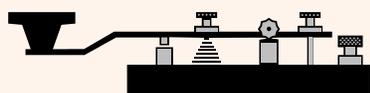


NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 280 • OCTOBER 2021



KEY CLICKS

• IN THIS ISSUE

17th Anniversary events and prizes; William KR8L #10791 shows off a homebrew rig for 160m; An appetizing letter challenge (that can win you one of those prizes); Net reports; Fun trip reports from Florida and Long Island; and more.

• It's N3A TIME

From 0000 Z, October 10, through 2400 Z, October 16 members who signed up will be operating as N3A. Collect the entire set!

• PRIZES!

Our kind sponsors (see page 27) have donated over \$1,300 in prizes to give away. See the whole list on page 5!



• SEPTEMBER SPRINT SUCCESS

The August Sprint was our weakest in years in terms of turnout and QSOs, but we bounced right back in September with more than double the QSOs (1,276) and nearly twice as many participants.

• SEND IN YOUR ARTICLE

Please take a few minutes to tell us about your latest excursion, that thing you built, your favorite rig, or something funny. As long as it relates to QRP CW. Send it to Paul K2DMX: kd2mx@arrl.net

IN THIS ISSUE

Key Clicks	1
The Pres Sez . . .	2
17 th Anniversary Celebration	4
Win Awesome Prizes	5
N3A Stations	6
Sprint Report	7
Try Top Band	10
Challenge	13
Nets	16
Polls	18
Chapter News	19
Awards	26
Sponsors	27
About The NAQCC	28
Contacts	29

THE PREZ SEZ...

Greetings NAQCC Members! This month is THE BIG ONE!

OUR NAQCC 17TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IS THIS MONTH!

We are celebrating our club's 17th anniversary from October 10 through 16 (UTC). As in past years, volunteers will put our special event callsign N3A on the air during that week. During our Anniversary October Sprint, we will put our special N3A callsign on the air from all 10 US call districts, Alaska, Hawaii, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. It's not too late to contact our Celebration Coordinator, Rich KC3MIO if you are still interested in being an N3A operator! More information can be found on our anniversary celebration page at http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.

QUALIFY FOR THE DRAWINGS

Every NAQCC member who makes at least one QSO in our Anniversary Sprint on October 12 (13th UTC) and submits their log by the required deadline is automatically entered into our Tier 2 anniversary prize drawing. Every NAQCC member who participates and submits a log in the Sprint and who had a minimum of 9 participation points as of October 11 will be eligible for the Tier 1 drawing. The Sprint drawings (both tiers) will occur on Saturday, October 23rd, 2021.

Every member who participates in our regular October Challenge, completes at least one of the words, and submits their report by the required deadline, will automatically be entered in a special anniversary challenge prize drawing. This drawing will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021.

PRIZES!

And what Prizes we have this year! Thanks to our donors for their generous donations of various products: LNR Radio, MFJ Enterprises, QRPKits (Pacific Antenna), 4SQRP, Astrid's Embroidery, KB3IFH QSLs, the Green Swamp QRP Group, and Gifts4Hams. Look for the Anniversary Prize List in this Newsletter.

RULES

A quick note - and this is VERY important - please read the prize rules - http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_17th_anniv.html

The Participation points have been updated as of September 23 to include the September Sprint points - but does NOT contain any



points for the September Challenge - those points will be added in on October 11th. YOU MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 9 PARTICIPATION POINTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TOP TIER PRIZES (Sprint Prizes 1 thru 3). Make sure you check your points for your activity and that you are in the correct division. You can find those points here: http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html

In both drawings, a spreadsheet will be used to make a list of prize-eligible members. Random numbers, generated by a computer, will be used to select the winners. Once someone has been drawn for a prize, they will no longer be eligible for any of the remaining prizes.

OCTOBER NAQCC ACTIVITIES:

-- 17th Anniversary Celebration Monthly Sprint
 – October 13, 2021 - 0030-0230Z - <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202110.html> (That's the evening of Tuesday, October 12th for us here in North America!).

- Monthly Challenge - October Anniversary Challenge 2021 – The Diner Talk Challenge - <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202110.html>

- Weekly Nets - http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html

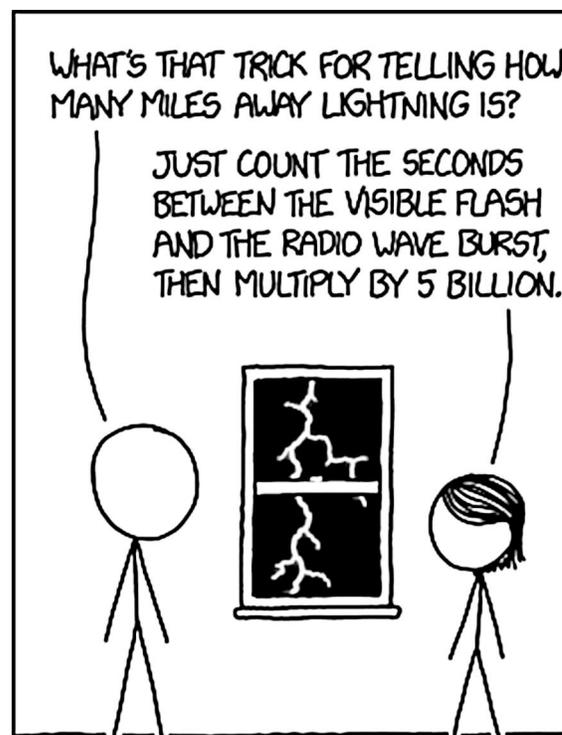
Hope to see you in the Sprint! Stay safe, stay healthy, KEEP YER DISTANCE, WASH YER HANDS, and get radio-active!

And.....Happy Halloween!

