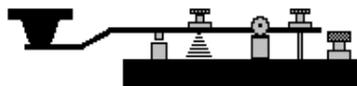


# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 255 SEPTEMBER 2019



## KEY CLICKS

● **NAQCC 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUST ONE MONTH AWAY!**

Excitement is growing for our 15th anniversary celebration which will be held from 0000Z October 6, through 24000Z October 12. Special event call N3A/# will be on the air from all over the United States. See how many of them you can work. Some great prizes will be given away to lucky member-participants in our special anniversary sprint that week. And remember that you don't have to be a seasoned sprinter to participate and be eligible for the prize drawing. Additionally, there will also be a prize drawing for our challenge participants for the month. Details can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).

● **LAST CALL FOR N3A OPERATORS.** We have N3A operators scheduled in all 10 US call districts but we could still use a few more. This year we have opened up specific slots for operations from Alaska, Hawaii, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico but have no volunteers from those locations so far. Being a special event operator is a lot of fun. No special equipment is needed, your schedule is completely flexible, and the logging and paperwork is minimal. If you would like to help out with the event please contact Paul, N8XMS, using the email address found on the last page of this newsletter. You can see the current list of N3A operators and learn more about the event at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).

● **NAQCC SPRINTLOGGER VERSION 01.00.05 NOW AVAILABLE.** Ron, AC2C, has just released an updated version of his outstanding sprint logging software. Many of the enhancements are geared toward our N3A/# special event operators but there are also some updates that will benefit all users. Ron's program is specifically designed to be used for logging our monthly sprints but it can be used as a general logger as well. The software is available for a number of different operating systems and you can find out more information about it on our club website at [http://www.naqcc.info/sprint\\_ac2clogger.html](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_ac2clogger.html) and at the special group.io page that supports the software, <https://groups.io/g/NAQCCSprintLogger>. (The group.io page does require a very non-invasive free membership.)

● **BE SURE TO REVIEW YOUR PARTICIPATION POINTS.** NAQCC members earn points as they participate in our monthly sprints and challenges. These points are used to determine our annual Participation Award winners as well as to see who is eligible for the top-tier prizes given away during our anniversary celebration in October. Now would be a good time to check your points at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_participation.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html). (Records are normally updated around the middle of each month for the previous month.) If you have any questions about your points please contact Hap, K7HAP using the address given on that webpage.

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- **2020 SPRINT SCHEDULE NOW AVAILABLE.** The 2020 sprint schedule has been finalized and can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html>. Convenient text file versions of the schedule, customized for each of the four continental US time zones, can be downloaded from [http://www.naqcc.info/sprint\\_sked.html](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html). Information about a digital version of the calendar created by KONIA and suitable for most calendar apps is also available on that same page. The complete 2020 challenge schedule should be available later this month.
- **ZERO QSO SPRINTS POLICY CLARIFICATION.** Club leadership recently had a discussion about what should happen when a sprint log is submitted with no QSOs recorded. Our Autologger page does have an option to say that you “Transmitted, but logged no QSOs.” Clicking on this button will give you a listing on the sprint results page but what about the participation point for a zero-QSO submission? Participation points are used to determine the winners of our annual Participation Award as well as the eligibility for the top-tier prizes given away during our anniversary celebration in October. We had some significant discussion about this and have decided on the following policy: *“Log submissions with no contacts will be accepted in the listings for the sprints, but will not accrue a participation point towards the participation award.”* We believe that this policy will help to preserve the integrity and prestige of our Participation Award. This is also consistent with what we do in our monthly challenges where a person must complete a predetermined minimum level of the challenge in order to earn a participation point. (Not having this policy in place would allow an unethical person to get 12 participation points over the course of the year without ever making a single sprint contact.)
- **ARTICLES NEEDED.** My cached supply of articles for the newsletter is almost empty and I could use a refill. Have you done some portable operating, built a kit or home brew rig, or have a new commercial piece of gear that could be reviewed? Just about any QRP and/or CW related item would be of interest to our members so please consider sharing your experience with a write-up and a few pictures. You don’t need to be a professional writer or turn in a “polished” piece that could win a Pulitzer prize. Just a basic text file and a jpeg or two would be great and I can take care of the formatting for the newsletter. Thank you in advance for your submissions.
- **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.
- **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.”



# COOTIE KEYING

BY GARY, K1YAN



What was old is new again. Today that old saying seems to be proving true in the world of keys. There has been a resurgence of the side swiper key, AKA the cootie. Its niche fell between the straight key and the semi automatic bug. In the day, it was the answer to the glass arm of the professional operator. What we today know as carpal tunnel syndrome or repetitive motion syndrome, resulted from the up and down motion a straight key required. The cootie, with its side to side motion, got many operators back into the game. Dits and Dahs are formed manually by moving the single lever back and forth to form a character. Picture a single lever paddle without the electronic keyer. The classic old time cootie was often home made with a hacksaw blade as the lever. The introduction of the bug eclipsed the cootie and its popularity declined. Recently it has become more common to hear an operator with a side swiper. Several versions are now on the market, ranging in price from around \$100 to over \$500.

