

NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 275 • MAY 2021



KEY CLICKS

• IN THIS ISSUE

This Issue: Prez Sez activities are up; Member Polls, old and new; Member Spotlight on new hams; Bicycle portable ops; Putting those decibels in perspective; Sprint reports; A howling-good Challenge; Dos and Don'ts for code proficiency; A Florida ops finale; Firing up a 96-year-old battery-powered radio; Chapter excursions; and much more.

• VIRTUAL FDIM IS SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021

\$10 registration closes on the 15th. Great lineup of QRP goodness this year and your ticket gets you a front row seat, prize drawing, and a PDF of the proceedings. <https://www.qrparci.org/fdim>

• WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to **Charles Wilber N1AOK #2606** who will be the Monthly Challenge Manager and **Corey Chaney KFØU #4670** who will be updating our Sprint Information pages as our Sprint Coordinator.

• CHAPTERS TAKE IT PORTABLE

The Downeast Chapter has thawed out after a long winter and reports on a riparian excursion. The Western Florida Chapter sends a late-breaking field report from a familiar site with some new faces.

• SPOTLIGHT ON NEW HAMS... AND YOU'RE NEXT!

Our spotlight hams this month enjoy hobbies like full-time RVing, astronomy, and *learning* Morse code! Yep, they're licensed but still working on those first CW QRP contacts. Just a reminder that your ham biography doesn't have to start with a homebrew spark-gap transmitter. Write up your story, take some pictures, and send it to Paul: kd2mx@arrl.net

• WISDOM OF THE ELDER ELMERS

Gene N5GW # 5353's great advice on using abbreviations this month got us digging through the archives for some more operating tips. We found a rant from John K3WWP #2 on how *not* to use some abbreviations and some tips on developing your "copy behind" skills from Ron, K5DUZ #5.

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THE PREZ SEZ...

Greetings NAQCC Members!

This month's message will be short as I am heading out early in the morning to host a Strategic Planning Meeting for my employer, and Sunday I make the 4-hour drive to Tallahassee, FL to deliver a Cybersecurity exercise to some folks for the Feds over several days.....will be a busy week for me! (But I will have my KX-3 with me!).

Our Open Positions are filled!

- A hearty “shout out” to **Charles Wilber N1AOK #2606** who has stepped up to be our Monthly Challenge Manager..... THANK YOU!
- Another hearty “shout out” to **Corey Chaney KFØU #4670** who has stepped up to update our Sprint Information Pages as our Sprint Coordinator..... THANK YOU!

NAQCC Activities:

A review of last month's Club activities continues to show great participation - again, 100+ Sprint logs and lots of Challenge submissions—and again lots of new folks participating for the first time! The Sunspots are sloooooowly coming back!

And I continue to see that word “fun” throughout all of our activities! FB!

- Our Regular Monthly Sprint – May 20, 2021 - 0030-0230Z - <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202105.html>
- Our Monthly Challenge for May – The Names of the Full Moon Challenge! <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202105.html>
- Our Weekly Nets Info - http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html

Our Newsletter Editor, Brent WT4U, is always looking for submissions for the Newsletter—anything related to NAQCC, QRP CW. Send Spotlight Editor Paul K2DMX an e-mail if you have something to submit or need more information - kd2mx@arrl.net

Stay safe, KEEP YER DISTANCE, WASH YER HANDS, and get radio-active!

72/73!
Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913
NAQCC President



A little bit of QRP on a wire goes a long way!

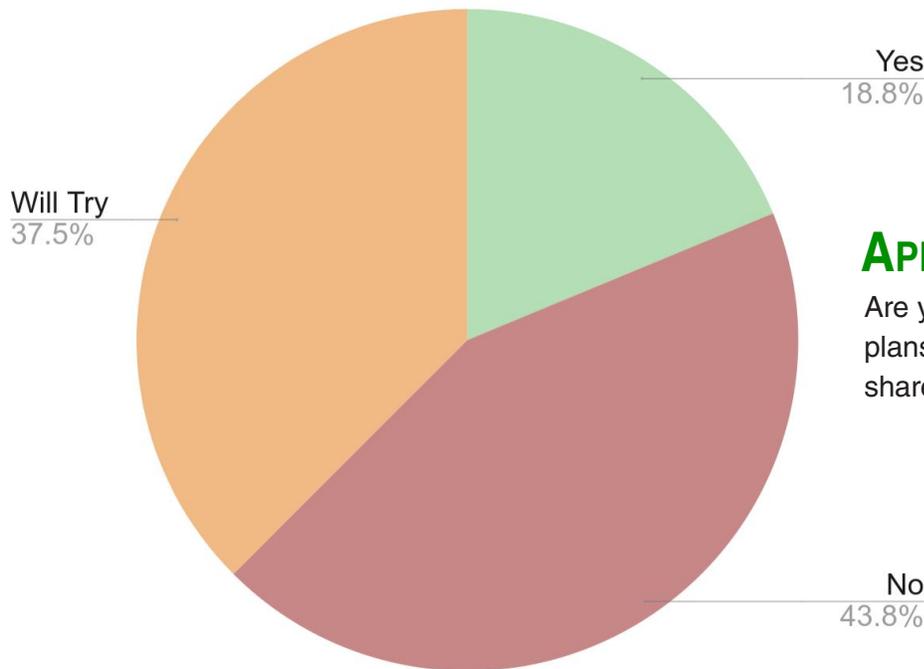


MEMBER POLLS

MAY POLL

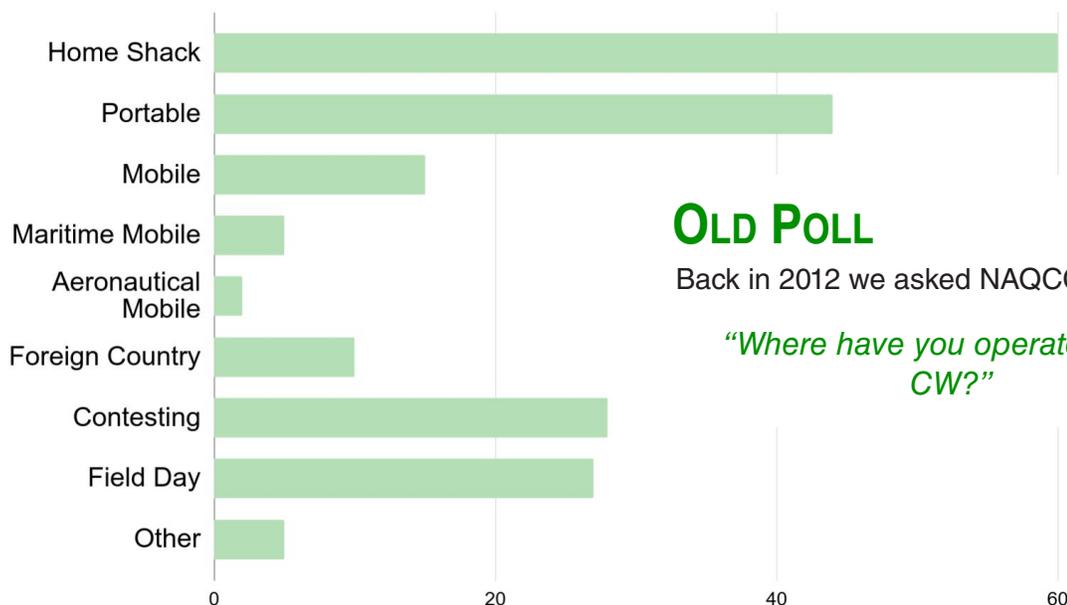
How many days per week are you active on QRP?

