Magazine's popular WPA award. The goal is to work as many letter/number combination prefixes as possible using QRP CW and SWA. There are two categories for the award - World Prefixes, and USA Only Prefixes. Handy tables showing all of the possible prefixes in both categories are available for downloading from the award web page. Basic awards are earned with 200 world prefixes or 50 USA prefixes and certificates are issued at the 400 and 100 prefix levels. Complete details on this award can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_wpxswa.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_wpxswa.html).

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

### FRIENDSHIP CLUB AWARD - 700 point endorsement

0018 - W4DUK 356 05/03/16

### 1000 MPW AWARD

0508 KB3JPP VK2GWK - 3,016 05/26/16 G5RV Jr @30'  
 0507 AF4HL ZL1ALA - 1,668 05/26/16 Random wire @60'



# 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
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Sunday 7:30 PM PT	Monday 0230 Z	7056 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7065 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
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	14060 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4:30 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2230 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0100 Z	3565 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)	1st, 2nd, and 4th Thursday 9 PM ET	Friday 0100 Z	7117 KHz	David, KE8DI (in MI)
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Thursday 7:30 PM PT	Friday 0230 Z	7056 KHz	J.B., NR5NN (in CA)

**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.

### From Net Manager Scotty, NU0S

Hello Folks; for a change and for proper recognition of reporting stations I will leave net quick notes below, forgive me I've been lazy. The Midwest/Central Plains have been receiving a lot of storms making band conditions marginal. But hey that adds to the fun and helpful practice in operability that may be needed in an emergency situation. **Don't forget higher power for nets is approved and encouraged as required for proper reliable communication.** 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!!!**

### **05-02-2016 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California**

I want to thank PBR N7HRK/M for stepping up to call the net, and Mike KE6EE for providing the nice Sunday FRN Unofficial Report. You can read his report in the previous message. The K index was 3, with poor band conditions indicated for all HF bands on the solar charts. FoF2 max in SoCal was at about 6 MHz I had NVIS conditions during most of the first hour. Now, NVIS is very regional, and I've been noticing that the foF2 bands for a given 1 MHz frequency range are never north-south, but are at more of an angle so that our northern check-ins have a much lower foF2 at any given time of evening. That explains why W7SAG in Idaho and N7HRK in MT often can't hear each other at net time. John was running 10 watts using his KX3 and backyard end-fed wire and had a steady 469 RST (569, once I turned on the audio DSP peaking filter, which seems to work better in noise than the 500 Hz crystal filter). My QSO with John was mostly about our Schwinn Air Dyne stationary bikes and our bicycle riding habits and history. I've discovered that there are quite a few avid bike riders (some now retired from the hobby) amongst our FRN members. When PBR joined us, he and John couldn't hear each other, which has been a common factor this spring, and PBR took a breather and QRT. John and I continued our QSO till 0410z. I'm very sorry to have missed John W16O and Mike KE6EE last evening. My apologies for my errant ways! I'm feeling much better, thanks! Rick N6IET

### **05-03-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

I could not hear anyone last night and Danny (N5DRG) in Austin picked it up for me. Thanks very much. His signal reports seem to indicate that I was about the only one who did not have propagation but I got an email from Terry (KE5YUM) that he could not hear anyone either. We have had some strange conditions lately and not all good for sure.

Allen KA5TJS

### **05-10-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

The band conditions with solar storms has been in the toilet the last couple of days and thunder storms don't help. Signal levels from both stations in the Austin area were good at first and then went down from there.

Allen KA5TJS

### **05-17-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

Well the band was really bad. The first 2 stations were just above the noise level and very tough copy.

Andy (KE5YGA) checked in at 599 (QRO) and there were others that tried but I just could not pull out a call sign.

Hope for better conditions soon.

Allen KA5TJS

### **05-18-2016 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia**

Slim pickings tonight with only John W8GDP and me talking about the Dayton Hamvention this coming weekend. I was at the Outer Banks of North Carolina for the first week of the month and the NAQCC Sprint was moved to the second week; so this was the first QRS net of the month. I hope we return to normal next Wednesday. The 80 meter band was pretty quiet this evening with the exception of W1AW doing the slow code practice up the band a bit. The 40 meter band sounded good afterwards.