72/73!
Steve Szabo WB40MM #5913
NAQCC President



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



17TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

THE FUN BEGINS

We are now just a few days away from the special week-long celebration of our clubs 16th anniversary! **The fun begins at 0000 Z on October 10. That's the evening of the 9th here in North America.**

We have 36 volunteer operators who will be putting our special N3A/# callsign on the air from all over the United States (and Puerto Rico) and you can collect some "wallpaper" certificates for working them. These operations will generally be found near the standard QRP watering holes on the HF bands and will all be posted on our spotting page at http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php. That page will be updated in almost real time throughout the week so you will want to check it often. The complete list of volunteer operators, along with details on how to get your QSL certificate can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.

SPRINT FOR PRIZES

On October 13th (Tuesday the 12th in North America) we will have our regular monthly sprint with an anniversary bonus - special prizes valued at over \$1,000 will be given away to 10 lucky member participants!

See page 5 for all the great prizes!

As we have done in past years, there are two different tiers for the prize drawing. The top three

prizes will be awarded to member-sprinters who have also accumulated a specific number of participation points in the first 9 months of the year. The eligibility requirement for the remaining 7 prizes is to simply be a member participant in the sprint. Complete details on these eligibility requirements can be seen at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_17th_anniv.html. Links to both the specific anniversary sprint as well as our general sprint rules can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html>.

MORE WAYS TO WIN

So maybe you're not much of a contester (although our sprints are a great place for non-contesters to get their feet wet). Don't worry, because our anniversary celebration has already started and really extends over the entire month through our monthly challenge. Member participants in the October challenge will also have a shot at winning three great anniversary prizes valued at more than \$200. Challenge details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202010.html> and drawing eligibility details are available on that same prize drawing page given in the previous paragraph.

So get ready to have some fun while celebrating the 17th anniversary of the NAQCC - the greatest club specifically dedicated to QRP/CW operating!

—Rich KC3MIO #9942

THIS WAY TO PRIZES!

WIN AWESOME PRIZES!



1ST TIER

- 1st **LNR MTR-4B V2 Mountain Topper Radio** (\$350)
- 2nd **AME Porta-Paddle II w/base** (\$125)
- 3rd **MFJ-566M Micro Key** (\$40 each), **DX Engineering** \$50 Gift Cert



2ND TIER

- 4th **MFJ-566M Micro Key** (\$40 each), **4SQRP** \$50 Gift Cert
- 5th **MFJ-566M Micro Key** (\$40 each), **DX Engineering** \$50 Gift Cert
- 6th **MFJ-566M Micro Key** (\$40 each), **4SQRP** \$50 Gift Cert
- 7th **ARRL** Gift Certificate (\$50), **NAQCC** Coffee Cup (\$15)
- 8th **MFJ-566M Micro Key** (\$40 each), **QRP Guys End Fed Antenna** (\$20)
- 9th **100 QSLs or 250 Eyeball Cards** **KB3IFH** Gift Cert (\$60)
- 10th **QRPKits/Pacific Antenna Kits** (\$40), **NAQCC** Coffee Cup (\$15)



NAQCC OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE PRIZES: DRAWING NOVEMBER 12, 2021

- 1st **MFJ-9320K QRP Cub Transceiver Kit, 20M** (\$130)
- 2nd **MFJ-845 Digital SWR/Wattmeter** (\$120)
- 3rd **ARRL** Gift Certificate (\$50), **NAQCC** Coffee Cup (\$15)



17TH ANNIVERSARY N3A STATIONS

WORK N3A STATIONS ALL WEEK

Members will be operating with the N3A special event call starting 0000 Z, October 10, through 2400 Z, October 16. Track them down and work them all! Instead of their regular member numbers they'll use the special 100xx event member numbers.

Check the spot page to see who's working when:
http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php

N3A IN THE OCTOBER SPRINT

One operator (**in bold**) from each district has been exclusively designated to use the special call in the Sprint that week.

SPECIAL QSL AND CERTIFICATE:

Special QSLs and certificates are available for anyone making contacts with our N3A stations and there is a special certificate for working a sweep of all the available districts. To get your QSL or certificate please send a list of your N3A/# QSOs, including date, UTC, and band, to the mailing address or email address shown below. Please send your list of N3A/# QSOs as simple text. Spreadsheets, ADIF logs, Cabrillo logs, etc. just complicate our work. For QSL cards you also need to include an SASE and money to cover expenses. (\$1 for up to 4 cards, \$2 for up to 8 cards, \$3 for up to 12 cards.) For an emailed certificate there is no cost but if you want one mailed to you there is a \$3 charge to cover expenses. Remember to include your name, call, and address or email address with your request.

Send your requests to: John Griswold, KK1X, 34 Cambridge St., Ayer, MA 01432

Email: AWARDS@KK1X.NET

Bill W0EJ #2271	N3A/0	10000
Gary W0ITT #9113	N3A/0	10000
Ed K1RID #7121	N3A/1	10001
John K1JSM #10333	N3A/1	10001
Don AC5XK #10697	N3A/1	10001
Marty NR3Z #8717	N3A/1	10001
Jim K2PHD #9194	N3A/2	10002
Denis N2JJF #1117	N3A/2	10002
Phillip K3EW #9479	N3A/3	10003
John K3WWP #2	N3A/3	10003
Ray W3OY #10817	N3A/3	10003
John NA3NA #8978	N3A/3	10003
Mike KC2EGL #1236	N3A/3	10003
Rich KC3MIO #9942	N3A/3	10003
Mike W7LG #10391	N3A/3	10003
David AE4ZR #8936	N3A/4	10004
Steve KC5F #10148	N3A/4	10004
Kevin KI4DEF #247	N3A/4	10004
John K4BAI #644	N3A/4	10004
Gary K7EK #5685	N3A/4	10004
Cathy W4CMG #10520	N3A/4	10004
Rick AA4W #1628	N3A/4	10004
Juan AC6ZM #9722	N3A/4	10004
Jerry NF5U #142	N3A/5	10005
Keith K5WX #703	N3A/5	10005
Jon KA6TVX #4772	N3A/6	10006
John KE6K #6655	N3A/7	10007
Dan N7CQR #4040	N3A/7	10007
Paul N8XMS #675	N3A/8	10008
Frederick K8NGW #8949	N3A/8	10008
Bud W3IQ #8511	N3A/8	10008
Mike KD9LTN #10671	N3A/9	10009
Andy KD9KHA #10501	N3A/9	10009
Don K9DRP #9548	N3A/9	10009
Warren KC9IL #7610	N3A/9	10009
Juan AC6ZM #9722	N3A/KP4	10013



NAQCC SPRINTS

OCTOBER 17TH ANNIVERSARY SPRINT

Our Sprint this month will be on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 0030-0230Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, October 12 here in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202109.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.