Side swiping is a unique style of sending. Most methods of sending require a good bit of practice to obtain good results and cootie keying is no exception. Done properly, the resulting code is very rhythmic and a pleasure to copy. One popular method for sending is to begin each character with a stroke to the left for right handers and then alternate direction to complete the character. A "C" would be sent with motions just like a bug or single lever paddle, except you would manually make both Dits and Dahs. There are several YouTube videos that demonstrate keying techniques. You can get a taste for the cootie by jumping the contacts on your single or dual lever paddle together and setting up the rig to key as you would with a straight key.

I recently decided to give it a try and purchased a key from Steve, W1SFR, NAQCC 5881. He is offering a line of torsion bar keys that includes several cooties, among them a small portable version, and several other types as well. My key is all brass with custom wooden finger pieces. The torsion bar system uses a small metal rod to obtain return force. The bar is mounted vertically and a push on the lever twists the bar. This novel system results in a very smooth and solid feeling motion with no play in the lever. Contacts are made from strips of nickel silver and provide a "soft" closure, giving the key a pleasant, but somewhat different, feel than a typical paddle or bug. There is no return force adjustment with this system, however, the force becomes greater as the contact spacing increases. I assume that this is the result of additional twist on the torsion bar from the greater motion required to close the contact. Operation of the key is very quiet.

If you decide that cootie keying is not for you, all is not lost, since most sideswipers can function as a single lever paddle for your electronic keyer. After a couple weeks of practice I now use my cootie on the air. Aside from occasional protests from the bug side of my brain things are going well and I am enjoying my key. For those of you who participate in the NAQCC sprints, remember that a cootie falls in the straight key category and earns you a multiplier of 2 for your score.

*If you would like to try Cootie Keying on a budget take a look at the next article by W0JRM. - Editor*



# A HOMEBREW COOTIE

BY ROB, W0JRM

## ***15 Years of Consideration, 45 Minutes of Action***

*July 16, 2019*

I operate CW 99% of the time. The only type of key I hadn't tried yet was a sideswiper (cootie) key. Understandably so, as it's a bit of a niche item and not nearly as commonplace as a straight key or some kind of paddles. In fact, most of the sideswipers you'll hear are likely homebrew keys. They're ridiculously simple to build.

I've wanted to make one for nigh-on 15 years now. I'm not sure where I first heard of them, likely it was on the SKCC list back when it was still a wee thing that nobody foresaw eclipsing FISTS as the predominant on-air CW club. But like many of my projects, it stayed what-if for much longer than it should have.

Well, this past Sunday I had planned on doing tower work. Thanks to extreme heat and my wife not being around to "gopher" for me, that got cancelled. I was still in the mood to build something though. Mulling around my shop, half-tired and half-upset about the tower getting put off, I realized I had the stuff to throw a cootie key together. So after being kicked around for a decade and a half, I finally got around to making one!

All it takes is a base, some 90° brackets, and some kind of firm-yet-springy metal. Often times people use hacksaw blades. I didn't have a spare hacksaw blade handy, so I dug around my scrap bucket and found an old Sawzall blade. After removing what was left of the teeth with a bench grinder, I sanded the paint off and it was ready to go.

*Pictures of the build start on the next page.*

*Base, support brackets, and de-toothed Sawzall blade.*

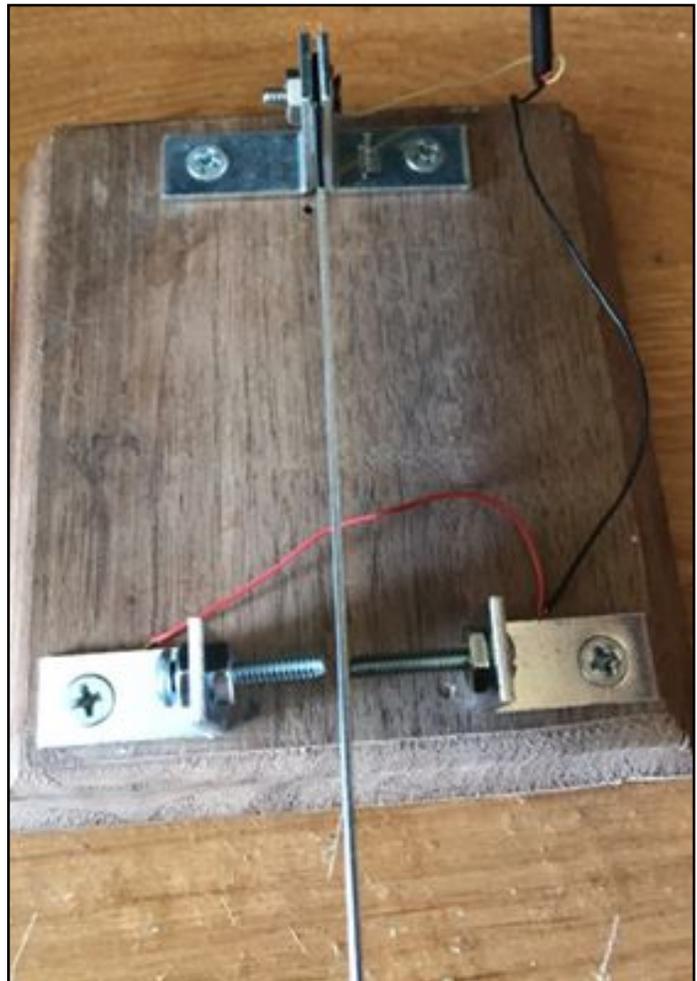


*Terminal brackets installed.*



*Machine screw terminals installed.*

*Science-fair quality wiring, but it works.  
Tie the two terminals together.*





*The lineup, L to R: Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr, Bencher BY-1, Homebrew Cootie, Generic Straight Key, Vibroplex Bug c. 1930's*