72's John N8ZYA

### **05-21-2016 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California**

What a great way to close out the last Friday FRN! While conditions were not ideal, everyone could mostly copy all so one didn't spend too much time listening to dead air space. Thanks to all for your participation. Friday FRN is moving to Thursday night, 19h30 PDT, 7056. Be listening for you.

73/JB.nr5nn

PS: I'll be camping Saturday thru Monday near Bodega Bay, and operating QRP with a 56' wire thrown up into a tree with a 10' counterpoise. Will most likely need a relay on Sunday night's net.

PS2: Congrats to my daughter, Heather/KM6CXH, Paul/KM6CVS, and Bruce/KM6CWV.

### **05-24-2016 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska**

Great to be back on the air again. Wow, it's been about a month without doing any CW from being sick with a very bad sinus infection/cold and ruptured ear drum, still healing from that. We had storms again in the area and the QRN and QSB was very bad tonight. Thanks to Dave KB7KY for the regular as clockwork check INS and helpful relays. I could hardly hear some of the stations do to the static crashes and fading. We still had a great net and quick chat with all. This motivates me to work on antennas for better reception as the Hustler vertical gets out well with a low take off angle, but it's not the best antenna for listening. Thanks for all the check INS...

73 Scotty NU0S

**05-24-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

The band was in good shape and a few stations were 599 out to the west. The SSB QRM moved in about 7:45 and just about wiped out everything! WI5H was about 569 but I could not copy due to the interference. Such are the joys of QRP!  
Allen KA5TJS

**05-25-2016 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia**

John W8GDP did some relaying for me tonight with Dave WV8DH and heard KC4URI a little before net time. Amazingly Dave WV8DH was hearing me very well but I was just barely able to pull him out of the noise. Band conditions not that good on 80 meters tonight although I was able to work a station (OK1CF) in the Czech Republic a little earlier on 20 meters. After the relay from Dave WV8DH, John and I talked about the Dayton Hamvention and the WV DX Association dinner.

**05-31-2016 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska**

Nice net turn out for the Memorial Day weekend. Thank you to all the Veterans for your service to our country. The storms will not give us a break for radio work, we had a sneaky storm adding QRN to our operations; thankfully just light rain with thunder boomers. Great to hear everyone.

**05-31-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

Not bad for the band conditions and a Holiday. WI5H was very weak and QRP. DRG and YGA were QRO and very strong but the QSB was very heavy.  
Allen KA5TJS

**NAQCC CW Net QNI Reports All Stations**

**May/2016 Please note: Dates are in UTC**

**NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California****40M 7.056 MHz**

05-02-2016 QNI (6) NCS N6IET, AND N7HRK/M, W7SAG, KE6EE, WI6O, XE2IF  
05-09-2016 QNI (6) NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, W7SAG, NJ7V, K7KY, KE6EE, NR5NN  
05-16-2016 QNI (4) NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, NR5NN, KW6G  
05-23-2016 QNI (6) NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, NR5NN/M, W7SAG, KE6EE, N6PDB  
05-30-2016 QNI (8) NCS N6IET, KE6EE, N7HRK/M, NR5NN, K7KY, WU7F, KW6G, WI6O

**NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California****40M 7.056 MHz**

05-07-2016 QNI (3) NCS NR5NN, N6IET, KE6EE  
05-14-2016 QNI (5) NCS NR5NN, N7HRK/M, N6IET, W7SAG, KW6G  
05-21-2016 QNI (6) NCS NR5NN, N6IET, KE6EE, N7HRK/M, KW6G, W7SAG  
05-27-2016 QNI (6) NCS NR5NN, N6IET, WU7F, KE6EE, N7HRK/M, W7SAG

**NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas****80M, 3.560 MHz**

05-03-2016 QNI (4) NCS N5DRG, KE5YGA, KG5HCF, K5BRY  
05-10-2016 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, K5BRY, N5DRG  
05-17-2016 QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KG0YR, KG5HCF, KE5YGA  
05-24-2016 QNI (6) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, N5DRG, KG5HCF, WA5YZD, WI5H  
05-31-2016 QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, WI5H, N5DRG, KE5YGA

**NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska****40M, 7.117 MHz**

05-03-2016 QNI (6) NCS NU0S, K0KUZ, KB7KY, N7ADA, KG5HCF, N6RNP  
05-10-2016 QNI (0) NCS NU0S, No net storms, heavy rain, grapefruit sized hail, and tornados...  
05-17-2016 QNI (0) NCS NU0S, No net storms  
05-24-2016 QNI (8) NCS NU0S, KC7HCR, AC8JW, KB7KY, N7ADA, WI5H, WU8G, KD0DK  
05-31-2016 QNI (5) NCS NU0S, WI5H, KD0DK, N7ADA, KB7KY

**NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRC) Dale Putnam WC7S, Wyoming**  
**20M, 14.062.5 MHz and 40M, 7.062.5 MHz (BOTH FREQ SHOWN ON ONE LINE)**

05-03-2016 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
05-05-2016 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
05-10-2016 QNI (4) NCS WC7S, N8DNA, AA7CU, WB9TWJ  
05-12-2016 QNI (6) NCS WC7S, AA7CU (2X), N6IET, NK6A, K0DTJ  
05-17-2016 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, N6IET, AA7CU  
05-19-2016 QNI (8) NCS WC7S, N8PZR, WB6ZFG, WA4ZOF, WA5H (2X), AA7CU (2X)  
05-24-2016 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
05-26-2016 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, WC7S, KD0DK, AA7CU  
05-31-2016 QNI (1) NCS WC7S, AA7CU (2X), KD0DK

**NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia**  
**40M, 7.117 MHz**

05-18-2016 QNI (2) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP  
05-25-2016 QNI (4) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP, WV8DH, KC4URI

**NAQCC Pacific North West QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) Stewart Fletcher KE7LKW, Washington State**  
**80M, 3.574 MHz**

05-06-2016 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, W7ANM, KG7JEB, WB4SPB, N7TES, K7JUV, AD7BP  
05-13-2016 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW/7, KG7JEB, WB4SPB, AD7BP, K7EP, K7JUV  
05-20-2016 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, N0DA, WB4SPB, KG7JEB, AD7BP, AA7VW, K7JUV/7  
05-27-2016 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW/7, KG7JEB/7, W7DK, AD7BP, K7JUV

**NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss KE8DI, Michigan**  
**80M, 3.534 MHz**

No reports



# HAM QUIPS



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

## HAM LINGO

### Rotary "Beam" Antenna



"A Real Rotary Beam Antenna" It's Particularly Effective At Night.



# NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, West Florida, 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 Central Texas



This past Memorial Day weekend the Central Texas chapter held one of its QRP in the Park Adventures at Devine Lake Park in Leander Texas “what a great site for portable operations”.

The Chapter had a great time chasing QSO’s during the CW WPX contest, granted it was difficult to cut through the kilowatt stations, however we were able to make a few contacts. As the QRP community all knows you just have to be patient at times, and wait for the big guns to fire off their Howitzers, so we could sneak in our Rim Fire rounds Ha! Bulls Eye.

The weather was just about perfect, clear skies, light breeze, and temps in the upper 70’s.

The Chapter had three setups for the adventure.

- John KN5L #4831 brought out his new Elecraft KX2, and his Begali Sculpture paddle, nice! The Sculpture might be a on the hefty side for a portable op, but it was not like we were hiking up a SOTA peak, ha!
- Larry, WB5BEK #7534 brought his Elecraft K1, with a bencher BY1 paddle.
- Danny N5DRG # 5861 had a Yaesu FT817, and a BY1 paddle.
- Ron AE5WW, brought a FT817 as well, but chose to operate on that other mode. I think they call it Single Side Band. Ha!