Let us know at http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html



APRIL POLL

Are you making any major plans for QRP CW Ops to share with the club?



OLD POLL

Back in 2012 we asked NAQCC members:

“Where have you operated QRP CW?”



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.

JOHN KX2CWJ #10638 & BRENDA KX2CWB #10762

We are John (ex-KI5PGP) & Brenda (ex-KI5PGQ) Nejedlo from Texas. As retired, full-time RVers, we enjoy volunteering in the national park astronomy programs. This is our fourth summer as volunteers in the astronomy program at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota.



HAM RADIO IN AN RV?

Our winters are spent in the warmth of southern Arizona. This is where we ran across another RVer who was into ham radios. It was around Thanksgiving and the pandemic was in full swing. As a retired science teacher, I was looking for my next hobby to start reading about, so I picked up a number of the basic ARRL e-books to examine if I wanted to get into ham radio.

Around Christmas, my wife asked me if we were going to buy any ham radio equipment. I told her that I had not really found anything in my reading that justified us adding weight to our RV. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I had read or skimmed nearly twenty of the ARRL e-books and made plans to take the technician and gen-



eral exams for fun. However, I had no intention of purchase equipment at that time. Full-time RVers have to be serious about what weight we are willing to take on.

It really was not until reading Bob (KØNR) Witte's e-book about QRP operations along with Carlo Consoli's e-book entitled, *Zen and The Art of Radiotelegraphy* that we jumped into the hobby. Those two books truly got us interested. If I find a book interesting, I will read to Brenda at night as she knits.

LEARNING MORSE

Brenda is a retired music teacher. She loved the idea of learning Morse Code and adding an ultralight QRP rig to our backpacks in order to extend our love of hiking. This was the start of a wonderful journey for us.

It is now the beginning of April. We have both just passed our technician exams in Las Vegas. We continue our daily Morse Code training sessions through Learning CW Online, which allows us the ability to download many of the different types of lessons for us to work with while we are off-grid enjoying other national parks on the way to North Dakota.

KX2 FOR POTA & SOTA

Our interests really are in participating in Summits On The Air (SOTA) and Parks On The Air (POTA) using a QRP CW rig. We have purchased an Elecraft KX2 along with two different SotaBeam antennas for our main rig. We also bought a Yaesu FT-3DR HT and two antennas for portable operating to include an ARROW II, three-element, split-beam backpacking antenna. Bob Witte impressed upon us the need to include FM activations whenever possible, so as to include folks with technician level interest in SOTA. That really sunk in because we do not even have our general tickets as of yet.



STUDYING AND PRACTICING

We have enjoyed our daily Morse Code practice sessions, weekly general exam practice sessions, nightly reading of various ARRL e-books, and hours of constant rabbit hole adventures in YouTube videos about ultralight portable SOTA or even POTA activations using different equipment.

We just requested vanity calls KX2CWB (Brenda) and KX2CWJ (John). I hope to keep you advised of our journeys and explorations into this hobby. We look forward to meeting other hams and hearing you through our KX2.

Follow our adventures:

[GeoAstroRV.com](https://www.geoastroRV.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/GeoAstroRV/>

<https://www.instagram.com/geoastroRV/>

https://twitter.com/geoastro_rv

**73, John KX2CWJ #10638
& Brenda KX2CWB #10762**

QRP? OR QRPP? BICYCLE PORTABLE

BY KEN N7KO #9766

I recently bought a Mountain Topper 4b transceiver, very fine solid simple rig, I like simple. I also have a Buddistick antenna. This combination works fantastic for my Bicycle excursions.

PEDDLING TO THE PARK

I will start my story telling you about a Bicycle excursion I went on near my home. It was to a park in the Spokane Valley called Plante's Ferry Park. It was a cool day in the upper 50s, overcast but pleasant, as I pedaled my way into the park I could see it was almost empty for a Sunday afternoon with the exception of a couple throwing a frisbee back and forth. I rode past them and up on to a high point in the park where the paved road makes a circle around a grassy island.

SETUP

At that point I pushed my bike about in the middle of the grass and pulled out a small tarp from my backpack, then laying the backpack on it I removed the bag that contained the antenna and



the metal bracket that I made to attach antenna to the bicycle. I pushed in two metal stakes into the soft ground one on each side of the bike, then I ran down a couple bungee cords from the bike to the stakes giving me a piece of mind that a puff of wind would not blow my bike and antenna over.

Then I attached the antenna mount with one thumb screw I made, and then the antenna along with 12 feet of coax RG8X.

MT4B ON THE AIR

It took me about ten minutes and I had the antenna put together and the counterpoise in place, along with the MT4B all hooked up with a 9-volt pocket radio battery. I checked the SWR meter on the MT4B and got a 1.4, so I was happy. Oh let me mention that the new MT4B V2 has a built in SWR meter and watt meter. How cool is that?

I put the earbuds in my ears and turned on the radio only to hear dit dit daw daw daw, indicating I was set to 20 meters. I start listening up



and down the band and did not hear too much activity. I ended up on 14.024 Mhz and started sending out a CQ, and pretty quick I got a bite, my fishing paid off. It was KL3IB, Alaska. I did not expect Alaska! Vern, KL3IB is a fellow that lives completely off grid. we did our exchange, he was running 50 watts. I was running four watts on a compromised antenna attached to a bicycle. Now that is cool. Vern lives near Beaver Alaska, if you look him up on a map, this fellow is out in the sticks, living a dream.

We had QSB going on but was able to make the exchange, wishing we had had a bit better propagation, I had to ask for his name again before I was sure I got it, Vern.

But if it was easy it would not be fun now would it? I made a couple uneventful contacts back east, and a fine contact with a fellow on the west side of the state. I was one of his first contacts, that made the day for both of us.

NEXT TIME I'LL BRING A TENT!

Don't get me wrong, any contact I get is very appreciated, but after making contact with someone cut off from the rest of the world, well you know what I mean. It was not soon after



making contact with the west side of the state that it started to rain so I thought I had better pack up. Next time, I'll bring my small tent.

Before I got home it started to pour. I was happy that I keep my radio and some of the test equipment in airtight Stainless steel containers, everything else was wet except for that.

I am in my late 60s and have heart issues, but as long as I can combine CW and exercise, I will be around awhile longer.

**Catch you all on the airways 72,
De N7KO**

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DECIBELS:

FACTORS IN ENHANCING STATION EFFECTIVENESS

BY LAYNE LABAUME, AE1N #8910

In electronics and communications, the decibel (abbreviated as dB, and also as db and DB), is an expression of the ratio between two signal power (or levels). In acoustics, the decibel is used as an absolute indicator of sound power per unit area. A decibel is one-tenth of a Bel, a seldom used unit named for Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone.

