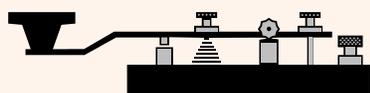


# NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 285 • MARCH 2022



## KEY CLICKS

### • IN THIS ISSUE

The Prez Sez there are lots of oportunites to work (as a new board member) and play; testing out some Elecraft portable antennas; A beautiful build report on a new 'vintage' QRP rig; a chapter trip report; poll results; QRP net reports; and if you cn rd ths yr rdy fr this month's Challenge.

### • SOUTHEAST DIRECTOR NEEDED

Director Nick Kaeff W4EFB has to resign as he is moving, so we need someone from that corner of the world to step up. See page 2 for details.

### • NAQCC STATE QSO PARTY CHALLENGE

Members made over 800 QSOs in first batch of state parties and pretty much dominated the QRP CW categories!

The friendly NAQCC Sprints were designed as way to help members get their feet wet in contesting with lower speeds and less pressure. They're also fun. QSO parties are a great next step. The speeds are higher, but the exchanges are short and you can listen until you get it down. There's no penalty for messing up.

### • YOUR ARTICLE NEEDED!

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](mailto:kd2mx@arrl.net)

### • UPDATE YOUR MEMBER INFO

Any time you change your QTH, email, or callsign, you can update your member info with a simple online form. First, check your information at <http://naqcc.info/memberlist.php> to make sure the rest of the fields are correct and then fill out the member update form here: [http://naqcc.info/member\\_updates.html](http://naqcc.info/member_updates.html)

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# THE PREZ SEZ...

## GREETINGS NAQCC MEMBERS!

Spring is arriving! (at least that's the hope!)— Don't forget to "Spring Ahead" and set you clocks one hour ahead on Sunday, March 13th, 2022— note that our Sprint Schedule has been adjusted for the change in Zulu time.

## BOARD MEMBER NEEDED

After a year of service, our Southeast Board Director Nick Kaeff W4EFB has to resign as he is moving....so I am soliciting anyone that is interested to fill the SE Director's position to send me an e-mail before March 31, 2022. This is a minimal time position, generally an online meeting once or twice a year that usually lasts about an hour. Maybe get some e-mails for an opinion, suggestion, or comment. Last year we had two Zoom meetings (each was 40 mins) and two e-mails. If you are interested, send me an e-mail at [sszabo1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sszabo1@cfl.rr.com). Special thanks to Nick for helping us out!

## PARKPEDITONS

With warmer weather comes more outdoor activities! I have found my "Parkpeditons" to be loads of fun—you can "fly solo," or have a group. Either way, it is a fun event. If you send me your outing information, I can send it out to the masses (within reason). Also don't forget to post when you go QRV/QRT on the spotting network ([www.qrpspots.com](http://www.qrpspots.com) is FB!).

## CONTEST TIME

Also, contest season is ready to peak with numerous QRP CW contests and other that include a category of "QRP." Check WA7BNM's Contest Calendar. Last year I finished 1st place in the Colorado State QSO Party for a "mixed mode QRP Power" entry Mostly QRP CW on a G5RV wire) without even trying!

## MARCH NAQCC ACTIVITIES:

-- **Regular Monthly Sprint** – Thursday, March 17th, 2022 0030-0230Z - (That's the evening of Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 for us here in North America!). <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>

-- **Monthly Challenge**—March 2022 Challenge – The Phillips Code Challenge— <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202203.html>

-- **Weekly Nets**—[http://naqcc.info/cw\\_nets.html](http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html)

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

**72/73!**

**Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913**  
**NAQCC President**



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



# NAQCC STATE QSO PARTY CHALLENGE

## FEBRUARY RESULTS

As expected, NAQCC Members dominated the QRP CW categories in the early QSO Parties. On our scoreboard we have a mix of serious contesters and first-timers.

QSO Party	Members	QSOs
British Columbia	7	39
Minnesota	7	141
North Carolina	11	416
South Carolina	9	159
Vermont	9	60

Member	Mult	QSOs	Score
Alan KR4AE, #5847	4	174	696
Don VE3DQN, #5846	5	69	345
Mike W7LG, #10391	5	66	330
John W2QL, #8914	5	66	330
Brent WT4U, #9019	5	56	280
Anthony K8ZT, #412	5	54	270
Dave AB9BZ, #9309	5	54	270
Will NQ2W, #4839	3	74	222
Don KI4MZC, #10922	3	42	126
Dale WC7S, #272	1	27	27
Mike KD9LTN, #10671	1	13	13

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Work the QSO parties, starting this weekend with BC, MN, and VT. Rules differ slightly by state, so check those. Work at least two stations in each state.
2. Post a summary of your results for each QSO Party to the appropriate page on <https://www.3830scores.com> The links to the submittal forms are in on the left side of the page in yellow.
3. Under "club" choose "other" and then type in NAQCC. If enough people do that we can get added to the pull-down menu. If you're already committed to another club, don't worry about it. It won't affect our friendly competition, but it's nice to get some visibility for the club.
4. Some QSO Parties lump CW together with digital or other modes. If that happens, send a note to QSO Party Challenge Manager

Don VE3DQN at [don@hekman.net](mailto:don@hekman.net) and let him know that you worked strictly CW, or if mixed, how many of your contacts were CW.