The antennas used were a 40 meter Dipole WB5BEK, a 30 meter dipole KN5L, 20 meter dipole N5DRG, and a buddie Pole setup from Ron AE5WW. The 30 & 20 meter dipoles were supported by the means of a fiberglass push poles such as the Jackite Brand 30 foot telescoping poles. The 40 meter dipole was used was supported by the beautiful live oaks shade trees. Thanks to the great engineering at Elecraft there was not any adjacent RF intermodulation issues. Just about perfect as the weather.

Larry WB5BEK worked 8 QSO's on 40 meters, all but one were QRP to QRP, John KN5L worked 10 stations on 30 meters, and Danny N5DRG worked 12 stations on 20 meters.

The chapter also had a few guest join us at Devine Lake Park, Ron AE5WW, John KE5RS, and Matt KG5LVT # 8448, along with several passerby's asking what we were doing.

Seeing how Devine Lake is a spot where the public can go fish, we told them that we were fishing for Hams; I don't think most of them got the pun, by the confused look they gave.

Photos of the setups:



John KN5L on his Begali & KX2



Ron AE5WW, & Larry WB5BEK



John KN5L & Danny N5DRG



Ron AE5WW on the mystery mode, & John KE5RS



Matt KG5LVT



Yes Virginia there is a 40 meter dipole in the image. Stealthy isn't it!

The other two Dipoles



Danny N5DRG's 20 Meter Dipole



Johns KN5L's 30 Meter Dipole

John KN5L used a hairpin match the impedance of the antenna to the 300 ohm feed line. Then a transformer to further reduce the 300 ohm impedance to the 50ohm load. John used an Elecraft BL2 in 4:1 mode where the 300 ohm connects to the 50 Ohm unbalanced line.

The hairpin match can be found here: <http://www.kn5l.net/Vee-30M/>

The BL2 transformer can be found here: [http://www.elecraft.com/mini\\_module\\_kits/mini\\_modules.htm](http://www.elecraft.com/mini_module_kits/mini_modules.htm)



Elecraft BL2

John is always coming up with an interesting antenna project for our chapters use.

We look forward to June, and the Ham-Com Amateur Radio Convention in Irving, Texas on June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. Who knows what goodies awaits us there for our next QRP in the Park Radio Adventure?

### **Central Texas Chapter**

Larry WB5BEK, John KN5L, Lester WD4IFU, Kenny K5KGK, Russ KK5E, Joe K5BRY, Max KD5SFK, Steve KF5OYI, Scott W5TS, Jon N5MHI, Patrick W5DVG, Gerry K5TXG, Allen KA5TJS, Danny N5DRG.

NAQCC Central Texas Chapter Website

<http://www.naqcc-centraltexas.net/>

**KEEP CALM  
&  
QRP ON**

## NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER

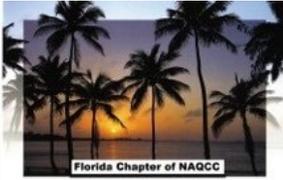


Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him. The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

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.

No report available.

## NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Steve, WB4OMM. The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb40mm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

No report available.

## NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



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

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

The May meeting of the Chapter was held on May 12<sup>th</sup> with Dave, KD9VT, Tony, N9YPN, Tim, N9BIL and Peter, NN9K in attendance.

We were brought up to date on some construction projects that included KD9VT’s Elecraft K1 and Mark’s MFJ Cub. Mark, K0NIA was absent for the meeting but sent an update via KD9VT.

There was a discussion about portable end-fed antennas as to the difference in efficiency of using a counter poise or not using a counter poise. Tim, N9BIL agreed to do some research and present his findings at a special meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We also discussed portable antenna supports and options that might be easily available and inexpensive. Paint poles, surplus fiberglass poles and surplus electrical hot-sticks were also mentioned. Tim, N9BIL will bring a couple of the suggested items to the special meeting.