*Update, 8/8/19*

I've had a chance to make a few contacts with my Sawzall Cootie Key. It works FB, however the blade is just a tad too stiff to use for extended periods of time. I find my wrist gets tired after a few minutes of activity. Also, I've had to use spring clamps to secure it to the desk. Part of that is attributable to the stiffness of the blade, but most is due to the lightness of the base.

Despite the drawbacks, the key is still a worthwhile addition to the lineup and makes for some variety in my CW activity.

# 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.



**JIM CRITES, W6JIM, #9833**

I can trace the spark that ignited my interest in radio back to 1975. I was ten-years-old when my father gave me an old straight key/oscillator combo. It was powered by a D-cell battery. It was the kind where you had to adjust a screw that vibrated into a small plate to create a very ugly buzz. I messed around with that oscillator for hours, although eventually it went into a drawer as other things grabbed my attention.

In 1978 I got a CB! I was in middle school and it seemed like everyone had a CB. Every day after school I would talk to my friends (Superman, Space Cowboy and Tron). I was Banshee. Those were the days...I finished my CB career as I entered high school.

In 1985, a few years out of high school, I joined the Air Force. What I had initially planned to be a four-year stint turned into a military career of over 30 years. And this brings us to my ham radio career.

In 1996, I was home on leave visiting a friend who was a ham. He encouraged me to study for a test session that would be in a few days. I crammed for the test and Bingo! I was a "No-Code Tech", KF6FCV.

When I returned to my duty station, Misawa Air Base in Japan, I joined the Ham Club on base, the Misawa Area Amateur Radio Club (MAARC). I applied for a reciprocal license and was given 7J7ACM. My first club, and what a great bunch of people, all 10 or 15 of us! Now I wanted to get on HF! Soon I upgraded to Technician-Plus and then General.

My first Rig was a 50W Ten-Tec Scout. My first antenna was a homemade vertical made with speaker wire cut for 15 meters. I only had two ground radials! But even with that modest set-up, I never had to look long for a QSO. It's funny looking at my old log book. For my first three years all my QSO were with Asia and Eastern Europe, with an occasional USA. Now it's just the opposite!

After Japan, I was stationed in Iceland, where I operated as KF6FCV/TF. Then, I came back to the United States in 2000. I squeezed in time to work with MARS when I was stationed in Texas operating as AFA4JC. In 2015, I retired from the Air Force and moved to my present QTH.

With all that moving around, I'm still working on my WAS award! But in 2018 I did finally find the time to upgrade to Extra. Big thanks to the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club for their training and assistance. A few days after my upgrade I applied for my current call, W6JIM...How could I pass that up?

Why QRP? As I mentioned above, in the beginning, even with my meager set-up, I was never at a loss for QSOs. I would dial down the power of my Scout to QRP levels because I felt like I was wasting power (that's my frugal nature!) and because making it more challenging made it more fun!

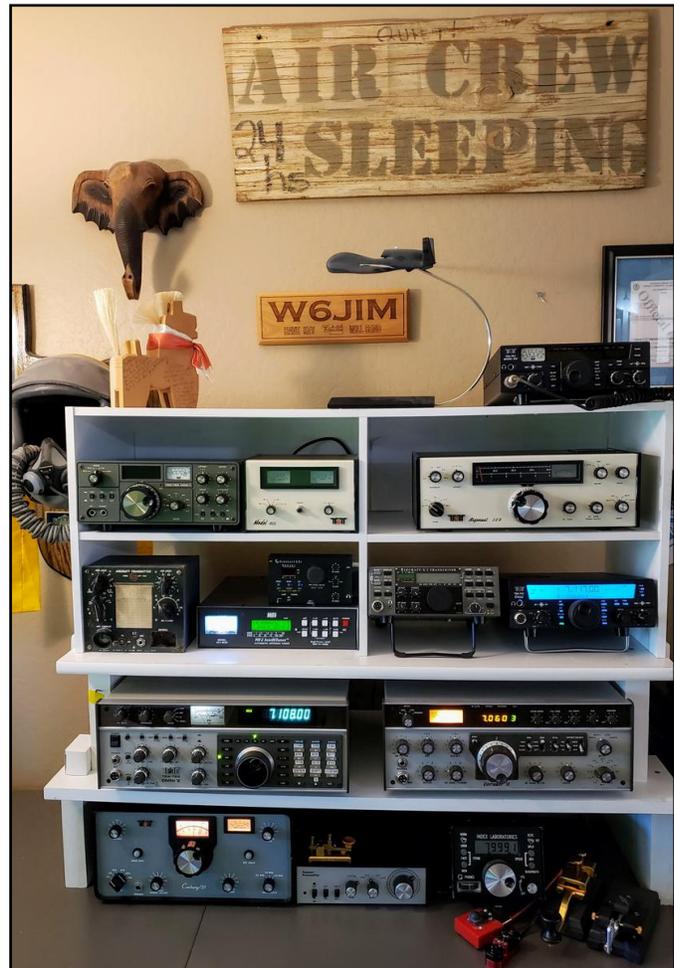
I always loved the idea of using equipment that I could build myself. So started my journey into kit building. And again, this fell right in line with QRP. I started with kits like: Tick Keyer, Rock Mite and WM-2 meter, and worked my way up to kits like: Wilderness SST, Ten-Tec 1340 and finally my Elecraft K2. And antennas....I have loved experimenting with wire antennas over the years!