SEPTEMBER SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202109.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: VE3IIM, DK1VD, & N7PHI.

September Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	99	58	217	4/17
Participants	127	93	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1276	607	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	762	347	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	514	260	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	235	76	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	884	500	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	157	31	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	12.9	10.5	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	WB1GYZ	KB1CKT
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	AC2YD
W3	KC3MIO	KE3V	KD3CA
W4	WG8Y	KC5F	WT4U
W5	N5GW	AC5BX KE9DR (TIE)	-
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	N7KM	-	-
W8	NF8M	WB8LZG	NX8Y
W9	KC9IL	WB9HFK	K9QEW
W0	KD0V	AA0W	AA5LH
Canada	VE3IIM	-	-
DX	CO8CML	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1ND	N1JI	-
W2	WA2FBN	-	-
W3	K3RLL	NN3E	-
W4	KJ4R	-	-
W5	NF5U	K5GQ	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	N7QR	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	AA9L	-	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	-	-
W2	N2JJF	N2ESE	-
W3	KC3RN	AC5XK	-
W4	K4BAI	WB4OMM	N4MJ
W5	K5WX	WI5H	KE5YUM
W6	-	-	-
W7	KF7Z	N7PHI	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	NG8S
W9	NN9K	KY0Q	K9EYT
W0	N0TA	N8LA	K0EW
Canada	VE3DQN	VE3GNU	VE3HUR
DX	DK1VD	-	-

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

FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	VE3IIM	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	DK1VD	N7PHI	-
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
N4MJ			

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+	N2CN KF7WNS WI5H WB4OMM WA1GWH KB1M KC7DM WA2FBN KB0ETU VE3DQN K2YGM AA7CU AA0W WB1GYZ WB9HFK NQ2W NN0SS N8QY WY3H KJ4R N7QR K6CSL W5UAA VE3GNU WK6L KC2EGL AB8FJ K2HT K4ORD KE9DR K5GQ WD4OHD KB4QQJ
75+	AK3X NO2D KA9FQG N5GW NA4O KN1H K4NVJ N4MJ KQ1P VE3FUJ N8LA WD0K N8BB K9OSC K9EYT KD3CA K6MGO N8APO NF5U
100+	KE5YUM N2ESE K1IEE WX4RM WA8SAN W4DUK WG8Y N0TA K4KRW KD2MX WB8ENE AA9L
125+	NF8M K3RLL K4JPN K2CWM KD0V N4FI
150+	W2SH WB8LZG W9CC N8XMS K4BAI KU4A
175+	K3WWP KA2KGP W2JEK

SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

K3RLL - What a great evening! Many thanks to the thoughtful op who invited the sunspots back to our party tonight. :-) Usually get my ten and run but was delighted to have stations still calling me so stuck around another 20 min. What fun! QRP Forever!!
72/73 ... Don

N1JI - At the last minute I decided to dust off my 1948 Vibroplex Deluxe Original bug and use it in the sprint. Many thanks to everyone who copied my less-than-perfect sending!

WX4RM - Good conditions tonight on 20 meters allowed contacts to the western states, and 40 meters gave good north/south contacts on the east coast. Rain here in the mountains, helped my ground radials get the signal out a little better :)

K5WX - Fairly good tonight! Was hearing N7KM Utah all night on 20 and 40. And worked WB4OMM on three bands. Is there a certificate for that?!! Fun night.

KN2G - I am between homes. We had intense thunderstorms into the early evening. I expected 40m to be hash. Nature did dish up some deep QSB but I heard way more than I could work with the 7ft buddipole on the truck luggage rack. As always, QRP is immensely amazing and immensely fun!

NS4V - My first 'real' sprint and first time QRP with my old recently off the shelf Elecraft K1. Could not figure out how to get SK to work until after the contest so Bencher it was! Ready for the next one and FISTS in Nov.