We are all anxious to get out into the field and do some portable operations. We decided to start with a Sunday afternoon Backyard RF Bash at Dave, KD9VT’s house. He has a large backyard that is ideal to setup and test our portable gear.

Dave and his wife Barb are great hosts. They provided a nice, sunny May day with water, coffee snacks and a shelter for shade. What they couldn’t/didn’t provide was propagation!

Attending were Mark, K0NIA, Tim, N9BIL, Peter, NN9K and Dave, KD9VT. We setup a Buddipole configured for 20- meters, a Buddipole configured as vertical for 30-meters and a homebrew Buddistick vertical for 40-meters. We also had an Alex Loop to play with. It was the first time any of us had a chance to touch and feel a small, magnetic loop antenna. Unfortunately, the lack of propagation only allowed for a few contacts and no chance to really evaluate the loop. It was hard to even be heard by the RBN network let alone NAQCC members.



A nice shelter! From Left to right, Peter, NN9K hoping to be heard. Dave intently listening and Tin, N9BIL looking on.



Dave, KD9VT operating N9BIL's Elecraft K2.

(Photos by Mark, K0NIA)

The Illowa Chapter's next regular meeting will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

## NAQCC WEST FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. The chapter's web site is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>. Questions or comments should go to Ron, N9EE.

John, KK4ITX and his wife, KM4CUG, at NAQCC-WFL May 28th event at Lattuce Lake Park, Tampa, Florida. I set up in front of a play area next to the Restroom near Shelter 12. Had great copy TX, AZ, IN, MA, NE and IL, but no QSOs. Band was just not with me.



## NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Virginia Chapter unless otherwise credited. The chapter's web site is at <http://n8zyaradioblog.blogspot.com/>. Questions or comments should go to John, N8ZYA.

I rode with Eric Lassiter **AC8LJ** to visit the [Dayton Hamvention](#) this month. The drive to the city of Dayton, up and back again in the same day, makes for a long journey but the drive is always time well spent. I considered this year's journey to be strictly a social event. I was not planning to purchase anything this year. My goal was to say hello to old friends, make a few new friends, and talk about the latest happenings on the HF bands.



The [West Virginia DX Association](#) is always to be found at the same spot every year; close to the food and beer stand in the parking lot near the main entrance to Hara Arena. If you want to know what's happening in the DX circles in our state, this is the place to be. Several of these members have around 360 DX countries in their log books.

Rick Robinson **W8ZT** is the master of ceremonies of the group. Rick makes his area comfortable for everyone. Ice cold water and comfortable chairs makes staying here a real joy.

I did make a quick trip through the Hamvention for a quick glance at the latest equipment. The talk of the day was about the new [Elecraft KX2](#). I was lucky to meet a club member who bought one of the few which was available for sale this year. It's a beauty for sure!

I couldn't help but notice the apparent move towards software defined radios this year. I thought the Flex radios were impressive.



I spent quite a bit of time in the ARRL section, mostly around the National Parks on the Air area. I was able to say hello to Steve Szabo **WB4OMM** who was checking DX Award cards. I was very impressed with the ARRL Education & Technology Program Instructor Tommy Gober **N5DUX**.

No Ham can ever have enough coffee cups or t-shirts so I bought one of each. The only other items I picked up were an assortment of various “decals” which I use as art work for a new guitar case. My previous guitar case served me well for many years but was in dire need of repair. My latest attempt to extend its life with duct tape failed. I will sadly miss it. The new guitar case has “radio” decals on it now. My favorites are QRZ, 73, IQRP, and a nice National Parks on the Air sticker.



I'm excited about a former radio group in the Teays Valley area which is becoming active again. This group, which is within a half hour drive from me, will be an opportunity to add some new NAQCC members. The Teays Valley group WVAR (West Virginia Amateur Radio Club) has a couple of good transmitting spots too.

Two hams in that immediate area have purchased the [YouKit HB1B MK3](#) QRP radios. I've been so impressed with the receiver in this little rig, I've ordered one myself. I'll be looking forward to getting it on the air soon.