Why CW? I don't know for sure. It has grown on me to the point that my last SSB QSO was in 2006. I guess it goes back to that spark in 1975 when my father gave me that old key. Maybe it was watching all those WWII movies when I was a kid, and watching the Morse Ops passing crucial info to their leadership. Maybe it's the fact that it just makes sense that if I want to get the most efficiency out of my equipment, CW wins. The main reason is simply this: CW is just more fun!

Interesting thing. When I learned CW with my first paddle, I didn't know which paddle was supposed to be the dit or dah. I made a guess. I guessed wrong. So now I work a paddle "backwards". I'm right-handed so my thumb makes the Dahs and my forefinger makes the dits. Only disadvantage I have found so far is that I can't use a bug! Maybe that's for the better!

I generally gravitate to my Ten-Tec or Elecraft. My Ten-Tec Eagle gets the most work right now, But I love the sending tone of my Omni-V. So soothing!

For QRP I go to my K2 for serious work. That's why I built it. But for rag chews I go to my KX1, Argosy II, or my Index Labs QRP Plus if a little drifting is OK! I have a few old broken Ten-Tec Argonauts that I hope to have on the air one day.



I've been through a lot of keys and paddles and settled on two from Begali. The HST and the Blade. For QRP I'm now using American Morse Equipment MS-2 key & Mini-B paddle.

I did not become familiar with the NAQCC until my CW Club, The Long Island CW Club became a Chapter. Soon afterwards, I joined myself, and wow do I wish I had joined sooner! I am always looking forward to the Sprints. Since I joined earlier this year, I haven't missed one yet. Otherwise you'd call me a rag chewer. I love to meet people and learn something about them.

Well that's way too much about me (don't you think!) I really enjoy the club and plan to be around for a while. I look forward to meeting you all on the air!

73

Jim

W6JIM



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** Our September sprint will be on the 19th from 0030-0230 UTC. That's the evening of Wednesday the 18th here in North America. Complete information about the sprint can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201909.html>.

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_rules.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html). On that page you will also find information about the different computer loggers that are supported for our sprints. The membership data files for those supported loggers can be downloaded at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>. **Please be sure to always get the latest membership data for your logger about a day before the sprint.** A complete schedule for our upcoming sprints can be found at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_sked.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html).

**LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:** We had 104 submitted logs for our August sprint. Those logs showed 143 participants and a total of 1062 QSOs. Our log processing team reports that there were an unusual number of issues spotted during the cross checking. Perhaps the high levels of QSB and QRN had something to do with that but all of us could certainly put a little more effort into our log accuracy. Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201908.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables that follow.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time regular sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: K2OID KG5ZID KI0G N8KQ W8WEU WA4JNP

**UPDATED SPRINTLOGGER SOFTWARE AVAILABLE.** Ron, AC2C, has just released an updated version (v1.00.05) of his outstanding sprint logging software. Many of the enhancements are geared toward our N3A/# special event operators but there are also some updates that will benefit all users. Ron's program is specifically designed to be used for logging our monthly sprints but it can be used as a general logger as well. The software is available for a number of different operating systems and you can find out more information about it on our club website at [http://www.naqcc.info/sprint\\_ac2clogger.html](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_ac2clogger.html) and at the special group.io page that supports the software, <https://groups.io/g/NAQCCSprintLogger>. (The group.io page does require a very non-invasive free membership.)

**2020 SPRINT SCHEDULE NOW AVAILABLE.** The 2020 sprint schedule has been finalized and can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html>. Convenient text file versions of the schedule, customized for each of the four continental US time zones, can be downloaded from [http://www.naqcc.info/sprint\\_sked.html](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html). Information about a digital version of the calendar created by K0NIA and suitable for most calendar apps is also available on that same page.