5. Check the NAQCC Newsletter each month to see how everyone is doing.

## NOTES

Individual QSO Parties will do their own official scoring based on uploaded Cabrillo logs. We're just looking at the summary you post to 3830scores.

To participate, you must enter as a QRP station. You don't have to limit yourself to CW operation, but only those QSOs will count toward the NAQCC QSO Party Challenge.

Questions? Read Don VE3DQN's [November article](#) or contact him at: [don@hekman.net](mailto:don@hekman.net)

## THE PARTIES HAVE JUST BEGUN

The QSO Party season is just getting started. The coming weekends are going to be busy with events.

## GRAB THAT MULTIPLIER!

Even if you can't spend much time on a given weekend, fire up the rig long enough to grab two quick QSOs to earn the multiplier.

Upcoming QSO Parties					
	Start		End		Links
	Date	Time	Date	Time	
Oklahoma	Mar 12	1500Z	Mar 13	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Mar 13	1500Z	Mar 13	2100Z	
Idaho	Mar 12	1900Z	Mar 13	1900Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Wisconsin	Mar 13	1800Z	Mar 14	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Virginia	Mar 19	1400Z	Mar 20	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Mar 20	1200Z	Mar 20	2400Z	
Louisiana	Apr 02	1400Z	Apr 03	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Mississippi	Apr 02	1400Z	Apr 03	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Missouri	Apr 02	1400Z	Apr 03	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Apr 03	1400Z	Apr 03	2000Z	



# WINTER FIELD DAY REPORT

BY MATTHEW N4DLA #8939

For the 2022 Winter Field Day, my area was blessed with temperate weather that convinced me to set up a portable station on a vacant hilltop lot in the same city about three miles from my home in Orinda, California. There was no vegetation tall enough to string a wire antenna from (and I do not have a portable mast) so I used WD4BUM Lakeview "hamstick" mobile vertical antennas on 15, 20 and 40 meters. I would not recommend these antennas for QRP use but for my WFD operation, they had to do.

I reduced the RF output on my Icom IC-706MKIIG down to level "L," which I measured at 2.5 watts. My station elevation was 1,200 feet with a 360

degree view so I hoped that would make up for the inefficiencies inherent in short vertical antennas designed for mobile use. I was not disappointed. I made 17 CW QSOs during about six hours of operation.

I had to leave the property at dusk, so all but two of those QSOs were made on 20 and 15 meters. My two 40-meter CW QSOs were both with WFD stations in Southern California during daylight hours. 15-meters sent my QRP CW signal the farthest, scoring QSOs with perennial Field Day club station KH6RS to the west in Maui and N1EP "down east" in Maine.



# A DAY OUT WITH THE ELECRAFT AX1 AND AX2 VERTICAL WHIP ANTENNAS

BY DAVID CORBIN, W0DCX #9611

I recently acquired the new Elecraft AX2 vertical whip antenna. I've owned the original model, the AX1, for several years now and have been quite pleased with its portability, ease of deployment and performance for POTA and other portable QRP operations. But the new design of the AX2 intrigued me. Did I need it? No. Did I want it? Yes. So, I bought it. After all, when has equipment redundancy ever stopped any self-respecting ham from acquiring new gear?

I finally had an opportunity to take the AX2 out for a spin. I was down in the Springfield, Missouri area for a few days and found myself out at Holland State Forest one cold January afternoon for a POTA (Parks On The Air) activation. I typically operate my POTA activations on 20m, perfect for the AX antennas since 20m is their default operating band. I began the activation using my old tried and true AX1 at 14.063 MHz with my usual four, 13-foot counterpoises. There is no cell phone signal at Holland State Forest, so I could not self-spot. I had to be found first. It took five minutes to receive a first reply to my CQs, and I gave the park number and a request to be spotted. Then things really picked up. I managed to rack up about 20 QSOs before switching out the AX1 for the new AX2 to see what would happen. Subsequently, I got about 20 additional QSOs, all in

about the same time span and with similar signal reports as with the AX1. The AX2 works well.