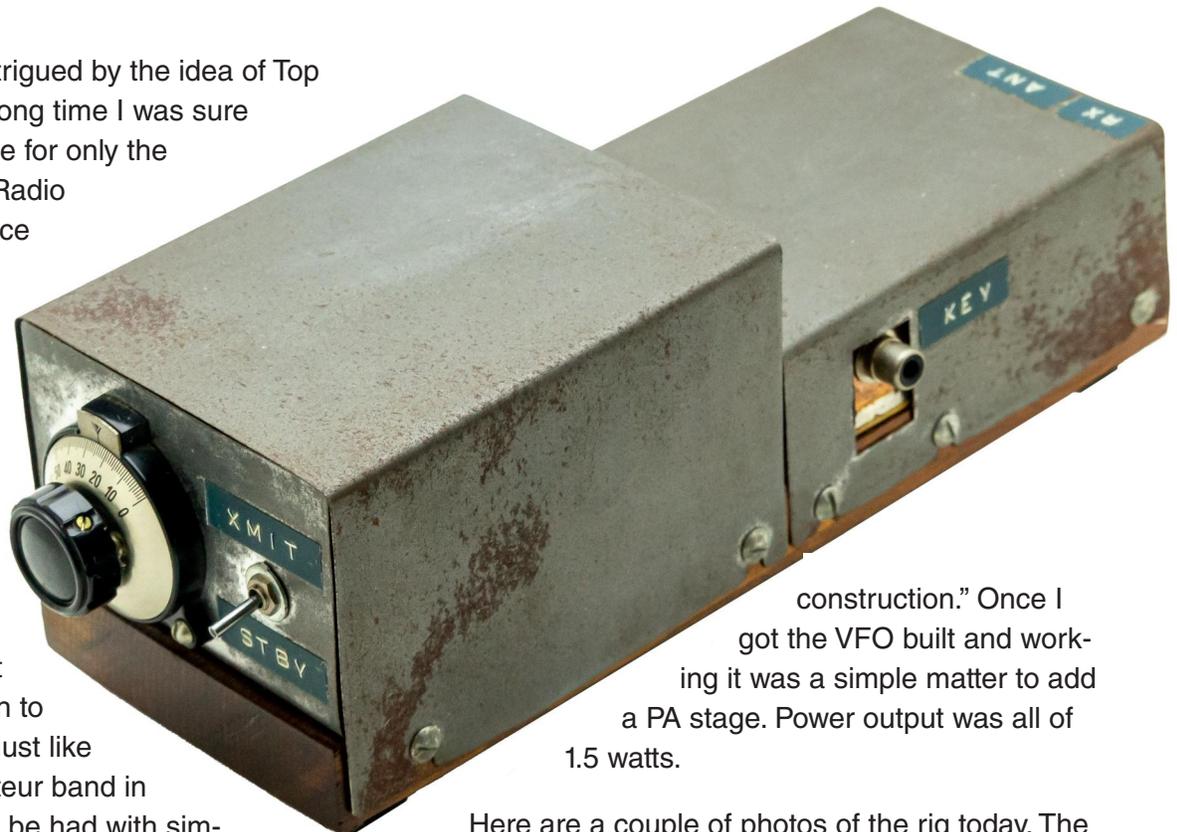
LOOKING FOR A NEW QRP CHALLENGE? TRY TOP BAND!

BY WILLIAM KR8L #10791

I've long been intrigued by the idea of Top Band. And for a long time I was sure that it was a place for only the most serious of Radio Amateurs—a place requiring everything big: big tubes, big coils, big antennas, and big power. Well, let me tell you, nothing could be further from the truth. When it comes right down to it, 160 meters is just like every other amateur band in that success can be had with simple equipment and (relatively) small antennas. Let me tell you a little about my experience on Top Band and some of the things I've learned.

A RIG FOR TOP BAND

Sometime back in the 90s I got the idea that I wanted to try 160 meters. I had been having a lot of fun working QRP CW on 80 meters during the fall and winter months and figured I might as well try going lower in frequency. The trouble was, I didn't have a rig for that band. So I built one. I started by pulling out my copy of Solid State Design for the Radio Amateur and picking out a design for a VFO, which I built using "ugly



construction." Once I got the VFO built and working it was a simple matter to add a PA stage. Power output was all of 1.5 watts.

Here are a couple of photos of the rig today. The exterior of the rig is pretty rough now. The covers and front panel were bent from an inexpensive steel cookie sheet and are rusting from years of sitting in a storage shed. The interior is in better condition and shows my use of "ugly construction" where the PC board is divided into pads with a Dremel tool and components are mounted on top.

The design includes a relay. When the front panel switch is placed in STANDBY, the antenna is routed to the receiver jack. Years ago, I standardized all my 12v DC on a two-pin Molex connector. I'm still using that system, although I've begun to incorporate Anderson Powerpole connectors.

THE ANTENNA

For an antenna I simply ran a wire from my basement shack up to the eave of the house where I placed a loading coil, and then ran the wire out to the barn, a total of about 150 feet. No part of that antenna was any higher than 15 feet. The idea behind the loading coil was nothing more than, “this is 160 meters so I guess there should be a loading coil.” In the shack I matched the antenna with a homebrew L-network tuner and a homebrew QRP SWR meter.