**ZERO QSO SPRINTS POLICY CLARIFICATION.** Club leadership recently had a discussion about what should happen when a sprint log is submitted with no QSOs recorded. Our Autologger page does have an option to say that you “Transmitted, but logged no QSOs.” Clicking on this button will give you a listing on the sprint results page but what about the participation point for a zero-QSO submission? Participation points are used to determine the winners of our annual Participation Award as well as the eligibility for the top-tier prizes given away during our anniversary celebration in October. We had some significant discussion about this and have decided on the following policy: *“Log submissions with no contacts will be accepted in the listings for the sprints, but will not accrue a participation point towards the participation award.”* We believe that this policy will help to preserve the integrity and prestige of our Participation Award. This is also consistent with what we do in our monthly challenges where a person must complete a predetermined minimum level of the challenge in order to earn a participation point. (Not having this policy in place would allow an unethical person to get 12 participation points over the course of the year without ever making a single sprint contact.)

| SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY |        |        |        |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Division                  | 1st    | 2nd    | 3rd    |
| W1                        | K1IEE  | WB1GYZ | KQ1P   |
| W2                        | W2SH   | KA2KGP | WA2JSG |
| W3                        | KD3CA  | KE3V   | W3TTT  |
| W4                        | N4OW   | WG8Y   | N4ARY  |
| W5                        | WI5H   | KG5ZID | KG5HCF |
| W6                        | A16SL  | W6SMF  | -      |
| W7                        | KC7DM  | KF7WNS | -      |
| W8                        | N8XMS  | WB8LZG | NF8M   |
| W9                        | WB9HFK | NX1K   | K9QEW  |
| W0                        | NN0SS  | N0TA   | AD0YM  |
| Canada                    | VA3NU  | VA2GLU | -      |
| DX                        | -      | -      | -      |

| SWA BUG CATEGORY |       |       |       |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Division         | 1st   | 2nd   | 3rd   |
| W1               | -     | -     | -     |
| W2               | -     | -     | -     |
| W3               | K3RLL | AF3Z  | K3WWP |
| W4               | KJ4R  | W4EDN | -     |
| W5               | NF5U  | WD5RS | -     |
| W6               | N6HDV | -     | -     |
| W7               | -     | -     | -     |
| W8               | K8NGW | -     | -     |
| W9               | K9DRP | -     | -     |
| W0               | -     | -     | -     |
| Canada           | -     | -     | -     |
| DX               | -     | -     | -     |

| SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY |        |       |       |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Division                    | 1st    | 2nd   | 3rd   |
| W1                          | KB1M   | -     | -     |
| W2                          | K2OID  | N2ESE | -     |
| W3                          | WB4OMM | KW2A  | -     |
| W4                          | N4MJ   | KU4A  | AC6ZM |
| W5                          | N5GW   | K5MBA | W8WEU |
| W6                          | KG6UBG | W6STR | -     |
| W7                          | KF7Z   | KL0NP | KK7A  |
| W8                          | KB9ILT | W8EWH | K3CTN |
| W9                          | K9CW   | -     | -     |
| W0                          | AA0W   | NO2D  | K0NIA |
| Canada                      | VE3GNU | -     | -     |
| DX                          | -      | -     | -     |

| GAIN CATEGORY |      |        |       |
|---------------|------|--------|-------|
| KEY           | 1st  | 2nd    | 3rd   |
| SK            | KF6C | -      | -     |
| BUG           | -    | -      | -     |
| K/K           | NN9K | VE3DQN | K4BAI |

| FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE |       |        |        |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| KEY                           | 1st   | 2nd    | 3rd    |
| SK                            | N8KQ  | KG5ZID | K10G   |
| BUG                           | -     | -      | -      |
| K/K                           | K2OID | W8WEU  | WA4JNP |
| SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER   |       |        |        |
| K1IEE                         |       |        |        |

|                  | Current Month | Previous Month | All-Time Record | Record Date |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Logs             | 104           | 89             | 217             | 4/17        |
| Participants     | 143           | 119            | 269             | 2/13        |
| Total QSOs       | 1062          | 785            | 3154            | 4/17        |
| Hour 1 QSOs      | 579           | 460            | 1704            | 4/17        |
| Hour 2 QSOs      | 483           | 325            | 1450            | 4/17        |
| 20m QSOs         | 179           | 24             | 1232            | 8/13        |
| 40m QSOs         | 854           | 739            | 2203            | 4/17        |
| 80m QSOs         | 29            | 22             | 1417            | 2/13        |
| Avg QSOs/Station | 10.1          | 8.8            | 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+               | KC7DM WA1GWH NU7T(SK) KB8FE NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD KF7WNS N4MJ WK6L KD3CA AB8FJ N2CN WI5H NF5U |
| 75+               | AK3X K4NVJ KB3AAG WB8ENE K4KRW N2ESE VE3FUJ WX4RM WA8SAN NO2D N0TA WG8Y N8BB AA9L NA4O WD0K K6MGO KA9FQG KQ1P   |
| 100+              | KE5YUM KD2MX K4JPN K3RLL K1IEE KD0V WA2JSG N4FI W4DUK   |
| 125+              | W9CC W2SH WB8LZG N8XMS K4BAI KU4A NF8M  |
| 150+              | W2JEK KA2KGP  |
| 175+              | K3WWP   |



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** Our challenge this month will give us a fascinating peek at Indian (Asia) culture with the Dabbawala Delivery alphabet challenge. The list of words along with some pictures and interesting reading can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201909.html>.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** In October we can learn about an interesting bit of radio history with our Alexanderson Alternator alphabet challenge. And remember that this will be our 15th anniversary celebration month and this challenge will have a nice prize drawing that goes along with it. Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201910.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>. 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 submissions for our August Operation Drumbeat challenge is still a few days away but preliminary results can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201908.html> and final results will also be available there shortly after the 10th of the month.