Suppose a signal has a power of p_1 watts, and the second signal has a power of p_2 watts. Then, the power amplitude difference in decibels is expressed as:

Formula:

$$P(\text{watt}) = \frac{10^{\frac{P(\text{dBm})}{10}}}{1000} \text{ watt}$$

Example: 25dBm

$$P(\text{watt}) = \frac{10^{\frac{P(25)}{10}}}{1000} = 0.3162 \text{ watt}$$

NOTE: For purposes of this article, our "Zero Point" is a modern SSB transceiver running 100 WATTS CW output to a half-wave dipole up 33 feet.

dBm	Watts	dBm	Watts
0	1.0 mW	24	251 mW
1	1.3 mW	25	316 mW
2	1.6 mW	26	398 mW
3	2.0 mW	27	500 mW
4	2.5 mW	28	630 mW
5	3.2 mW	29	800 mW
6	4 mW	30	1 W
7	5 mW	31	1.3 W
8	6 mW	32	1.6 W
9	8 mW	33	2.0 W
10	10 mW	34	2.5 W
11	13 mW	35	3.2 W
12	16 mW	36	4.0 W
13	20 mW	37	5.0 W
14	25 mW	38	6.3 W
15	32 mW	39	8.0 W
16	40 mW	40	10 W
17	50 mW	41	13 W
18	63 mW	42	16 W
19	79 mW	43	20 W
20	100 mW	44	25 W
21	126 mW	45	32 W
22	158 mW	46	40 W
23	200 mW	47	50 W

+1 dB = 30% increase
+2 dB = 60% increase
+3 dB = 100% increase
+6 dB = 400% increase (~1 S-unit)

The Objective is to improve station effectiveness in various ways:

-27 dB	Switch from CW to AM.
-17 dB	Switch from CW to SSB.
-14 dB	Switch from CW to FM.
-3.5 dB	Switch from FT8 to FT4 digital modes.
-4 dB	Switch from CW to RTTY.
+1 dB	Switching from JT65 to JT9A. (JT9A is 1 dB more sensitive than JT65 while using less than 10% of the bandwidth).

+2 dB	Switching from FT8 to JT4. (FT8 is operationally similar but four times faster (15-second T/R sequences) and less sensitive by a few dB. (On the HF bands, world-wide QSOs are possible with any of these modes using power levels of a few watts (or even milliwatts) and simple antennas.
+2 dB	2-element collinear array.
+2 dB	Single cubical quad loop.

+2.2 dB	2-element end-fire array (0.125 wave spacing).
+2.8 dB	2-element broadside array (0.64 wave spacing).
+3 dB	The ambient noise level has a profound effect on your ability to hear weaker signals. The following data is from VOACAP (Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program), a free professional HF propagation prediction software from NTIA/ITS. It was originally developed for the Voice of America. For example: 100 watts to a dipole at 33 feet located in New England on a path to Central Europe at 1800 GMT, the following circuit probabilities are shown based on the noise level at the receiver site: Quiet 55%; Rural 53%; Residential 42%; Industrial 26%; Noisy 23%. It appears a noise quiet are has a 3 dB advantage.
+3 dB	A 5/8 wave vertical vs. a 1/4 wave vertical. (Hence the popularity of the 43-foot vertical for 20 meters.)
+3 dB	The Extended Double Zepp antenna.
+3 dB	Raise output power from 100 watts to 200 watts (double power).
+3 dB	Vertical stacking of two identical horizontal antennas (0.5 to 0.75 wavelength spacing).
+3.4 dB	Moxon antenna.
+3.4 dB	2-element Triband beam (average gain).
+3.5 dB	Switch from FT4 to FT8 digital modes.
+3.9 dB	2-element yagi parasitic director.
+4.0 dB	Switch from FT8 to FT65
+4.2 dB	2-element Cardioid phased elements. Two identical elements spaced 1/4 wavelength apart with 90 degree phase delay. F/B ratio ~ 20 dB.
+4.3 dB	13-32 Mhz Log Periodic.
+4.5 dB	4-element collinear array.
+4.5 dB	2-element Cardioid phased elements. Two identical elements spaced 1/8 wavelength apart with 135 degree phase delay. F/B ratio ~25dB.
+5.8 dB	3-element Tribander

+6.6 dB	Rhombic 2 wavelengths per leg.
+6.8 dB	4-element Yagi beam.
+7 dB	Switch from CW to PSK31.
+7,3 dB	2-element Cubical Quad.
+7.3 dB	10 wavelength long wire at peak lobe.
+7.9 dB	5-element Yagi beam.
+8.5 dB	6-element Yagi beam
+9 dB	Raise power from 100 watts to 800 watts.
+10 dB	Rhombic 4 wavelengths per leg.
+10.5 dB	4-element cubical quad.
+10~15 dB	Switch from CW to JT65.
+11 dB	11-element yagi beam.
+12 dB	Raise power from 100 watts to 1500 watts.
+13 dB	19-element Yagi beam.
+20 dB	Switch from CW to FT8.
+20~25 dB	Switch from SSB to CW. It is mostly the signal-to-noise (S/N) improvement on the receive side that gives you the advantage on CW. Assume a 2.5 KHz receive filter needed for SSB a 250 Hz receive filter used for CW. Now you have a 10-dB advantage. It is also easier to hear a CW tone than it is to understand SSB in a noisy environment, i.e., the required S/N for CW copy is much lower than that for SSB copy. So add a few more dB advantage to CW. So, a rule of thumb is that CW has about a two S-Unit (12 dnB) advantage over SSB. A 100-watt CW signal is therefore equivalent to a full legal KW SSB signal. 20-25 dB is a reasonable expectation for a seasoned CW operations when the entire system includes the operator.
+25 dB	Switch from CW to JT65 (1 minute receiving cycle).
+27 dB	Switch from CW to JT9.
+29 dB	Switch from CW to JT9A.

+31 dB	Switch from CW to WSPR. Weak Signal Propagation Reporter is designed for probing potential propagation paths. WSPR reports can be decoded at S/N as low as -28 dB in a 2500 hz bandwidth.
+45 dB	Switch from CW to FST4W digital mode (30-minute receiving cycle)

The new digital modes have opened up a whole new world of two-way communications. Hams stuck in apartments with simple antennas and low power are now able to achieve DXCC using FT8 which has become the most popular mode

No attempt at a cost/benefit analysis is made here. Most hams have limited pocketbooks. For example, elevating your vertical slightly and installing 4 radials (ground plane style) is a lot faster and cheaper than laying down 120 ground radials!

COMMENTS: Any change in transmit power has NO effect on receiver capabilities. Antenna gain figures are typical for that type of antenna.

73, Layne AE1N



	<u>EARTH</u>	<u>MARS</u>
FLIGHT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LANDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTROLLED LANDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTROLLED POWERED FLIGHT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LOOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IN-FLIGHT MEAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PLANETARY CIRCUMNAVIGATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENORMOUS WOODEN AIRCRAFT BUILT BY A RECLUSIVE BILLIONAIRE THAT FLIES EXACTLY ONCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIJACKING BY SOMEONE DUBBED "D.B. COOPER" WHO DEMANDS MONEY AND THEN JUMPS OUT MID-FLIGHT TO AN UNKNOWN FATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NAQCC SPRINTS

MAY SPRINT

Our Sprint this month will be on Thursday, May 20, 2021, 0030-0230Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, May 19 here in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202105.html>.