RECEIVER

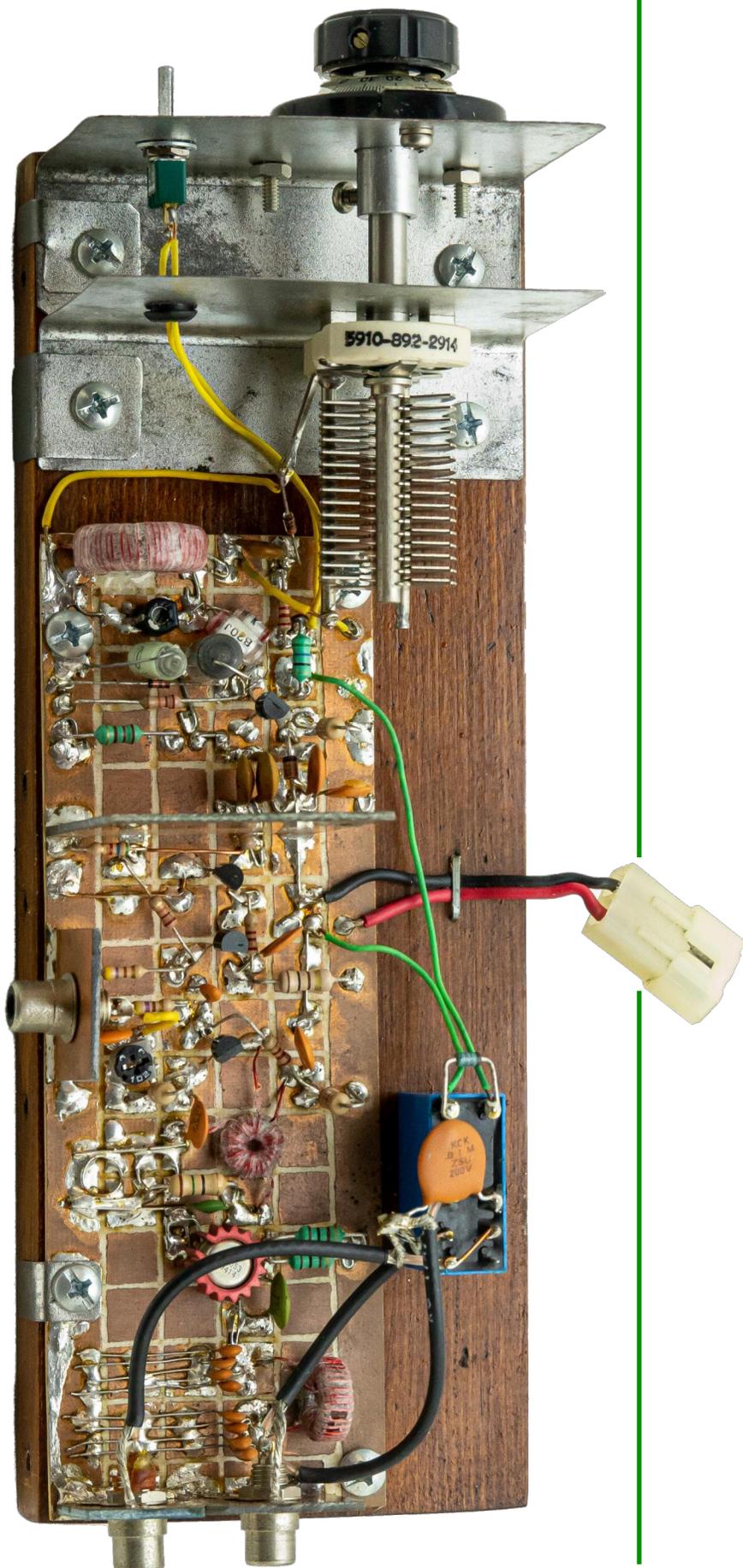
I had a Kenwood R-1000 general coverage receiver that I used at first, but selectivity on CW was lacking and the receiver suffered from medium wave broadcast overload, so I decided to build a receive converter that could be used with my Ten Tec Argosy 525. The converter used a 12 MHz crystal and a double balanced mixer to up-convert 160 meter signals to 30 meters.

I had a lot of fun with that setup, working all over the western United States and Canada from my Idaho QTH. My point here, of course, is not to suggest that you need to build your own rig to enjoy Top Band, but to show that you can succeed with very simple equipment and antennas.

GETTING BACK ON 160M

Moving forward to the present, I haven't been on 160 meters in quite a while, and this summer I've started thinking about what I would need to get back on that band. I have my FT-817 as well as other transceiver options, so the rig is no longer an issue. Here at my Illinois QTH I have room for a full size 160 meter antenna so I started dreaming about a lot of different antenna ideas. However, I haven't gotten very far with those ideas yet.

You see, I recently bought an antenna analyzer that I've been using to check out and adjust my Butternut vertical and my VHF antennas, as well as making new EFHW wires for portable QRP



operations. I also have a random wire that runs from my shack up into a big sycamore tree, through the leaves and over branches. It's been there for years and I don't even recall how long it is. Sometimes I use it on 60 meters with a tuner.

ANALYZE THIS

Well, one day I decided to test it with the analyzer, just measuring it against my earth ground, and guess what I discovered. At 1.8 MHz the wire measures about 51 -j285 ohms. Fifty-one ohms did you say? And some capacitive reactance? Hmmmm.

A quick calculation showed that a simple coil of about 25 microhenries should cancel out the capacitive reactance. Would that really work? I wound the coil and inserted it a couple of feet up from the feedpoint and, indeed, I got a nice 1:1 SWR on 160 meters. And yes, it gets out. (Full disclosure: it's too noisy for CW on 160 meters right now so my testing so far has been limited to FT8 QRP.)

GET ON THE AIR

So, again, my point here is not to say that you need to duplicate what I've stumbled onto, but to suggest that instead of trying to figure out how you're going to fit that 260 foot dipole on your city lot, get out the ARRL Antenna Book or other favorite resource and start looking at ideas for compact antennas. I'm sure you'll find something that will work. It doesn't have to be a resonant antenna, anything you can match with a tuner should get you on the air. Don't forget that every day, throughout the world, hams with compromise antennas rely on Gooch's Paradox: "RF gotta go somewhere."

I hope this article will encourage some of my fellow QRPers to give Top Band a try. (Looking at the results of the August 2021 poll I'd say such encouragement is warranted!)

Now is the time to start planning, building, and testing, so that on those long, cold, quiet winter nights we can all meet up on the low end of Top Band. (And don't forget about the NAQCC 160 meter Sprint next January 25th.) BCNU there!



PREPARE NOW FOR 160-METER SEASON AND WINTER EVENTS

Whether it's building a rig from scratch, winding a big loading coil, or just testing an antenna, October is a great time to get the kinks worked out and be ready to get on the air. The January bonus 160m Sprint will be here before you know it. Don't be like your editor who was outside counting turns on a loading coil and watching SWR through the shack window 30 min before the last 160m Sprint!

THE ANTI-SUNSPOT BAND

160m NVIS is good year-round, but for longer distances winter is best. 160m DX chasers report that paths to Europe are best when sunspots are scarce. While we're waiting around for Cycle 25 to kick into high gear, this winter will be a great time to enjoy the best 160m action we'll see for a few years. Or who knows. 160m is weird. Just get on and see what happens.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The next NAQCC 160m Sprint starts January 26 at 0130 (evening of the 25th) and the annual **CQ World Wide 160-Meter CW Contest** kicks off the following Friday afternoon.

NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: DINER TALK

Hey, a new place ... the Old Time Diner ... lets grab breakfast there. Here comes the waitress ready to take our order. Hi guys, what will you have? Make mine some pancakes, two eggs over easy and a coffee. I'll have some poached eggs on toast, coffee and a side of hash. The waitress turns to the kitchen and says "ordering... one blowout patch... flop two... Adam and Eve on a raft... mystery in the alley... pair of drawers." What was that all about? That, gentlemen, was your breakfast order in diner talk. Every group or business has their own language and the diner industry is no different. Below is a sample of what you might hear in a real old fashioned diner. I don't think I would try to place my order in diner speak, but at least you may have a clue what is being said.



YOUR DINER DICTIONARY

- **Adam and Eve on a raft/log** - Two poached eggs on toast
- **All hot** - A baked potato
- **Blonde with Sand** - Coffee with cream and sugar.
- **Bloodhound in the Hay** - A hot dog with sauerkraut
- **Blowout patches** - pancakes
- **Bossy in a bowl** - Beef stew
- **Bronx vanilla** - Garlic
- **Burn one, take it through the garden, and pin a rose on it** - A hamburger with lettuce, tomato and onion
- **Chicks on a raft** - Eggs on toast
- **Cops & robbers** - donuts and coffee
- **Eve with a lid on** - apple pie
- **Flop two** - Two fried eggs over easy
- **GAC Tommy** - "grilled American cheese" sandwich with tomato
- **Hockey puck** - A hamburger, well done
- **Houseboat** - A banana split
- **Magoo** - custard pie
- **Mystery in the alley** - A side order of hash
- **Nervous pudding** - Jelly/Jello
- **On the hoof** - Any kind of meat cooked rare
- **Pair of drawers** - Two cups of coffee
- **Sweep the floor** - Hash
- **Tube steak/groundhog/Coney Island/Coney Island chicken/Coney Island bloodhound** - A hot dog
- **Wreck 'em** - Scrambled eggs
- **Whistleberries** - Baked beans
- **Zeppelins in a fog** - sausages and mashed potatoes

WORDS

- ADAM AND EVE ON A RAFT
- ZEPPELINS IN A FOG
- CONEY ISLAND CHICKEN
- WHISTLEBERRIES
- BOSSY IN A BOWL
- HOCKEY PUCK

OCTOBER CHALLENGE TRACKER:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	Y	Z	

X Every time you work a new station this month, mark off the lowest box under each letter of the call to track your progress and see what letters you still need.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

The easiest way is to use the great tool hosted by Robby WB5RVZ. Create an account, choose this month's challenge, and paste in all the eligible calls you worked. It will apply the letters, tell you what you're missing, and fill out the email for you. <http://naqccletters.azurewebsites.net/>

If you want to do it by hand, or got some but not all of the words and want to pick up a participation point, send an email to charlie.wilber@gmail.com

Subject: (your call) NAQCC (month) Challenge
 Body:
 your call:
 word1 - call1 call2 call3
 word2 - call1 call2 call3

RULES:

Just make ALL the words from calls of stations you work subject to the General Challenge Rules. (Any spaces in the phrases should be ignored. For example the challenge phrase "INVERTED V ANTENNA" should be treated as if it is the single word "INVERTEDVANTENNA.")

Each letter in a callsign you work during the month can be used twice to complete the challenge words. Complete rules, information, and a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge along with detailed general rules and submission instructions can be found at http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html



Entering the Challenges earns you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual anniversary drawings.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

November's Invasion Stripes Challenge is just *plane* fun.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202111.html>

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our Halifax Maritime Disaster Challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202109.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_sdchedule.html.

Number of Challenges	Members
25+	KJ4R VE3DQN AH6AX WB4OMM KU4A N1JI KD0V K9OSC KA5PVB WY3H N4OW VE3HUR KB1M WY7N KI4IO AC2C N1LU KD2MX DK1VD
50+	VE3FUJ PA9CW WI5H NF1U WA2FBN AK3X G3JFS N9SE W3IQ
75+	PA0XAW
100+	K1IEE K1YAN
125+	
150+	K3WWP W2JEK N8XMS



xkcd.com

WHEN VISITING A NEW HOUSE, IT'S GOOD TO CHECK WHETHER THEY HAVE AN ALWAYS-ON DEVICE TRANSMITTING YOUR CONVERSATIONS SOMEWHERE.

NAQCC NETS

We have a number of nets (QRS = slow speed, QRQ = higher speed) designed to help people build up their CW operating skills. Complete information about these nets can be found 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
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)

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 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)

Sept 07 – No Net tonight because of the Labor Day Holiday.

Sept 14 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N4NN

Very good conditions tonight. 589/599/579 respectively on signals tonight. 80 meters is still working.

Sept 21 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA

Signals were good again on 80 meters. 589/599. Comments about cooler weather on the way for the first time this year.

Sept 28 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N4NN

Very good conditions with some QSB tonight. 599/599/589 respectively. The QRN was about S5/S6 tonight so not bad for 80 meters in September. The thunderstorms finally took a break in GA. and Allen made it into the net 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) — Assisted by Dave AB9BZ

Sept 06 – QNI (3) W0CC, AB9BZ, WB9HFK

Both Dave and Mark did EXCELLENT jobs pulling out the signal with the QRN. There were several stations on the band; however, after WB9HFK, there was a local power surge and, after that, there was only static. Heard one faint signal but could not copy. Thanks to Dave for his monitoring of the frequency to see who I was missing!

Sept 13 – QNI (4) W0CC, AB9BZ, WB0QFU, N8HWV

Dave, Bruce and Nate did EXCELLENT jobs pulling out the weak signals among the QRM! I had great spotting from Dave!

Sept 20 – No Net this evening.

Sept 27 - QNI (2) W0CC, WB0QFU

Heard KK4 but could not make out the last part of Jim's call sign.