The one nice thing about the old AX1, and it's a big thing in my opinion, is the ability to easily use it on multiple bands. A small switch on the AX1 can take you from 20m to 17m and, with a good

antenna tuner such as I have in my KX2 transceiver, it can even be used on 15m with the switch in the 17m position. By adding the AXE1 40-Meter Extender, the AX1 can also function on 40m and 30m depending upon the position of the switch. I have used the AX1 only once on 40m with the Extender and a longer 33-foot counterpoise wire. It works well here, too.

There is no such band switch on the AX2. The AX2 is used either stand-alone on 20m or on 40m with the Extender

added. One advanced feature of the AX2, however, is that it allows the number of turns on the coil to be modified by the user for use on different bands. Adjustments for the extra bands of 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m and 6m are possible to achieve optimal matching for the band of interest. But this is for all practical purposes an irreversible modification of the antenna; coil turns are removed, and the wire is resoldered. The cool thing is that a ham, in theory, could have a stable full of AX2s, each modified for a different

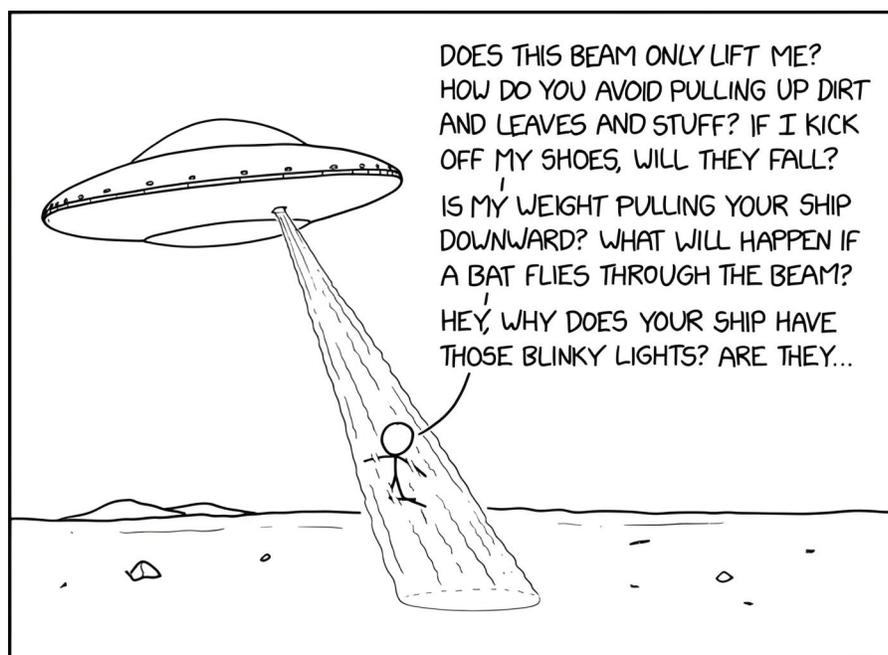


band, and then swap them as desired. I am sure the economic implications of this feature have not been lost on the accounting folks at Elecraft.

A few final notes about the AX2. It is smaller and appears to be more durably constructed than the AX1. Also, the male BNC connector is more securely integrated with the coil housing in the AX2. The AX1, when mounted to a female BNC jack such as is found on the AXT1 tripod adaptor that I use, is a bit wobbly in my experience. The AX2 provides for a steadier mount. This, and its much smaller size, make it far more suitable for Pedestrian Mobile operation with the antenna attached directly to the transceiver's antenna jack. I have also observed that the top of the housing of the AX1 can begin to become unscrewed during mounting and dismounting of the AXE1 Extender, requiring retightening. This is kind of troublesome and unnerving to deal with in the



field and does not inspire confidence in the AX1's durability. The AX2 housing is simpler and stronger, and the Extender fastens and unfastens without an issue. All-in-all, the AX2 antenna is a pleasure to use and seems to be a worthy successor to the original AX1 model.



MOMENTS LATER, THE ALIENS SET ME BACK DOWN AND LEFT.

# NAQCC SPRINTS

## MARCH SPRINT

Our Sprint this month will be on Thursday, March 17, 2022 0030-0230Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, March 16th in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202203.html>.