That's about it for the news from the West Virginia Chapter this month. I'm very encouraged about the new pool of Hams which is going to materialize in the Teays Valley area.

72's  
John 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.

Not a lot of action for the WPA Chapter during the month of May, but we did have a couple events with much more planned for June. First the May news, then a look at June's schedule.

Mike KC2EGL and I got together on Sunday, May 8 supposedly to get ready to observe the transit of Mercury the next day. However the postal union foiled that, cancelling Mike's day off on Monday. Bummer! We did spend the day together on Sunday though. As I said in my web site diary ([http://k3wwp.com/home\\_ss\\_diary.html](http://k3wwp.com/home_ss_diary.html)). Nonetheless Mike and I spent today together, and had a good time. We got a chance to eat at our favorite Ponderosa restaurant. Of course the one here in Kittanning closed a few months ago, but the one in Butler is still open so we went there to partake of the buffet. When we got home, we went to the shack to do some rig checking. I won't go into the details of that right now. It involved a couple minor peculiarities in my PX3 display. More about that when I find out more about it. Then we went for a 2+ mile walk to "walk off all the food we had at Ponderosa." Then Mike played a hidden object game on the computer. After that, he had to head home to prepare for an unexpected work day tomorrow.

Also while he was here, we checked out his astronomy binoculars with the solar filters which he is leaving here so as he put it, "at least one of us can enjoy the transit." We also checked out the projection screen on my 4 inch telescope to be sure it was working OK. It showed one small sunspot which is probably about the size Mercury will be. So that should work tomorrow.

More about the transit in my personal news later in the newsletter.

Another pretty much non-ham radio visit from Mike on the 15th. That's OK though, because hams are balanced and do not spend 100% of their time at ham radio, but have many varied interests. I think that is important to remember. Here's an excerpt from my diary about that day. Mike arrived around noon today and we spent an enjoyable 6 or so hours together. Nothing really ham radio related except a 15 minute or so check of the bands around 1900Z. The reason it was only 15 minutes was the bands were pretty much dead at least as far as DX goes. One weak LZ station was about it, and he was much too weak to work, let alone copy well. We watched some woodworking videos and also several Our Gang videos. The main project was cutting some ceiling tile so Mike could do some replacement at his home. Then he helped me put some cages around my pepper and tomato plants so I could cover them against frost tonight. I just finished the covering so hopefully they can ride out the frost tonight. A little computer work also filled out some of the time.

Our final activity of the month was pretty much like the first two. It seems the bands never really cooperated when Mike and I were together this month. From my diary again: Mike arrived shortly after I got on the air at 0000Z, and we headed to Subway after I got my DX QSO in a couple minutes. We ate our subs there and came home and had the last of my birthday cake. Then up to the shack where Mike tried to work FM/DL7VOG unsuccessfully. Then it was to the kitchen window where we tried to watch Mars the moment it rose. However there were some high clouds and we didn't notice it until it had already been up for a couple minutes. Right now we're watching an Our Gang episode- Bedtime Worries.

June promises to be more ham radio centered. At least we hope so. Here's an outline of our plans. On

Sunday, June 5, we'll be setting up a NAQCC table at the Breezeshooters hamfest in Butler. It will be manned by me, Mike, Tom WB3FAE and AB3RU. Hopefully we'll sign up some new members in addition to renewing acquaintances with existing members. We'll also be set up for on the air demos of QRP/CW/ simple antennas with Mike's KX3/PX3 feeding a jumper dipole on a pole provided by Tom.

The hamfest is a definite activity. We also have a couple more that are almost definite. Hopefully on Sunday the 19th (or possibly the 12th), we'll be doing another subpedition at the USS Requin in Pittsburgh. The previous one this year was plagued by poor propagation conditions and some problems with the Requin's antenna which apparently was damaged a bit by the painters who had just repainted the Requin. The antenna is fixed now, and hopefully so will be the propagation, but of course we don't have any control over the latter. Right now it looks like it will be just me and Mike for that unless Ken N3CU can make it.