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)

Sept 03 – QNI (5) NCS WB4SPB, AD7BP, N0DA/p KE7LKW, K7JUV

Sept 10 – QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, WB7WHG, K7JUV

Sept 17 – QNI (8) NCS WB4SPB, KE7LKW/p, W7ANM/p, K7JUV/p, KI7SJE, AD7BP, N0DA, WB7WHG

Sept 24 – QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW/p, WB4SPB, AD7BP/p, W7ANM, K7JUV

Sept 30 – QNI (9) NCS WB7WHG, KE7LKW, AD7BP, N7TB, K7JUV, KG7KKE, WS7DA, KI7SJE, KJ7KDB



MEMBER POLLS

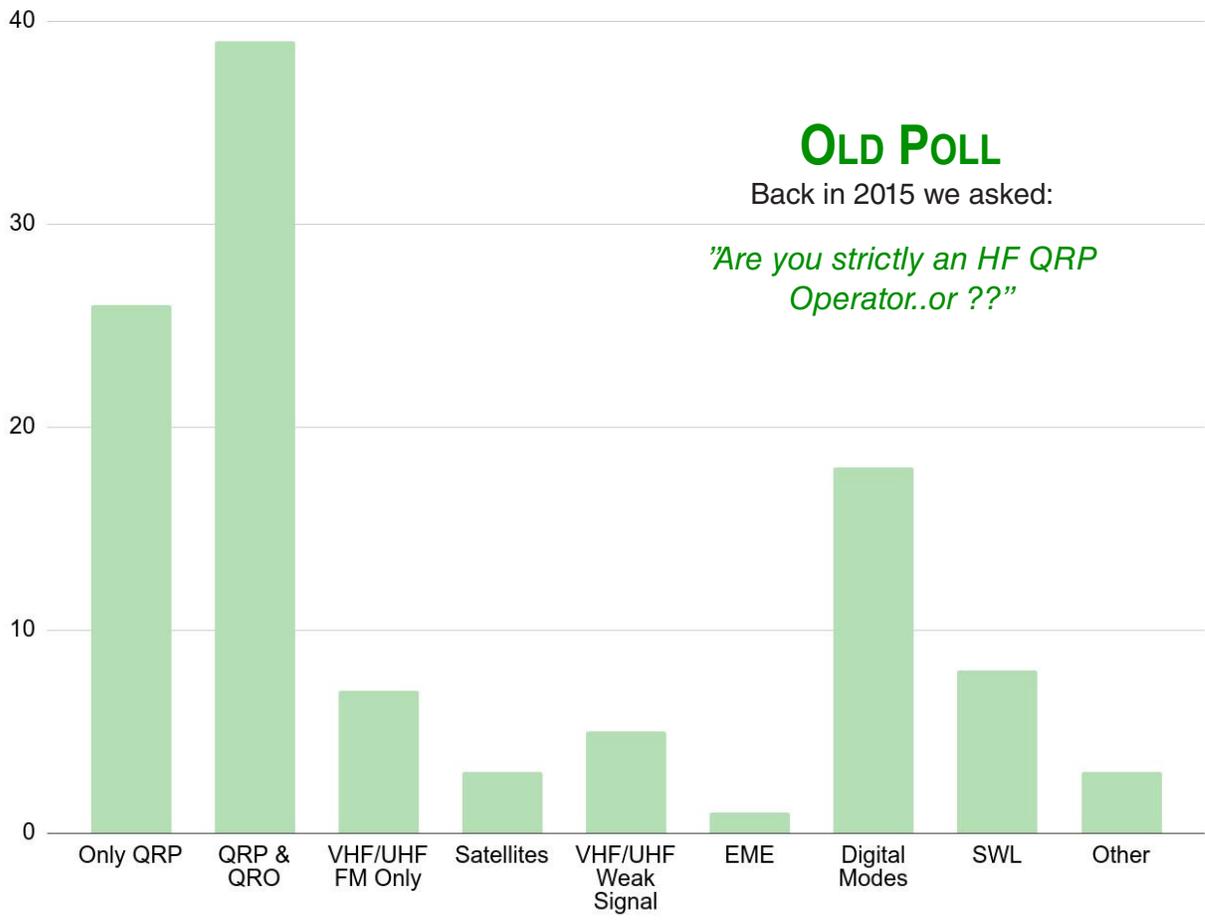
OCTOBER POLL

Where do you spend the majority of your time on the air?

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

SEPTEMBER POLL

Something went wrong with the poll data this month. Sorry. We'll try again!



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, Florida, and Green Swamp WCF—but we would be more than happy to expand on that list. Chapters are more or less independent local gatherings organized by NAQCC members in a geographical area and subject to a list of guidelines from the NAQCC. They provide opportunities to have fun and to promote our parallel passions of QRP and CW. If you are interested in forming a local chapter please contact Club President 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 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/>.

No Report

NAQCC GREEN SWAMP WCF



Items in this section are from the Green Swamp WCF Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Gary N3OS.

The chapter's website is <https://www.zaarc.org>.

No Report

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>.

WE ARE BACK!

On Friday, September 17, 2021 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC held our latest "Parkpedition" at Riverwalk Park located in Port Orange, Florida.

Riverwalk park is located on the Halifax River. The park is broken up into two sections. The north section includes a kayak/canoe and paddle board launching area, fishing piers and a 12' wide trail. The south section includes the splash pad and picnic pavilions.

Everyone arrived between 9AM and 10AM with a couple arriving afterwards. It was a hot day but there was a slight breeze off the river that helped cool it down.

This trip we had a total of 5 members and 1 visitor in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5274; Steve K8SR #10527, Rick AA4W #1628, John KD4JS #8019, Art WB4MNK and Steve WAOAOD.