RULES

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at 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.

APRIL SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202104.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next page.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time regular sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: KD9LTN, KF7ZZ, N1RBD, W0PWE, & WU0A

April Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	111	96	217	4/17
Participants	156	132	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1481	1040	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	840	596	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	641	444	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	76	11	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1119	641	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	286	388	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	13.3	10.8	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	K1MZM	WB1GYZ
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	AC2YD
W3	KC3MIO	K3JZD	KD3CA
W4	ND1J	WD4OHD	W4NLT
W5	N5GW	KE9DR	KE5YUM
W6	K6FA	AI6SL	WK6L
W7	AC7FF	-	-
W8	WB8LZG	NF8M	W8CDC
W9	WB9HFK	W9CC	AA9L
W0	N0TA	KD0Q	AA5LH
Canada	VA3NU	VE9BEL	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	WA2FBN	-	-
W3	NN3E	K3WWP	-
W4	AA2MX	AJ4SB	WD4CFN
W5	NF5U	W5ODS	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	N7QR	-	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	K9DRP	-	-
W0	KD0V	KB9LLD	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1ND	KB1M	-
W2	K2OID	N2ESE	-
W3	AC5XK	-	-
W4	K4BAI	K4KBL	N4MJ
W5	K5WX	W5WIL	WI5H
W6	KI6M	W2AFE	-
W7	KI7LW	AB1VL	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	W5DT
W9	NN9K	KY0Q	N9BT
W0	N8LA	K0EW	-
Canada	VE3GNU	-	-
DX	-	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY

KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	W6GY	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	-	-	-

FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE

Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	KD2EPM	N0SMX	-
BUG	KB9LLD	-	-
K/K	N9BT	-	-
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
K5WX			

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.

Number of Sprints	Members
50+	KF7WNS N2CN KB0ETU NF5U K2YGM AA7CU KC7DM NQ2W WI5H WA1GWH WB4OMM KB1M AA0W WA2FBN VE3DQN NN0SS WB1GYZ WB9HFK N8QY WY3H K6CSL W5UAA WK6L KC2EGL VE3GNU AB8FJ KJ4R N7QR K2HT K4ORD KB4QQJ K5GQ
75+	K4NVJ NO2D AK3X NA4O KA9FQG N5GW VE3FUJ KN1H WD0K KQ1P N8BB N4MJ K9OSC K6MGO N8LA N8APO K9EYT KD3CA
100+	K1IEE W4DUK KE5YUM N2ESE WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y KD2MX N0TA K4KRW WB8ENE AA9L
125+	KU4A K4BAI NF8M K3RLL K4JPN K2CWM N4FI KD0V
150+	W2SH WB8LZG W9CC N8XMS
175+	K3WWP KA2KGP W2JEK

SPRINT SOAPBOX

WB4OMM - Pretty noisy here....started off slow, nothing on 20M or 80M. 40M was the band for me tonight. Made some good contacts out a ways (ME, NH, VT and IN and OK) but had to fight the noise the whole time. Welcome to newbies KC5F #10148, AC2YD #10378, and KD0Q #10696! And hello again to many old friends in the Sprints! Signals were good, just wished the noise would go away.....anyway, had fun, hope to see you next month! 72/73! Steve

NN9K - Nice to be able to operate portable again. New hill, new computer and new problems. Temp 58F when I started & 48F when I finished but still comfortable in the van. 20-meters surprising good to the west coast for a bit then to 40 which was active but every where I went there was someone tuning up beside me, annoying! But had fun and looking forward to next month.

AA4W - Been a while since I have had a chance to operate a Sprint. Was glad to hear so many. 20 was very good and 40 as usual. Nothing on 80 by the time I got there. Thanks to both AI6SL and K9TRP . Both of those Q's were the REALLY weak ones and was fun to get them in the log. 72

NG8S - My first sprint in over 10 years. Lots of fun, despite my rusty CW and problems with paddles. Most QSO's on 40M and one on 80M. 20M was dead in Ohio.

KB9LLD - First NAQCC Sprint. Didn't know about it until I heard an unusually large amount of CW activity on 40m. Also first time using a bug in a contest - great experience, although I definitely need more practice sending with it.

NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: NAMES OF THE FULL MOON

Did you know that every month has several names for its full moon? Some are defined by solstices or equinoxes and others come from folklore. The Northern and Southern hemispheres, with their seasonal differences, have different names for different months.

This month we are going to test your knowledge of the names used in the Northern hemisphere. Here is the list of moons. Can you match them with a month? If not check below for the answers.

LONG NIGHT

SAP

GRASS

PLANTING

BEAVER

OLD

STRAWBERRY

THUNDER

BLUE MOON

HARVEST

WOLF

HUNTERS

GREEN CORN

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGES

June is doubly challenging with the the annual Field Day Challenge and dangerously loose clues sinking ships in the The Crossword Panic of 1944 Challenge.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202106.html>

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our April Collins Radio challenge is is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202104.html> and final results will be posted on that page 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://naqcc.info/challenges_sdschedule.html.

Number of Challenges	Members
25+	KJ4R W3IQ VE3DQN KU4A AH6AX KD0V K9OSC WB4OMM N1JI KA5PVB WY3H VE3HUR K14IO N1LU N4OW KD2MX KB1M WY7N
50+	VE3FUJ PA9CW WI5H NF1U N9SE G3JFS WA2FBN AK3X
75+	PA0XAW
100+	K1IEE K1YAN
125+	
150+	K3WWP W2JEK N8XMS

ANSWERS:

Here are the names for the monthly moons. We did throw you a couple small curve balls because the Hunter's moon can be in October or November, the Harvest moon can be in September or October and the second full moon of the month is referred to as a Blue Moon and can occur in any month.

Northern Hemisphere full moon names by month:

January: Old Moon, Moon After Yule
 February: Snow Moon, Hunger Moon, Wolf Moon
 March: Sap Moon, Crow Moon, Lenten Moon
 April: Grass Moon, Egg Moon, Pink Moon
 May: Flower Moon, Planting Moon, Milk Moon
 June: Rose Moon, Flower Moon, Strawberry Moon
 July: Thunder Moon, Hay Moon
 August: Green Corn Moon, Grain Moon
 September: Fruit Moon, Harvest Moon
 October: Harvest Moon, Hunter's Moon
 November: Hunter's Moon, Frosty Moon, or Beaver Moon
 December: Cold Moon, Moon Before Yule, or Long Night Moon



NAQCC AWARDS

You may already be a winner! NAQCC has an extensive list of awards. Check your log to see if you're close, or just need to submit. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>.

FEATURED AWARD:

2X QRP

I have often thought that a great deal of the credit for a successful QRP QSO should go to the operator on the receiving end of those radiated QRP watts, and our 2X QRP Award gives you the chance to see what you can do on that end of the QSO. To earn this award you not only need to transmit at QRP power levels, but the person on the other end must be doing so as well. Any kind of QSOs are allowed for this award, including

contest QSOs, so our NAQCC sprints can be a fertile place to earn your points. QSO points vary based on whether or not the other person is DX and whether or not they are an NAQCC member. Certificates are issued at several different point levels and numerous endorsements for things like single band, home-brew gear, or straight key use are also available. Complete details for the 2X QRP Award can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_2xqrp.html.