## RULES

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

## FEBRUARY SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202202.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: NQ2W

February Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	75	102	217	4/17
Participants	107	146	269	2/13
Total QSOs	942	1373	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	544	852	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	398	521	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	30	1	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	519	504	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	393	868	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	12.6	13.5	19.3	9/11

**SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY**

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	WS1K	W1VKE
W2	KA2KGP	W2SH	KN2G
W3	KC3MIO	AK3X	-
W4	KC5F	WG8Y	KY4ID
W5	N5GW	K5MBA	-
W6	W6STR	-	-
W7	N7KM	K9QEW	-
W8	W8GG	KI8JY	N8GZ
W9	WB9HFK	N8HWV	-
W0	KD0V	AA5LH	W0LMS
Canada	VE3IIM	VE2KZW	VA3NU
DX	-	-	-

**SWA BUG CATEGORY**

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1ND	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	K3WWP	NN3E	-
W4	KJ4R	K3RLL	AA2MX
W5	K5GQ	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	K9DRP	-	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	VE3HUR	-	-
DX	-	-	-

**SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY**

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	N1JI	-
W2	N2ESE	-	-
W3	AC5XK	-	-
W4	K4KBL	K2OID	N4MJ
W5	W5WIL	KA6J	KE5YUM
W6	-	-	-
W7	KF7Z	-	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	NF8M
W9	NN9K	AB9BZ	-
W0	N0TA	K9OSC	N8LA
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-
DX	DK1VD	-	-

**GAIN CATEGORY**

KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	-	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	NQ2W	-	-

**FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE**

Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	KY4ID	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	-	-	-

**PRIZE DRAWING WINNER**

N8LA

## SPRINT HONOR ROLL

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

Number of Sprints	Members
50+	WA1GWH KF7WNS WI5H WA2FBN VE3DQN KC7DM WB9HFK KB0ETU NQ2W AA0W WB1GYZ K2YGM AA7CU NN0SS KJ4R N7QR N8QY WY3H VE3GNU K6CSL W5UAA WK6L KC2EGL K2HT KE9DR AB8FJ WD4OHD K4ORD K5GQ NN9K K4KBL N1JI KB4QQJ KB9ILT K1IX W4HH
75+	NA4O KN1H K4NVJ N4MJ KQ1P N8LA VE3FUJ WD0K KD3CA K9EYT N8BB K9OSC K6MGO NF5U N8APO WB4OMM N2CN KB1M
100+	K1IEE WA8SAN WG8Y N0TA W4DUK K4KRW KD2MX WB8ENE AA9L AK3X NO2D KA9FQG N5GW
125+	K2CWM K4JPN N4FI KD0V KE5YUM N2ESE WX4RM
150+	W8GG W9CC N8XMS K4BAI KU4A NF8M K3RLL
175+	KA2KGP W2JEK W2SH
200+	K3WWP

### SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**W4HH** - My two QSOs is twice what I did last month!! Things are looking up!!! Hvy QSB, lots of sigs. CU next month.

**WB4OMM** - Really rough conditions here tonight, noisy and deep QSB. Nothing on 20M to start, 40M and 80M had some loooooong signals! Surprised to work UT and CO...and they both had good signals here. Worked newer member Jim KA6J #10990 in TX, and really new member Mike KY4ID #11080 in SC....welcome fellas, hope to see you again! Thanks to all you played! I quit after 90 mins, couldn't take the noise anymore! See you all next month. 72/73 Steve WB4OMM

**K4KBL** - What a great night !! Worked many new folks with many of the "usual suspects" Started on 40 then the bottom dropped out around 9:45 local. 80 put one with my all time high. Thanks to all and glad I got W8GG in there with his new call.

**KN1H** - Thanks for a very nice sprint. Don't know when I've heard so many 599 QRP stations! Worked many on both 40 and 80 and great to work VE3IIM for the first time! IC7300 and Nye Viking Master key

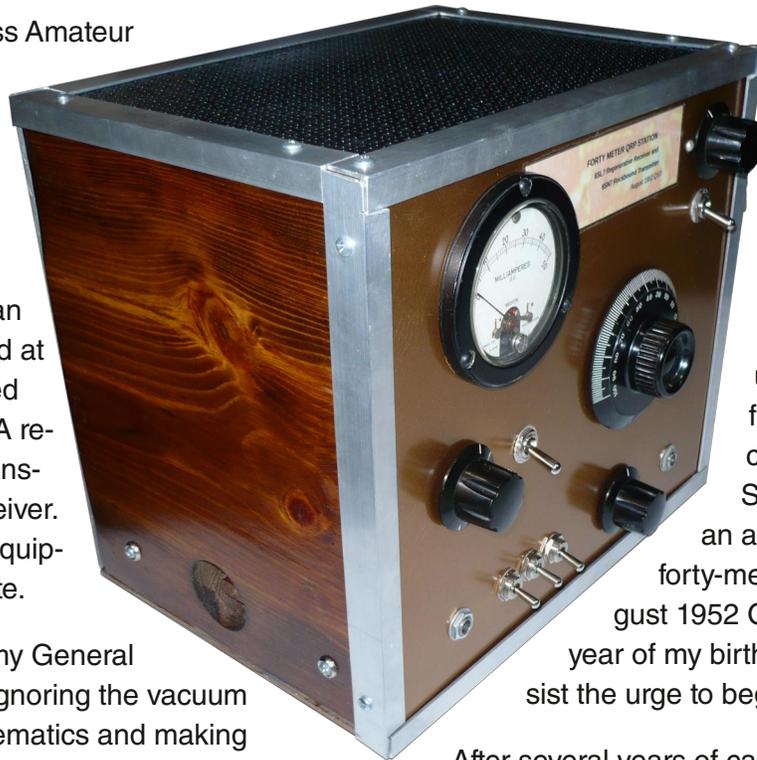
**KC3MIO** - I was idly tuning around on 20 meters and I heard N0TA calling CQ NA and then I realized that the sprint was tonight! I told my XYL, poured myself a martini and dove in. Band conditions were weird (I can't put my finger on it) but some of the signals were very strong. I really felt in the groove with my straight key - just digging tapping out the code. As usual, thanks to my contacts, thanks to the NAQCC and looking forward to next month's sprint.