Steve WB4OMM #5913

Steve brought his Elecraft KX3 with a Code Warrior Jr paddle along with his newly acquired Buddipole Vertical plus two additional 2 foot aluminum sections which was purchased at the Huntsville Hamfest, it came with everything except the carry bag and tripod. Steve was able to get the antenna set up using a beach umbrella stand. Steve tried to tune the antenna on 20 CW (14.060) with no luck, it would not go below 9:1 SWR. Over the next couple of hours, multiple adjustment of the radial length



and extendable top antenna section; replacing the Buddipole stock coax with the included connector with another known good one (this required Steve to drive the 10 miles round to go back to his house to get the replacement). Sadly, still could not get an SWR less than 9:1. Rick AA4W (a resident expert in Buddipoles, he actually works for them part time) came over from his station to help. After swapping vertical compo-



nents back and forth to no avail, Rick started checking continuity with an ohmmeter voilà! Rick discovered the two aluminum 2 foot additional sections had no continuity (so an “open” in the vertical section). Steve took them out and re-assembled the antenna and it tuned! It was quickly adjusted for a 1.1:1 SWR on 14.060 and a 1.2:1 on 7.060. It was a success!! It was almost 11:30AM, but he was able to get on 20M and

make 2 contacts, 1 member and 1 non-member. The new antenna works, a long morning but successful!

VE3LNU Toronto gave him a 449 and Chuck AC1BS #1012 ME who gave a 579.

Steve K8SR #10527

Steve was running 7 watts on a K1 to a 20M hamstick. Steve was having a little trouble making contacts so Steve WB4OMM helped him get the problem figured out and he ended up with 4 contacts and all members.

Curt K2CWM NJ #3457; Mark WA2NYY NY #6388; Mike K8NS FL #8597 and Don KD3CA PA #6602.



Rick AA4W #1628

Rick was operating with his Elecraft KX3 to a Buddistick. After making a couple of Qs, Rick helped Steve WB4OMM with getting his Buddipole Vertical up and running. Rick was able to make 4 contacts: 3 members and 1 non member.

Mark WG8Y NC #4405; Rob RU4E NC; Jim AJ8S OH #6829; Mike K8NS FL #8587





LOOK AT THAT VIEW....Halifax River and City Scape



John KD4JS and Steve WA0AOD listening on Steve's ICOM IC 705 which he was able to remotely access.



Steve WB4OMM, Art WB4MNK, John KD4JS and Steve WA0AOD and WB4OMM's table

Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this another successful NAQCC-FL event!

Next month's scheduled event:

Friday, October 15th, 2021 starting at 10:00 AM EDT (1400Z)*Sunrise Park 1135 Riverside Dr, Holly Hill, FL

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.

In September the Long Island Chapter had 2 POTA outings as follows:

SEPT. 4: BELMONT LAKE STATE PARK POTA 2013

Rich K2UPS, Rob W2ITT, Walt W2TE, Mike KY2SYF and Howard WB2UZE set up an IC 7300 to a dipole antenna and did very well all over the USA and to Europe. This park has an attractive lake with fishing and boating possible. There is no QRN so our capacity to copy weaker signals was very good.



Rob W2ITT



Rich K2UPS, Rob W2ITT, & Walt W2TE

SEPT. 20: TARGET ROCK WILDLIFE REFUGE POTA K0480

Peter AA2VG and Howard WB2UZE with an IC 7300 into a Buddypole vertical antenna worked 50 stations as far as west coast USA and deep into Europe. Band conditions were excellent on 20m and we were in a very remote forest spot with a beautiful overlook of the Long Island Sound into Connecticut



Howard WB2UZE & Peter AA2VG



Peter AA2VG setting up the Buddypole



Long Island Sound

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.

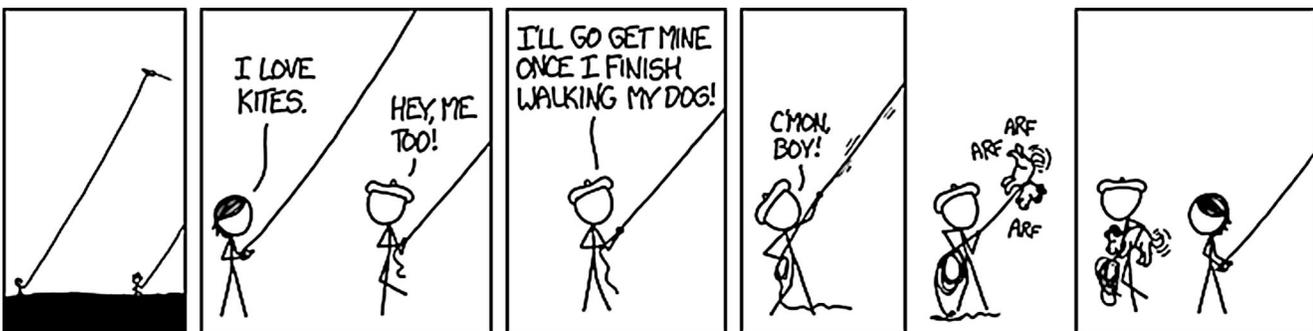
NAQCC DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



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



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:

WAC

It's just the classic Worked All Continents award with some modifications for QRP/CW.

TIME FRAME FOR QUALIFYING QSO's:

January 1, 2004 0000Z through the present

BASIC AWARD PREMISE:

Contact all 6 permanently inhabited continents (AF,AS,EU,NA,OC,SA) within the time frame using QRP, CW, and simple wire antennas.

CATEGORIES:

- A - 6 continents.
- B - 6 continents 2X QRP
- C - 6 continents QRPp



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



HAM QUIPS "Holy Ham Heaven Cemetary"



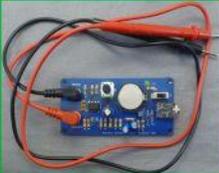
"Who Said You Cant Take It With You?"

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 PRIZE SPONSORS



Fun and affordable kits from Pacific Antenna

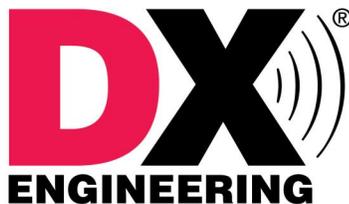





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NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

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.

NAQCC CONTACTS

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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:

Club President Steve Szabo, WB4OMM
536 Central Park Blvd
Port Orange, FL 32127 USA