**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+                  | W3IQ N9SE KU4A K9OSC KD0V WA2FBN WI5H PA9CW NF1U WY3H N1JI VE3HUR G3JFS N1LU KJ4R KD2MX AK3X VE3DQN KA5PVB AH6AX |
| 50+                  | PA0XAW VE3FUJ NU7T(SK)   |
| 75+                  | K1YAN  |
| 100+                 | K1IEE  |
| 125+                 | N8XMS W2JEK  |
| 150+                 | 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: QSO-A-DAY AWARD

This is an award that was inspired by the amazing QRP/CW QSO streaks of K3WWP (<http://k3wwp.com/>). It can be completed in a month or stretched out for a full year. The idea is simple - make at least one CW/QRP QSO per day for a period of time. The time period can be as short as a month (or 30 days) and up to a full year. Of course making a CW/QRP QSO is not really a big deal, but the self discipline and the demands on your personal schedule is what makes this a significant challenge to work on. Details can be seen at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_qsoaday.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_qsoaday.html).

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

none



# 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 Wayne, NQ0RP.

## NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

| Net  | Local Time  | UTC                                  | Freq +/-                             | Primary NCS  |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)                 | Sunday<br>5:00 PM PDT<br>7:30 PM PDT<br>8:30 PM PDT | Monday<br>0000 Z<br>0230 Z<br>0330 Z | 5348 KHz ch2<br>3556 KHz<br>7046 KHz | 60m JB, NR5NN (in CA)<br>80m Rick, N6IET (in CA)<br>40m PBRick, N7HRK (MT) |
| East Texas QRS Net (ETN)                             | Monday<br>7 PM CDT                                  | Tuesday<br>0000 Z                    | 7068 KHz                             | Allen, KA5TJS<br>(in TX)   |
| Midwest QRS Net (MWN)                                | Monday<br>7:30 PM CDT                               | Tuesday<br>0030 Z                    | 7031 KHz                             | Bob, W0CC<br>(in KS)   |
| Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental 20/40 QRS Nets (RMRc) | Tues & Thurs<br>4:00/4:30 PM MDT                    | Tues & Thurs<br>2200/2230 Z          | 14060/7062.5<br>KHz                  | Dale, WC7S<br>(in WY)  |
| Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)               | Thursday<br>7 PM PDT                                | Friday<br>0200 Z                     | 3556.5 KHz                           | Stewart, KE7LKW<br>(in WA)   |
| West Coast QRS Net (WCN)                             | Friday<br>8 PM PDT                                  | Saturday<br>0300 Z                   | 7062 KHz                             | Mike, N6MST<br>(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.

## NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

### NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)

Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0000 UTC, on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)  
 Sunday evenings 7:30 PM PDT, which is Monday 0230 UTC, on 3556 kHz +/-  
 Sunday evenings 8:30 PM PDT, which is Monday 0330 UTC, on 7046 kHz +/-  
 60m NCS - JB NR5NN (CA); 80m NCS - Rick N6IET (CA); 40m NCS PBRick N7HRK

FRN Station Reports for August (UTC dates and times)

We who manage CW qQRP round table nets are sun worshippers by necessity. That means frequent net schedule changes in order to maximize propagation of weak signals over a fairly large area. Please note the time changes above, effective September 1.

The 60-meter net takes advantage of the higher daytime foF2 and dropping D-layer absorption just prior to sunset to hopefully enjoy NVIS conditions. Often we succeed; not always. We've been lucky to enjoy mostly QRM-free nets on Channel 2 for the past two years, and it has been a lot of fun working this little-used band.

The 40-meter net takes advantage of a frequent "rebound" in the foF2 that seems to occur about two hours after sunset, and when we hit the mark we enjoy quasi-NVIS propagation. But an foF2 above 6 MHz is rare, these days, even during the evening

rebound, and the NCS usually ends up serially QSOing each of us, who can't hear each other but can all hear him and he us. The ideal NCS for this is he who is most distant, namely Polar Bear Rick (PBR), N7HRK, who is usually operating out of his Buick in his driveway in Libby, Montana, when he isn't swimming in ice-encrusted water. That's why I've listed him as the main NCS for FRN/40. Even so, when conditions are good, qQRP stations can be heard by PBR, who has very sensitive ears (and very low background noise).

("qQRP" means "quasi-QRP" and is intended to include those fancy new "QRP" rigs that can put out 10 or 15 watts. Those MOSFET finals work much more efficiently when putting out their rated power, and you don't save much, if any, battery life by cranking the power down to 1/2 or 1/3 rated power. For example, my KX2 consumes 3/4 as much current (and battery power) at 5 watts as it does at 10 watts (1.5 vs 1.9 amps).

By "QRQ" we mean that we mostly begin each net at 21 wpm and QRQ from there. By the time we get to 40 meters, we're usually sending upwards of 25 wpm but will slow down for slower ops. Be sure to properly space your characters and words for improved head copy by others. I advocate doing an off-air warmup (sending the alphabet and numbers followed by "A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" a few times) using your bug or paddles of choice at your intended speed, to iron out or pre-empt high error rates.