We're having a little trouble finding bodies for our N3AQC Field Day effort this year. As of right now it looks like it may be just me and Tom as ops. Mike has to work Saturday. Don K3RLL may be up from FL by that time, but he will be having some company through the end of June. Ken N3CU won't know till closer to FD if he can help out.

We'll send out notices about the three events a few days before each one. Actually the Breezeshooters hamfest might be over by the time you read this.



# 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 David, N0WKZ, #6828 —

QRP Works - 5 Watts from a scrap piece of 28 gauge copper wire 5 feet off the ground inside a half basement apartment during a rain storm.

Band 15M - Mode A1A (CW) - RST 599

Station W1AW/1 - Massachusetts



From Ron, N9EE, #6145 —

I am sure some in NAQCC will be interested in the new Elecraft KX2 QRP rig, a down grade of the KX3 and less money, \$750. does look very good.

[http://www.elecraft.com/manual/kx2\\_datasheet\\_web.pdf](http://www.elecraft.com/manual/kx2_datasheet_web.pdf)

73, ron

### From Glenn, K3SWZ, #3793 —

I am sure many of us remember the old famous FT-243 crystals we used as a Novice or on the 6 and 2 Meter bands in rigs of the 50's, 60's and 70's. I still have a bunch that I use in my Nostalgia Station on 40 and 80 Meters. They were the Phenolic cases that were held together with three screws and generally had metal nameplate. As a side note, those packages are called "Compression Mounts" having reference to the fact that the crystal blank is compressed between two metal plates that match the size of the crystal blank. The entire "sandwich" is compressed in the package and held together with the screws. By today's standards that design was pretty bad, but consider that it was designed 75 plus years ago. Today crystals are enclosed in vacuum-sealed cases and the electrodes are gold or silver and/or other metals depending on the application. They are far more sophisticated by necessity. Sometimes it is hard to believe that we "won the war" with technology such as the FT-243 crystal! Having spent my entire working career working around and with quartz crystals, I was always fascinated by the unique history of this device. An old timer in the business told me that during WW II, there were about 150 companies cranking out crystals for the war effort and many of them were FT-243 types. I decided to set out on a mission to see just how many different manufacturers I could scrounge up at hamfests, etc. I had a few "scouts" helping me also... After 20 years or so of looking in junk boxes and carrying my list around at hamfests, I have 125 different companies represented in my collection! There must have been some truth to that old timers story. All but a very few of these companies are gone and those that remain, probably have no one on their staff who even remembers an FT-243, unless he is an older ham!! What is the collection worth? Probably nothing, except the sentimental value to someone who may want to preserve a bit of history as I have done.



From Joe, K8MP, #8246 —

"Addicted to Code" (Robert Palmer style)

Your rig is on, but it's on Phone,  
That mic is not your own,  
Your voice cracks, your teeth grind,  
Just grab your key, and you'll be fine.

You can't talk, can't hear a peep,  
There's no doubt, you're in deep,  
You can't converse, you've got the bends,  
Just grab your key, you'll start to mend.

Whoa, you like to think that you're immune to the stuff, oh yeah.  
It's closer to the truth to say you can't get enough,  
You know you're gonna have to face it, you're addicted to Code.

You give your sign but they can't read,  
You're sending at a different speed,  
You QRS and try again,  
And wonder if they'll comprehend.

A one-mode mind, you can't be saved,  
A Morse fix is all you crave,  
And once again, you call CQ,  
No one replies to you.

Whoa, you like to think that you're immune to the stuff, oh yeah  
It's closer to the truth to say you can't get enough,  
You know you're gonna have to face it, you're addicted to Code.  
Might as well face it, you're addicted to code.  
Might as well face it, you're addicted to code.

Your rig is on, but it's on Phone,  
That mic is not your own,  
You've got the sweats, your hand shakes,  
Just grab your key, that's what it takes.