Awards earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual anniversary drawings.



ELMER IN THE ARCHIVES

A pet peeve of mine and another thing that makes you look silly is sending '73s.' '73' as a procedure signal is already plural—meaning 'best WISHES.' If you send '73s,' it translates to 'best WISHESSES' which is grammatically incorrect, not to mention silly. So please, just '73,' NOT '73s.' The same applies to '88' which also should be used without the 's' at the end.

Most all Q signals have evolved to the point of being used incorrectly, just as English (or any other language) grammar evolves over time. I'll just give one example here. QTH is not really a noun as in "My QTH is Kittanning PA." It's an abbreviation for the phrase "My location is," and its correct usage is "QTH Kittanning PA" which means "My location is Kittanning PA." If you analyze current usage of Q signals it seems that they are used mostly these days incorrectly as nouns just like my QTH example above. I won't dwell on that further here. Just be aware that Q signals are correctly used as abbreviations for phrases, not nouns.

John K3WWP #0002
July 26, 2008

IMPROVING YOUR CODE PROFICIENCY

BY GENE N5GW # 5353

One of the easiest way to build up your comparative sending and receiving CW speed is to simply become more efficient. By judicious use of abbreviations and other shortcuts, you can pass along your info more quickly and get more said in a shorter time period.

Here are some suggestions for improving sending efficiency: many ops, mostly newbies, tend to send both call signs at the beginning and end of each exchange. However simply turning it over with "BK" for most of the exchanges can save a lot of time.

ERRORS

When you make an error while spelling out a word, instead of sending ".....," try making a snap judgment as to whether the other op will be confused by the typo. If you believe he will understand the word, don't bother trying to correct it. If you misspell a critical word such as your name, just start over after a brief pause, perhaps sending the word twice.

ABBREVIATIONS

Although they can be overdone, CW abbreviations including Q signals can be a big help. Try to make a judgment as to whether the other op will understand them.

MORE TIME TO TALK

But how can this approach increase your receiving proficiency? If you are more efficient than the other op, you tend to spend more time receiving than sending. Often the other op will pick up on

your efficient practice, so you can both get more said in a given time period. Also getting the preliminary info exchange out of the way quickly opens the door to "conversational" CW. In other words it amounts to free code practice! Also you will notice your log fills up faster.

To test this theory I composed a pair of two-way CW QSO's (not shown here). The first one included typical exchanges usually heard on the air. The second composed QSO was essentially the same except I employed the above mentioned efficiencies. When I compared the two, I found the more efficient QSO was only 2/3 as long as the first. This is equivalent to going from 15wpm to 22wpm!

Of course if you just like taking out your frustrations by pounding away on a telegraph key, you may ignore this advice. Otherwise, give it a try!

AGN	Again
BK	back to you
C	Yes / correct
CUL	See you later
DE	from or "this is"
DN	Down
ES	And
FB	Fine business
GA	Good afternoon
GE	Good evening
GL	Good luck
GM	Good morning
HR	Here
N	Nine
NR	Number
OP	Operator
R	Received as transmitted
T (long)	Zero
UR	Your
WX	Weather

More at http://naqcc.info/cw_abbr.html

Gene N5GW # 5353



PORTABLE FLORIDA OPS PART 5: WRAP UP

BY GREGG WB8LZG #1444

With spring in full swing, the XYL and I were spending a lot of time at the beach and cycling during the day. We now had several rail trails under our belts, and enjoyed walking together at the local community college trails. The lake at the college had an abundance of birds and other wild life within feet of the trail. Very exciting at times.

That only left evenings to enjoy some QRP fun. The “gray line” was still my best time for working DX, and I tried to take advantage of it. The NAQCC March sprint was fun. An hour before the sprint I worked a station in Poland with a good report.

I figured we were in for a great night of FB propagation. Not so, as conditions got noisier as the night went on. I did get 7 QSOs, but was anticipating more. Sometimes you just have to grin and make the best of it. Any of you ever had the dreaded “Double QSO”? I believe John, K3WWP described it well in a recent newsletter. If you do enough sprints, you eventually will get a case of two sprinters, you answer one, but both hear you. Both thinking they are in QSO with you,



This one kept an eye on us and the XYL played “Speedy Gonzalas”

and both sending their info! I answered one and was fortunate to get the other later. Many times it means one of the guys on the other end is “not in log.” I’ve been the “victim” on the other end a few times. Frustrating. Yet it’s all part of the fun when you go hunting peanut whistles with flea power!

With barely a week left before we went back home to Michigan, I concentrated on the evening DX. I was happy to grab several more good ones. Bulgaria, St. Kitts, Poland, and Switzerland, along with several Canadians, Yucatan, and few more SKCC boys in there to round it out.

All too soon it was tear down time. I never did get time to play with the satellites as planned. The HF operations kept me quite busy. Besides.... Gotta save a little bit of fun for next time !

A row of colorful kayaks and canoes were neatly stacked



I disconnected the coax from the feed point. Then untied the twine holding my 75-foot 22ga wire aloft, and slowly let it fall to the ground. Wound it up, pulled the coax in, yanked the cables from the back of the rig, packed it into the “go bag,” and called it done. A bit sad, but reflecting on it, I had a super fun time with 5 watts and a wire.

Here are the rough statistics of the four months of Florida operations:

I had 119 “casual” QSOs.
127 contest QSOs. 5 POTA QSOs.

47 SKCC QSOs. 43 NAQCC QSOs. Thirty States and 16 DX countries made it into the log. With loads of QRP pride, I entered the info into each column.

Seemed I always had some QSO action in the SKCC/ QRP frequencies. That kept disappointments to a minimum. I also had many QRP to QRP contacts. These are always satisfying. Yes, there were many QSO's I lost that I could have had, if I only ran 40 or 50 watts, but then I wouldn't know the joy of “hoppin the pond” on 40 meters with just a wire in the tree at 5 watts on a gel-cell charged by solar power.

We packed it all in the car and headed for home the next day. Thought my DXing was over for the trip. Not so! I was pleasantly rejuvenated during the late night driving by listening to AM broadcast band DX ! Many of you “old timers” will remember

AM DXing as a kid. Staying up late at night to catch all those big city clear channel stations all across the country. All the way through Ga, Tenn, and Ky, I was kept busy all evening long, DXing up n down the AM dial. Some loud n clear. Some with the fade n flutter, then gone. There went WLW-Cincinnati, and KDKA- Pittsburg. Now Gone! Wicked QSB !

WLS-Chicago, WJR-Detroit, WOWO-Ft Wayne, WBZ-Boston, and many more (remember?).

About the time we hit Atlanta, I ran across the late night bluegrass show on WSM in Nashville. That was just what I needed. All that banjo pickin' n grinin' had the old feet a stompin' and kept me wide awake all night long. Sure made quick work of the drive, and jogged my memory on many of those old AM call-signs too. We arrived home safe the next morning.

Sure hoped you enjoyed the yarn. I'll leave you with some pictures of the beautiful flowers that were blooming while we were in Florida.

Next up? Looks like the Dakotas ! Maybe the Sierra Nevadas later in the year. Still

been wanting to go to the Keweenaw peninsula to play satellites from that rare grid square. I'll just have to wait to see what DX adventures unfold in 2021. You can be sure that wherever we go, the rig will be along for the ride.