FRN/60 on 5348 kHz (Ch 2) at 0100z (new time is 0000z)

Aug 05 - QNS (6) N6IET NCS, KW6G, KE6EE, K6GVG, AI6SL, N6KIX  
 Aug 12 - QNS (4) N6IET NCS, KW6G, AI6SL, K6GVG  
 Aug 19 - QNS (7) NR5NN NCS, K6GVG, KW6G, W7SAG, KE6EE, AI6SL, N6IET  
 Aug 26 - QNS (5) NR5NN NCS, N6KIX, N6IET, KW6G, K6GVG

FRN/80 on 3556 kHz ± at 0300z (new time is 0230z)

Aug 05 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, N6KIX, AI6SL, KW6G, K6GVG, WI6O, K0DTJ  
 Aug 12 - QNS (6) N6IET NCS, KW6G, K6GVG, K0DTJ, KE6EE, AI6SL  
 Aug 19 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, KE6EE, K0DTJ, K6GVG, AI6SL, KW6G, NR5NN  
 Aug 26 - QNS (3) N6IET NCS, KW6G, K6GVG

FRN/40 on 7056 kHz ± at 0400z (new time is 0330z)

Aug 05 - QNS (7) N7HRK/m NCS, KW6G, WI6O, K6GVG, AI6SL, N6IET, NR5NN  
 Aug 12 - QNS (6) N7HRK/m NCS, WI6O, N6IET, K6GVG, NR5NN, AI6SL  
 Aug 19 - QNS (3) N7HRK/m NCS, (N6IET), KW6G, K6GVG  
 Aug 26 - QNS (4) (no NCS), N6IET, K6GVG, KW6G, KE6EE

72, 73 and 77,  
 Rick N6IET  
 JB NR5NN  
 PBRick N7HRK

=====

### NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0000 UTC, on 7068 KHz +/-  
 Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

8/20/2019 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS N4NN KE5YGA

I could not copy Andy KE5YGA last night but Allen N4NN could. Allen was 599 at 50 watts and started with a QCX but thought I could not hear him so switched to his 7300.

The net frequency is still posted at 3.564khz on the NAQCC web site so guess we will not be having any new check ins until they change it to 7.068khz where we have been having the net for at least 4 month now.

8/27/2019 QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS N4NN KE5YGA KE5YUM

Rough net last night. About 5 minuets into it we got clobbered with SSB QRM. Made copy very rough. Both Allen (N4NN) and Andy (KE5YGA) were S8 or better so good signals. Terry (KE5YUM) was on vacation in WI and I could not copy him but the other 2 stations reported his signal. First time we have had a QRM problem in 7.068khz and sure hope it does not become the norm!

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**NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Nets (RMRC)**

Tuesday/Thursday at 4:00 PM MDT, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2300 UTC, on 14060 kHz  
 Tuesday/Thursday at 4:30 PM MDT, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2330 UTC, on 7062.5 kHz.  
 Main NCS - Dale WC7S (Wyoming)

No Report

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**NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)**

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

2019/08/05 - No Report  
 2019/08/12 - No Report  
 2019/08/19 - No Report  
 2019/08/29 - QNI W0CC

S-7 QRN; however, was able to copy YV5IUA and WE6M; but, they did not respond. Had issues with power supply and was only running 2.5 watts.

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**NAQCC West Coast Net (WCN)**

Friday evenings 8:00 PM PDT, which is Saturday 0300 UTC on 7062 KHz  
 Main NCS - Mike N6MST (California)

08-09-2019 QNI (3) NCS N6MST, WD8KRV, WA7KCK  
 Forty has been pretty noisy but decent copy on both

08-16-2019 QNI (2) NCS N6MST, KH2EE

Only one check in during the net. Michael KK6RHW (NAQCC #9984) was trying to check in but I didn't hear him. An hour or so later I saw him on the SKCC sked page so I tuned to the frequency he was calling on and had the pleasure of being his first CW QSO, plus he was on the QCX he just built and a homebrew antenna. Well done Michal! He came booming in this time, obviously the propagation gods were having fun with 40 that night.

08-23-2019 QNI (5) NCS N6MST, KE7LKW, WD8KRV, N6KIX, N6RNP

I messed up this night, forgot to turn down to QRP and was running a full 100 watts. I didn't even think about it until the end when Dave WD8KRV signed off with a 72 that jogged my brain! The experienced NCS, Stewart KE7LKW checked in and helped out with relays. Thanks Stewart!

08-30-2019 QNI (5) NCS N6MST, N6KIX, KE7LKW, WD8KRV, N6IWJ

This was interesting. My radio, a fairly brand new IC-7300, was receiving about 15 Hz up from my transmit frequency. Never used RIT before but I'm a pro at it now. After the net Stewart and I tried to troubleshoot the Icom via telephone and on-air without a real solution. Got it sorted out over the weekend with a hard reset but it was interesting for the folks checking in as they were chasing me all over the place. Thanks again for relays by Rob N6KIX and Stewart KE7LKW.