# BUILDING A 'VINTAGE' FLEA-POWER PORTABLE CW STATION

BY HARRY KM3D #2449

I earned my Novice Class Amateur Radio license in 1969 while in high school, just as solid state devices began to be inserted into most commercial electronics. My first transmitter was an old Heathkit DX-20 found at a hamfest that was paired with a Lafayette HA-600A receiver—vacuum tube transmitter but solid state receiver. Since then most of my equipment has been solid state.

I confess that I passed my General exam in 1971 by totally ignoring the vacuum tube oscillators and schematics and making sure that I knew the other stuff well enough to pass the exam. I knew nothing about vacuum



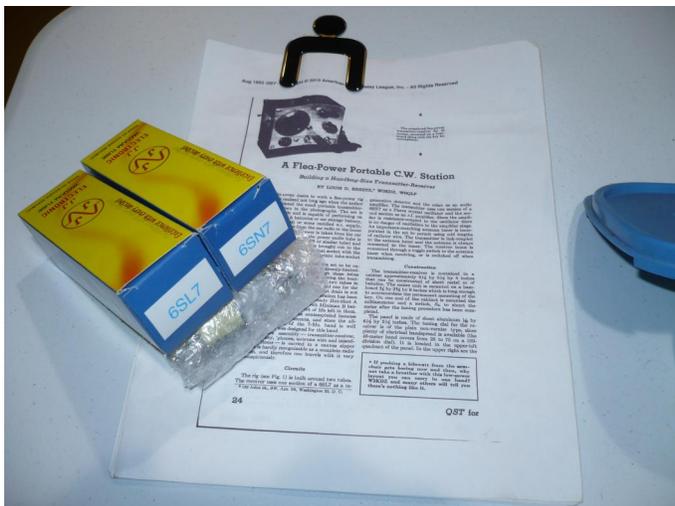
tubes other than that they generated heat.

As we moved into the 21st century, my radio shack began to sport some vintage radios. While cleaning up and making safe a five-tube AC/DC receiver, the Hallicrafters S-38c, I stumbled onto an article about a small forty-meter station in the August 1952 QST—the month and year of my birth, and I could not resist the urge to begin parts collecting.

After several years of casual parts collecting I finally found all of the original parts. I began to seriously consider construction after I retired in 2018. The COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020 provided me with an excellent opportunity to begin. I was not about to sit on my hands during this time.

The goal was not perfection. There is no such thing with regenerative receivers. My attempt was to build the radio the way a fifteen-year-old would have in the early 1950's; using mostly all hand tools.

It was quite the learning experience and it definitely lacks precision... but it does work!





A 6-foot by 18-inch piece of 1/8 inch raw aluminum was found by a friend in a scrap yard. It would become the front and rear panels. At the time I did not realize just how thick and heavy a 1/8 inch aluminum panel might be; almost too heavy for my project!



The chassis was a gift from Cam, KT3A (SK).  
Side panels cut from pine board.

After a trip to the Antique Radio Meet (held twice a year at Renningers Market in Kutztown, PA) I returned with a 50-milliamp meter and some nice vintage knobs. I used cardboard templates to figure out parts placement...