Yellow Teardrops, Red Raindrops, & Orange Stars

A BRIEF TRIP BACK IN TIME:

THE CROSLLEY 52

BY TOM VE4AKI #8145

A recent experience has made me stop and think about the current state of radio development. Before we get into that, a bit of background. I have been a licensed amateur for 37 years. I have been fascinated with radio since I was a young boy. As many others did, I started with broadcast band DX'ing back in the 1960s, moved on to SWLing with a Heathkit receiver I built myself, and eventually got my "ticket."

MANITOBA ELECTRICAL MUSEUM

A while back my friend Larry [a non-amateur] encouraged me to get involved with the Manitoba Electrical Museum. This museum is dedicated to documenting the history of electricity in Manitoba. My role is in identifying and documenting electrical artifacts of all types that range in age from over 100 years to the more modern. Of course the most interesting part of the collection of artifacts is the variety of radios of all ages that have been collected.

One of the more interesting items was a 1925

Crosley Model 52 battery powered radio. It appeared in good condition for its age and was complete with tubes. Larry suggested we try to restore it to operating condition and display it in our shop. That was a unique challenge I could not turn down.

THE CROSLLEY 52

The Crosley 52 is a battery powered 3-tube radio popular in the 1920s. Battery powered radios were popular in rural areas before widespread distribution of electricity. The radio requires three voltages, 45 volts DC, 22.5 volts DC, and 6 volts DC. The first tube is used as a feedback audio detector and amplifier. The second tube is used as an audio amplifier to drive headphones. The third tube is an audio amplifier to drive an external speaker.

The radio is tuned by three components. A five-position tapped coil selects the frequency range. A movable "tickler" coil controls the level of oscil-



lation. The third component is a "book capacitor." This device is composed of two metal plates hinged together like a book. The spacing is controlled by a knob and shaft rotating a snail cam bearing on one of the plates.

REPLICATING THE BATTERY

Our first challenge was how to supply the correct voltages for the tubes. We chose to build a power supply rather than try to source suitable batteries. Digging into my stock of recycled electronic parts yielded everything I needed to supply the required voltages. The power supply was built on a wooden base using point-to-point wiring. Larry built a wooden box the exact size of the 45-volt battery used in the 1920s. He also

found online, a full size label that when printed out and applied to the box looked remarkably like the battery that was used back in the day.

Oops

Our first attempt at powering up the radio resulted in failure. We blew two of the tubes in a flash of light due to a error on our part. Not wanting to give up the project after all our work, we looked online to see if replacement tubes were available. Much to our surprise new old stock tubes were available at reasonable cost. Many amateurs have problems finding parts for radios only a few decades old never mind 100-year-old radios.



CROSLEY MUSICONE SPEAKER

1925 CROSLEY MODEL 52

POWER SUPPLY/ "B" BATTERY

Now it's HUMMING

With the new tubes installed we were ready for our second attempt. We used a variac to bring the voltages up slowly and looked for anything amiss. Everything seemed fine so we raised the voltages up to the proper level and put on the headphones. We were rewarded with a very audible hum. We needed an antenna so we strung out about 40 feet of bell wire outdoors and connected it to the antenna binding post.

Tuning a radio of this type with three controls is a exercise in patience. First you select a position on the tapped coil. Next you adjust the "book capacitor" and listen for an audible "twitch" in the sound in the headphones. Then adjust the "tickler coil" to bring the detector tube into oscillation. Careful adjustment of these two controls slowly clarifies the sound until, lo and behold, a local radio station issues forth from the headphones with good volume.

MUSICONE

Now we know that the radio works, we plan to install a more permanent antenna and complete and test the period speaker, a Crosley Musicone, that Larry has restored. The final step is to complete the working display in our museum shop so the public can see and hear what radio was like in the 1920s.

After reflecting on this project, a few thoughts come to mind. Whether it is a 1920s radio or a modern one, the magic of pulling signals out of the ether that I experienced long ago still remains. The amazing packaging of all the components in a modern radio in contrast to the relatively crude construction used in 1925 are worlds apart. The marvelous performance level and ease of operation of modern radios in contrast to 1925 is also remarkable. My hands-on experience with this piece of history has given me a deeper appreciation of how far we have come in the art of radio.



FROM PAUL, N8XMS, #675 - EUREKA, MORSE WATCH

I was looking at a YouTube video about "affordable" watches and was very surprised to see a Hamilton watch with some tiny Morse code printed on its sweep second hand! The Morse spells out "EUREKA." You can see the video at

[https://](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V5sjl7OVK4)

[www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V5sjl7OVK4)

[watch?v=3V5sjl7OVK4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V5sjl7OVK4)

and the watch with the Morse on it shows up near the end at about 13:40. It's a very quick shot of the moving second hand so you will need to pause the video to get a good look.



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. Questions should be directed to Net Manager Mark, W8EWH.

NAQCC Net Schedule				
Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)	Sunday	Monday		
	5 PM PDT	0000 Z	5332 kHz (ch1) Alt = 5348kHz	60m JB NR5NN (CA)
	7 PM PDT	0200 Z	3554 kHz	80m Rick N6IET (CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7pm CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7066 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 CDT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (WA)
The 1 Land QRS Net (1LND)			3560 or 3565 kHz	Ed K1RID (ME)

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 5332 kHz (Ch 1)
 Sunday evenings 7:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0200 UTC, on 3554 kHz +/-
 60m NCS - JB NR5NN (CA); 80m NCS - Rick N6IET (CA)

FRN/60 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - JB NR5NN NCS

- Apr 05 - QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, AI6SL, W6MK, N6IET, K6GVG
- Apr 12 - QNS (9) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, AI6SL, W6MK, KW6G, N6IET, WJ7S, N6VN, K6GVG
- Apr 19 - QNS (9) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, KW6G, N5VN, K6GVG, W6MK, N6IET, AI6SL, WJ7S
- Apr 26 - QNS (7) NR5NN NCS, N6IET acting NCS, KW6G, K6GVG, K6JJR, AI6SL, N6NV

This time of day has been working well for 60 meters, except for Apr 26, when something strange was happening with solar weather. We're not quite sure what, but we had no NVIS, and Rick N6IET was asked by NR5NN to take over as NCS, because JB and the NorCal stations couldn't hear each other, and Rick could copy everyone, initially.

THE NAQCC FARNsWORD QRQ CW ROUND TABLE NETS ...

... promote head copying skills while encouraging participants to send good, properly-spaced code at 21-25 wpm. We typically go two rounds after check-ins, including signal reports and topical commentary about the weather, the pandemic, recent contests or other CW events, antenna experimentation and/or catastrophes, and HF QRP and portable CW operations.

Anybody who can copy and send at least 15 wpm is welcome to participate – you don't have to be a member of NAQCC.

We want to emphasize the importance of "warming up" off the air prior to each net or CW session on the air to reduce errors, which tend to severely interfere with head copy. I use my sidetone and keyer set to my anticipated speed (or slower, at first) to send the alphabet followed by a pangram (sentence using every Morse alpha character at least once), error-free, if possible, by being especially mindful during the exercise, and that really helps me.