Whoa, you like to think that you're immune to the stuff, oh yeah  
It's closer to the truth to say you can't get enough,  
You know you're gonna have to face it, you're addicted to code,  
Might as well face it, you're addicted to code,  
Might as well face it, you're addicted to code....

From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

May was a somewhat quiet month for my ham radio activities. However the DX streak and of course the regular streak continued unabated.

It was touch and go on the 30th for the DX streak though. Horrible conditions led to my only hearing DX just around my noise level of S3 or so - too weak to work as none that I tried calling heard me at all. PZ50X whom I worked in the CQ WPX contest was about S7 or S8, but had a HUGE pileup (mostly EU) that I couldn't break. Then I found P4/N4QS whom I also worked in the contest, strong on 15M operating split. I figured he had a big pileup also, however I set up the KX3 for split and gave a call. Lo and behold, got him solidly that very first try and the streak goes on.

I built a new mount for my KX3/PX3 combo. That is written up in my web site diary ([http://k3wwp.com/home\\_ss\\_diary.html](http://k3wwp.com/home_ss_diary.html)) with pictures so I'll just let you visit there if you are interested and that way we'll save some space here in the newsletter.

The big event in May was in another of my interests, astronomy. I'm speaking of the transit of Mercury on May 9th. While not as rare as transits of Venus which happen in pairs roughly every 100+ years, Mercury transits still only occur about 13 times per century at varying intervals. Like some days getting my DX QSO, the transit also proved to be tough with a lot of clouds. However the clouds did break enough for me to view and get some pictures of the transit. Again you can check my diary for more details and the pictures.

I got a somewhat rare buro mailing (rare because with most DX band countries now verified and also a lot of the prefixes I've worked as well, the mailings don't come as often as they used to) with 19 cards confirming about two dozen QSOs. Most all were requests for my QSL card, not from those whose card I had requested. However they did provide two new band entities - San Andres Island on 12 and 17 meters, as well as 7 new prefixes - OF9, W100, 5C5, LZ300, DD5, JA5, LZ259.

Once again this month my local noise was absent and I had to deal with only about an S4 noise level. I could even hear distant thunderstorm static and my furnace noise which for many months now were obscured by a constant S8-S9 local noise level from some source or other. Hopefully that kind of noise is gone for good. It sure makes operating our NAQCC sprints a lot more fun and for the second month in a row I've put in the full two hours making 56 and 45 QSOs respectively. I don't really go for score, but just enjoy the chance to work other members easily now. Virtually all are now easy QSOs with the lowered noise. Very little need to dig signals out of noise often stronger than the signals themselves.

The big ham radio event occurred the weekend of the 28/29th in the CQ WPX contest. Although a lot of the weekend was a washout due to the poor conditions like on the 30th, Friday evening at the start of the contest proved to be very good to Oceania on 15 meters. In addition to 3 KH6s, a VK, and a ZL, I also worked 5W1SA in Samoa and KH8/KC0W in American Samoa back to back quite easily. Both of the latter were new overall entities (countries) bringing my total worked to 225 of course via CW/QRP/simple antennas.

I wound up with only 161 QSOs. To even get that many, I abandoned my system of only working DX stations due to the poor conditions most of the rest of the contest, and started to work W/VE as well on Sunday afternoon. In addition to the two new countries, I worked around a dozen new prefixes.

From Mario, K2ZD, #8316 —

On March 28, 2016 I stumbled on a station calling CQ NPOTA. Not realizing what this was I looked into QST and found my answer. I decided to challenge myself to try to work 100 NPOTA entities using QRP 5 watts, my wire dipoles antenna and ground mounted vertical antenna. Today I confirmed my 100th NPOTA entity. Special Thanks to all the activators who listened for a weak signal in the pile ups. Now I guess I'll try for the next 100 using QRP. Thanks ARRL for a fun activity for a 54 year licensed Ham, 73 Mario K2ZD

Rank	Call Sign	Score
540	K2ZD	100
540	KB8CMW	100
540	KD00IX	100
540	KD2DXI	100
544	K3MRK	99
544	KC9SFQ	99



# 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 over 8000 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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