Mike - N6MST

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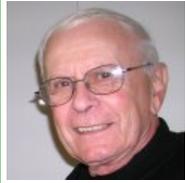
**NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)**

Thursday evenings 7:00 PM PDT, which is Friday 0300 UTC on 3556.5 kHz.  
 Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

2019/07/19 QNI (6), NCS wb4spb, n7kc, kg7jeb, ve7pjr, k7juv, ad7bp  
 2019-08-02 QNI (5), NCS wb4spb, n7kc, w7anm, ad7bp, ke7lkw/ve7  
 2019-08-08 QNI (8), NCS wb4spb, kg7jeb, ke7lkw, n7kc, wb7whg,  
 2019-08-16 QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, N7KC, AD7BP, WB4SPB, WB7WHG, K7JUV, N6KIX.  
 2019 08-30 QNI (4) NCS N7KC AD7BP K7JUV KG7JEB



# 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).



"PRACTICE MORSE CODE WHILE DOING SOMETHING ELSE"



# NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has eight local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, West Florida, Central Texas, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, 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 the Central Texas Chapter unless otherwise credited.

The chapter is located in the Austin, TX area and maintains a website at <http://www.naqcc-centraltexas.net/index.html>.

With the unfortunate passing in June of Danny, N5DRG, the Central Texas Chapter will be on hiatus until such time as they can get reorganized.

## NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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

The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

Taking a break until the fall.

## NAQCC WEST FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Ron, N9EE.

The chapter's web site is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>.

No report available.

## NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



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

No report available.

## NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Tim, N9BIL.

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

The Illowa Chapter website is at <https://sites.google.com/site/naqccillowa2/>.

No report available.

## NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Long Island Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Howard, WB2UZE.

Taking a break until the fall.

## DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Downeast Maine Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Jeff, KA1DBE.

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

No report available.

## NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Virginia Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to John, N8ZYA.

The chapter's web site is at <http://n8zyaradioblog.blogspot.com/>.

No report available.



# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From NAQCC President Paul Huff, N8XMS

Amateur radio has something for everyone. SSB, FM, AM, the digital modes, and QRO power levels all have their place in this great hobby and we certainly recognize the importance of these modes as well as the enjoyment that they give to many. But for a growing number of hams the challenge of *“doing the most with the least”* makes QRP (and QRPp) CW operating the greatest thrill available in amateur radio, and the North American QRP CW Club exists to promote this exciting facet of the hobby. As part of our focus we also encourage, but do not limit operators to, the use of simple wire antennas.

The NAQCC provides numerous opportunities for hams to enjoy QRP/CW operating. For contester types we have a popular monthly 2-hour sprint that runs at relatively low CW speeds and at a fairly relaxed pace. Three special sprints also take place during the year for 160-meter and QRPp operators. For a month-long activity we offer our members a Monthly Challenge that can be anything from forming a list of words from the calls of stations worked, to making a prescribed number of contacts using home-brew gear. There is also an extensive awards program to recognize the significant QRP/CW accomplishments of our members.

We also serve as a resource for people who are just getting started in QRP and/or CW. Our slow-speed CW nets are a great place for beginners to practice Morse code under real on-air conditions. Beginners will also find a wealth of helpful information on our club website and we are more than willing to try to answer any questions about QRP and CW that you might have. An extensive monthly newsletter is filled with useful projects and news from fellow QRPers.

A number of local NAQCC Chapters offer opportunities to get together for in person socializing and QRP/CW activities. Portable operations are especially popular with the local chapters.

Whether you are a veteran ham radio operator who is looking for a new challenge in the hobby, or a beginner who is intrigued by the possibilities of QRP/CW communication, we cordially invite you to join us. Membership is free and the benefits and fun are significant.

The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has over 9500 members world wide. Membership is free and anyone interested in CW/QRP operating is welcome. Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and useful resources, can be found on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>. Inquires can also be sent to

Club President Paul Huff, N8XMS  
9928 Eckles  
Livonia, MI 48150  
USA



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

| <b>NAQCC CONTACTS</b>                                |                 |                        |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>NAQCC President</b><br>Newsletter Editor          | Paul - N8XMS    | paul142857@gmail.com   |
| <b>NAQCC President</b><br>(Beginning January 2020)   | Steve - WB4OMM  | sszabo1@cfl.rr.com     |
| <b>NAQCC Vice President</b><br>West Virginia Chapter | John - N8ZYA    | jspiker58@gmail.com    |
| Downeast Maine Chapter                               | Jeff - KA1DBE   | ka1dbe@arrl.net        |
| Florida Chapter                                      | Steve - WB4OMM  | sszabo1@cfl.rr.com     |
| Western Pennsylvania Chapter                         | John - K3WWP    | jsk3wwp@windstream.net |
| Illowa Chapter                                       | Tim - N9BIL     | n9bil@arrl.net         |
| West Florida Chapter                                 | Ron - N9EE      | n9ee@tampabay.rr.com   |
| Long Island Chapter                                  | Howard - WB2UZE | wb2uze@yahoo.com       |
| Help For Beginners                                   | Brion - VE3FUJ  | ve3fuj@wightman.ca     |
| Member Submissions<br>Member Spotlight               | Paul - KD2MX    | kd2mx@arrl.net         |
| Facebook Page Manager                                | Jerry - K4KBL   | digilink@gmail.com     |
| NAQCC CW Nets  | Wayne - NQ0RP   | wayne.dillon@gmail.com |

NOTE: These email address are not automatic links.  
They are given here in graphic form to avoid harvesting by spambots.

#### REPRINT POLICY

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