FRN/80 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - Rick N6IET NCS

- Apr 05 - QNS (8) N6IET NCS, KW6G, W6MK, N6VN, K6GVG, NR5NN, AI6SL, K0DTJ
- Apr 12 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, K6GVG, KW6G, W6MK, AI6SL, WJ7S, WI6O
- Apr 19 - QNS (5) N6IET NCS, N6VN, KW6G, AI6SL, K6GVG
- Apr 26 - QNS (5) N6IET NCS, N6VN, K6JJR, N6KIX, AI6SL

This post-sunset period has worked well for 80 meters, with lower D-layer absorption and good NVIS propagation during the nets.

NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0000 UTC, on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

APR 06 - QNI(1) NCS KA5TJS

Did not hear anyone last night at all. Conditions have been flakey lately for sure. Hope we get some better propagation next week.

APR 13 - QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N4NN

The band was in pretty good shape tonight. Signals were 559/589/579 respectively. Terry is getting things squared away at the new QTH in AR. Andy planted some flowers around the yard and Allen is building a 2 tube QRP xmitter. We did use some QRO tonight to get over the QRN. Still hanging out on 80 meters as long as it continues to work.

APR 20 - QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA

YUM was 599 and QRO with some QSB.

YGA was 579 and QRO with more QSB.

Conditions still pretty good on 80 meters. We will hang around till it goes to heck before we try and switch to 40.

APR 27 - QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N4NN

Very good conditions tonight! YUM was 599 and YGA and NN were 579. The QRN was low on 80 and made for good copy tonight. Terry was using an old TS510 with 5 tubes. Don't think I ever worked one of those before. All talked about looking for the super moon tonight!

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

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

Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas)

April 05 - QNI(3) W0CC, N8HWV, W5WTH

Both Nate (Green Bay, WI) and Pat (Austin, TX) did GREAT Jobs pulling out my signal in QSB and QRM. I envy their operating skills!

APR 12 - QNI(0) W0CC

Lots of action trying to contact C92RU (Mozambique), working up from 7.025 and trying to contact PJ2/NA2U on 7.0336. At 0103, I was able to work PJ2/NA2U on the first call. Just wanted to be sure that my radio was working! Next week will be the ONE!

APR 19 - QNI(3) W0CC, W2IW, N8HWV

Both Michael and Nate had clean signals and both 519. GREAT JOB on each of their parts picking out the NET from the QRM!

APR 26 - QNI(0) W0CC

Bands were very quiet. I thought that I heard a station but it was too weak to make out any of its call. The bands will be better next week!

NAQCC PACIFIC NORTHWEST QRS 80 METER NET (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 7PM PDT, which is Friday 0200 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

APR 02 - PNW QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, N7TB, WB7WHG, N6KIX, N0DA, KI7SJE, K7JUV.

APR 09 - PNW QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB4SPB, WB7WHG, W7ANM, N0DA, KI7SJE, K7JUV.

APR 16 - PNW QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB4SPB, WV7S, N0DA, K7JUV, KG7KKE.

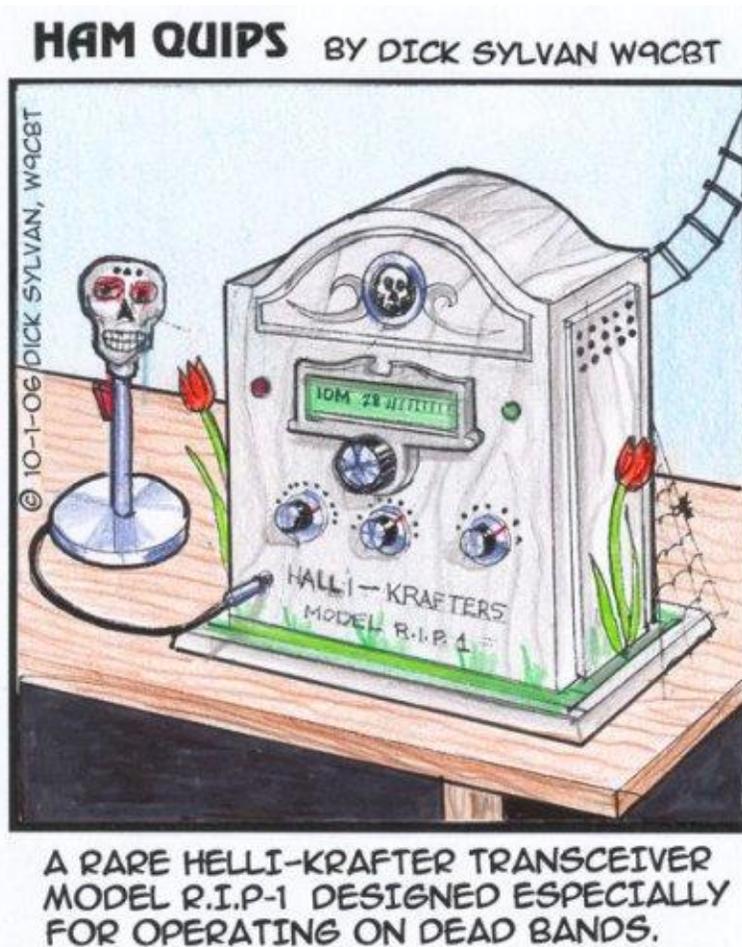
APR 23 - PNW QNI (4) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB4SPB, N0DA

APR 30 - PNW QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB7WHG, KG7KKE/p, N0DA, KI7SJE, WB4SPB.

NAQCC 1 LAND QRS NET (1LND)

Main NCS Ed K1RID (Maine)

The 1LND Net suspended operations in April as Ed looks to find a new day/time to hold this net.



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.

NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has six local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, 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 Steve WB4OMM.

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 Steve, 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 Please contact call sign trustee, Club VP John KK4ITX, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

NAQCC DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



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

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

Greetings from Downeast Maine!

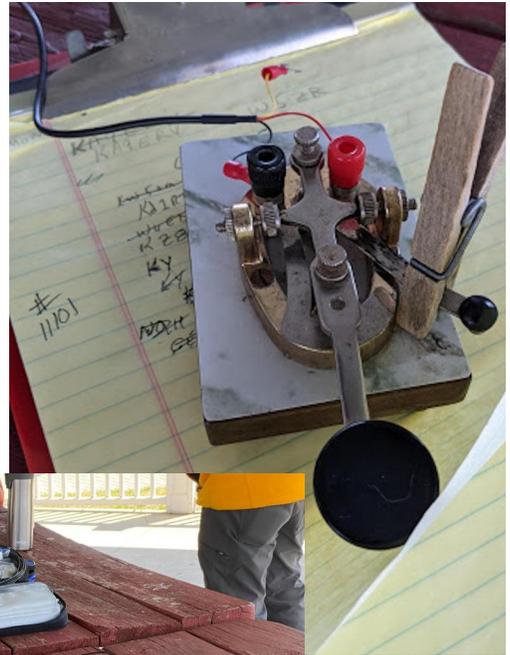
It has been a long winter and made even longer by Covid. Some of the members of the Downeast chapter decided to participate in the QRP to the Field event held on the 24th of April.

We gathered under the Gazebo at the Ellsworth Harbor park and Marina and set up our gear.

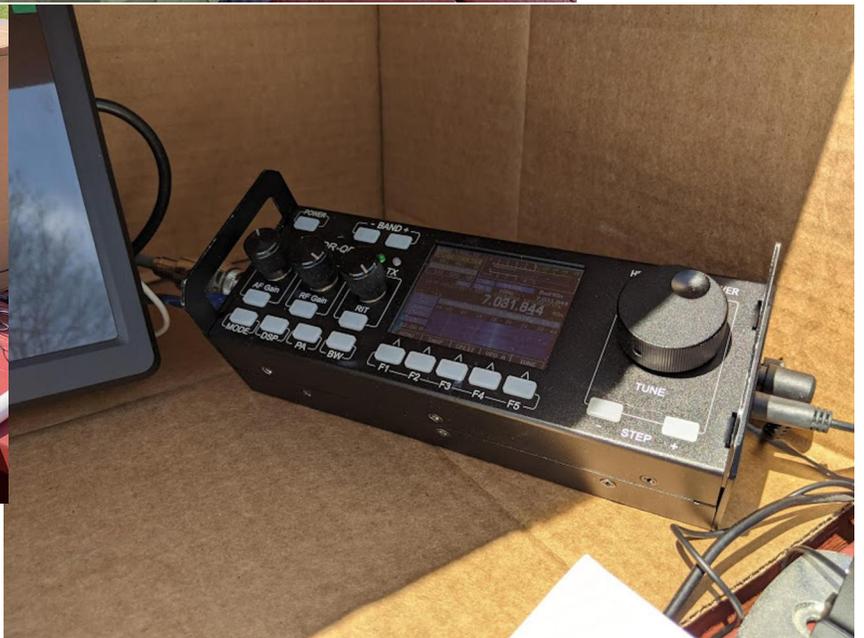




Joan, W1DLC (#2068) had some help from **Rob, W8HAP** setting up her antenna. She was operating on 20 meters. Check out her unique fix for her key!



Even yours truly got in on the action although, as you can see on the screen, the bands were not very good.



Phil, N1EP (#8954) was there and took most of the pictures although he never ended up in one!

We had a great time it is was good to gather and operate. Looking forward to getting out more now that Spring is finally here.

Very 73/72
Jeff, KA1DBE (#1570)

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 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>.

ANCLOTE PARK EVENT, MAY 1, 2021

Arrived at the park at 8:30AM. We married the event with picnic for the Suncoast Amateur Radio Club, New Port Richey, FL,

Those attending:

- Ron, N9EE
- Larry, KR4X
- Don, KA2KDP
- Frank, KK4DYF
- Jim, NONL
- Dan, KB4LRD
- Jim, KM4JLY
- Nancy, no call yet, working on it.

N9EE log:

TIME	CALL	RST/MY	FREQ	COMMENTS
1143	AC8RG	589/599	14.060	QRP, 10W POTA 1995
1208	K5YQF	599/559	14.058	Cecil FIST 8077
1213	WB8ERJ	599/599	14.055	OH, POTA
1218	K3WW	599/599	14.021	7QP, nr 202
1230	AB9CA	599/599	14.045	IN, WAS IN QSP Party
1237	WT9U	599/599	14.053	IN
1304	W7TVC	599/599	14.051	OR



Ron, N9EE set up his IC705 with LDG Z100plus tuner, LiFePO4 9 Ahr battery and 40m OCF dipole on 20 ft flag pole.



40m was kinda dead, 20m was hopping with AZ QSO party, lots of 7s. Club supplied hot dogs and sodas, others brought finger food, had a good time.



Nancy, no call yet, came to learn about Ham Radio. She was retired Air Force, was flight attendant on Air Force One, the president's plane.

Left the site at 3PM.

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.

No Report

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

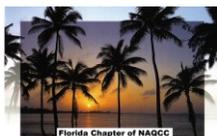
NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



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

The WPA Chapter has suspended all its activities until further notice because of the virus situation.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Nikki, KM4SBQ.

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

No Report



COPYING BEHIND

So many of us have learned to record each character as received with our trusty pencil. One reason this is not good practice is that it impedes learning to copy words, which becomes more necessary as the word speed is increased. By breaking this character by character recording habit and learning to copy "in our heads" we free ourselves to learn to copy words as word sounds. Anyone who can copy 15 wpm or greater has probably observed that some frequently used words, Q signals and CW abbreviations are being recognized as complete words rather than a sequence of characters.

We can practice copying words as "word sounds" by using a CW practice program that sends commonly used words in a random manner. If your program doesn't have this feature you can make a text file of the words that you want to practice receiving. When we were training our subconscious minds to recognize character sounds we listened to characters sent in random order to prevent our minds from "guessing" the next character. Now that we are practicing word copying our mind is free to "guess away," and guess it will!

During casual QSOs we "copy in our heads" and record only the pertinent information such as call sign,

RST, name, QTH, etc., but now that we are beginning to copy words we record the information after receiving the complete word. So by waiting until we've heard and recognized the entire word before recording it we've become much more efficient at receiving. Note that we "hear word #1," then record "word #1" while receiving "word #2," etc. So we have made the receiving and recording processes loosely coupled. In fact, because some words are long and others short, several short words can be received while recording a long word. These long/short word sequences force us to even more completely disassociate the receiving and recording tasks. As with most things in life, "practice makes perfect" so have faith that you too can master copying behind.

Once you have begun to master copying words and copying behind during casual QSOs, you can try your hand at copying messages on a traffic net or copying W1AW code practice sessions. You will quickly note that you will need to expand your inventory of word sounds. Just add words to your practice file as you discover them.

Until next time, HPE CU SN ON CW!

Ron, K5DUZ #005

Apr 9, 2011

NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Amateur radio has something for everyone. For a growing number of folks, the challenge of "doing the most with the least" makes QRP (and QRPp) CW operating the greatest thrill available in amateur radio. The North American QRP CW Club Inc. exists to promote and pursue designing, information sharing, building, and operation of low power, Morse Code enabled Amateur Radio (FCC Part 97) equipment with simple wire antennas for both emergency and personal communications purposes, an exciting facet of the hobby.

The NAQCC provides numerous opportunities for hams to operate in QRP/CW activities. For contest types we have a popular monthly 2-hour sprint that runs at relatively low CW speeds and at a fairly relaxed pace to increase code skills and experiment with different antennas. Three special sprints also take place during the year for 160-meter and QRPp (less than 1W of power) operators. For a month-long activity we offer our members a Monthly Challenge that can be anything from forming a list of words from the calls of stations worked, to making a prescribed number of contacts using home-brew gear. There is also an extensive awards program to recognize the significant QRP/CW accomplishments of our members.

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

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.



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

The North American QRP CW Club Inc., is organized exclusively for scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code to advance, promote, and pursue designing, information sharing, building, and operation of low power, Morse Code enabled Amateur Radio (FCC Part 97) equipment with simple wire antennas for both emergency and personal communications purposes. No dues or membership fees - open to any licensed radio amateur or shortwave listener (SWL) worldwide with interest in CW/QRP operation. Encouraging the use of CW and helping all hams increase CW speed and proficiency is a top club priority. Club activities are dedicated to QRP/QRPp operation, using CW and emphasize using simple wire antennas.

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

Inquires can be sent to:

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