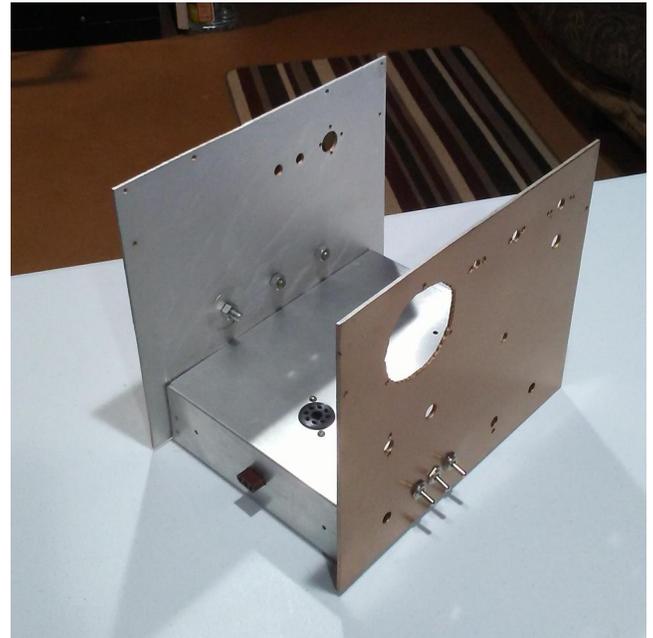
...and then spent time cutting the panel.

Intended placement from top to bottom: meter, then antenna tuner capacitors and receiver trim cap with T/R switch below that. Amplifier plate capacitor under the meter, switch to disable the meter and receiver main tuning knob. Below that the transmitter key, B+ and filament switches, receive regeneration control, and headphone jack.



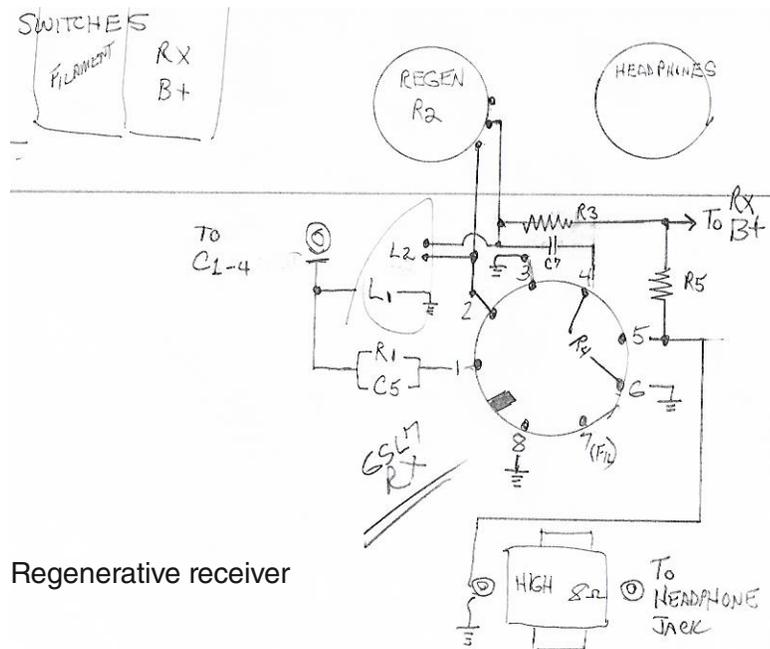
I tried to cut three holes in the rear panel with the intent to cover with screen for cooling, but I broke the shaft of my large chassis punch so I then filled the cut holes with hardware.

As construction developed, I also realized that the antenna tuner was not going to do well inside the radio, so the capacitor mounting holes on the front panel and the end-fed posts on the rear panel were filled with hot glue then sanded flush.



I did build a transmitting low-pass filter that might be fastened to the rear panel to go before any outboard antenna tuner.

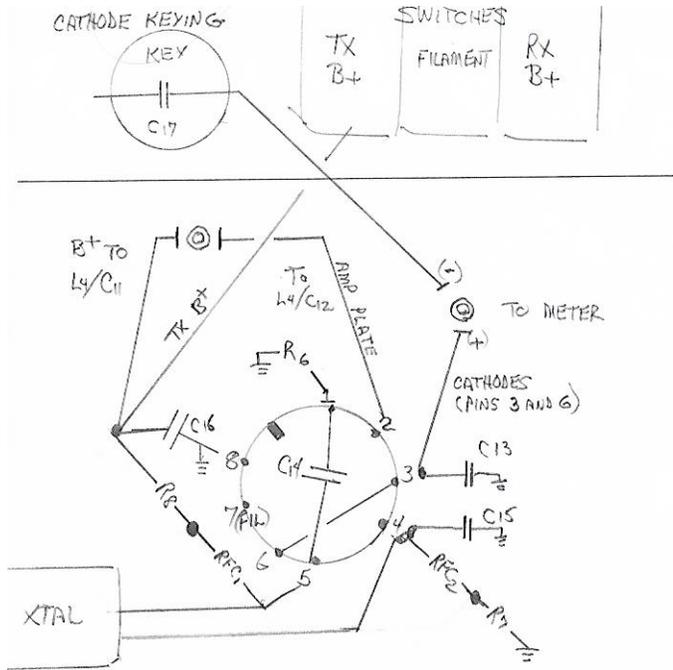
Remember, I'm not chasing perfection! Now it was time to address component layout under the chassis. I drew by hand a pictogram for the receiver, adding an audio output transformer to isolate the B+ voltage from audio output and to use low impedance phones:



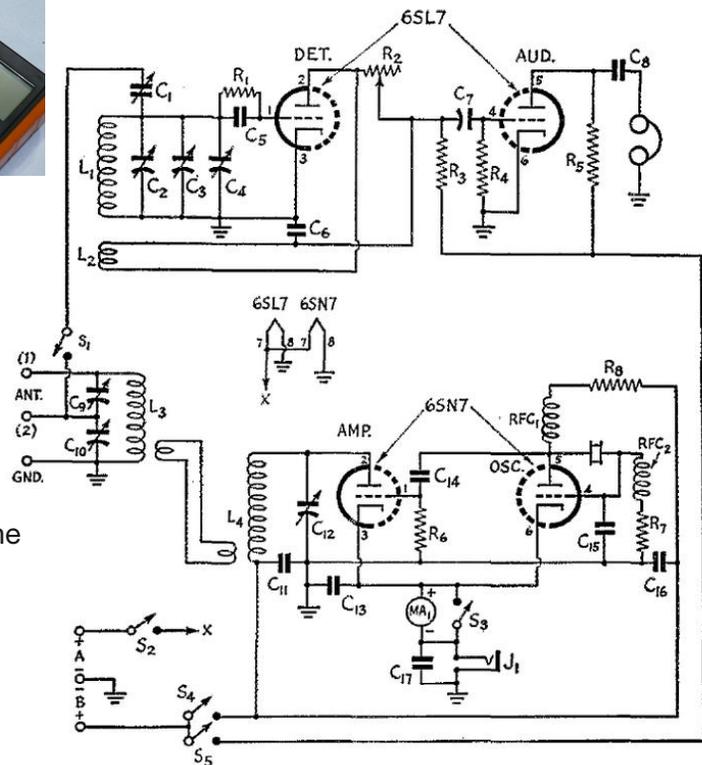
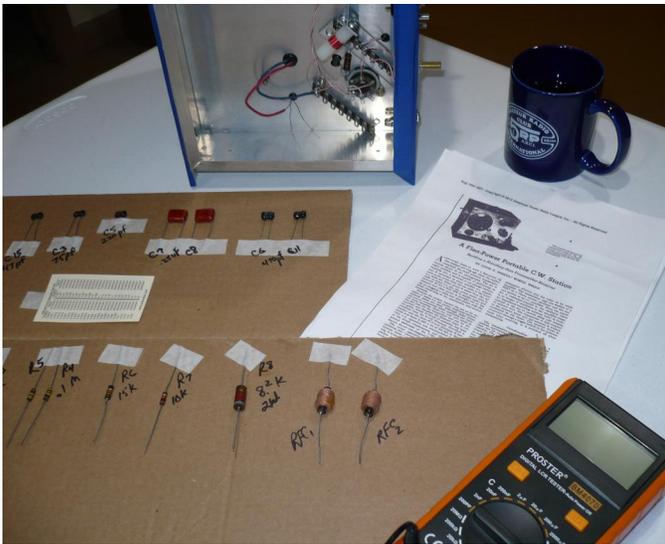
I did the same for the transmitter.

Unmarked, but added, is a .001uF 500v capacitor between the 6SN7 pin 5 and the crystal to keep the DC voltage off of the crystal.

The waveform of the transmitted signal may be improved by increasing the value of R7 which is between the oscillator grid and ground. The value of 10K ohms is the minimum recommended. Oscillation may not occur with lower values.



Component installation begins!



Here is the original schematic:

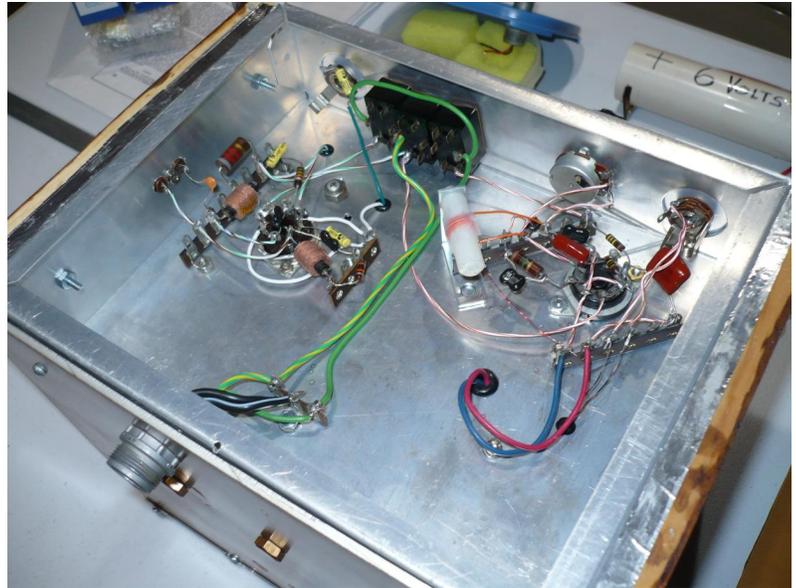
The output link of the transmitter (the secondary on L4) is connected directly to the SO239 UHF connector on the rear panel (no antenna tuner).

Switch S1 disconnects the receiver from the antenna during transmit periods.

Wiring on the underside of the chassis.

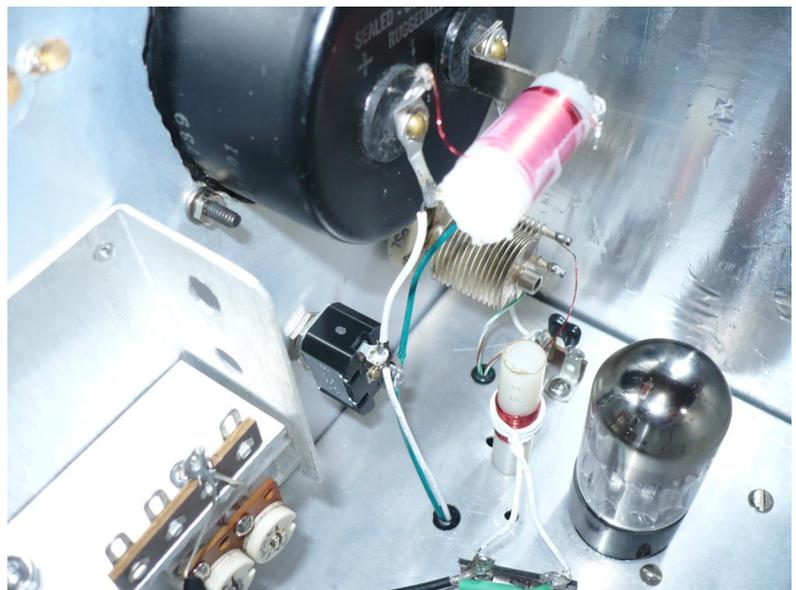
The transmitter is on the left and the receiver on the right.

Note the capacitor added to the transmitters crystal socket.



This is the upper side of the chassis on the transmitter side. The coil on the rear of the meter is a shunt made from #30 enameled wire. It was discovered that the marked 50 ma meter had an actual full scale value of only 1 ma.

The trimmers in the lower left of the picture are used to set the receiver in the 40-meter band.



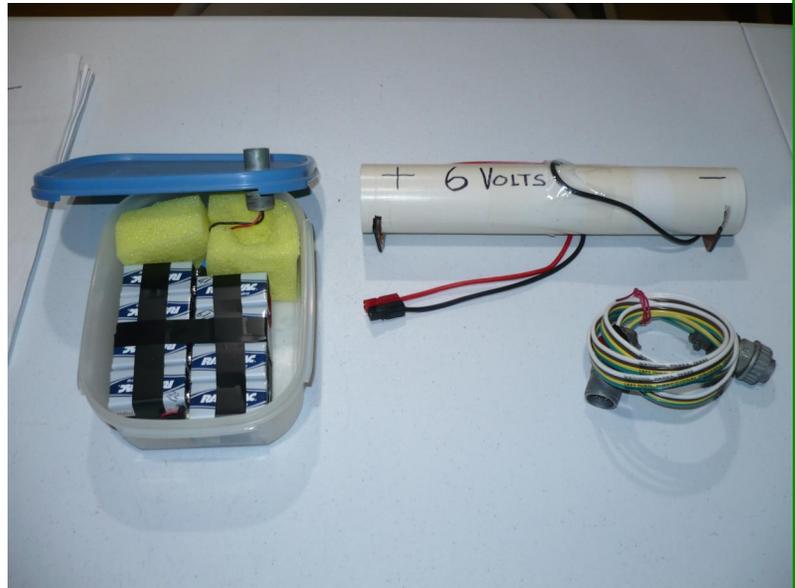
The inside of the two wooden side panels is covered with aluminum foil to provide RF shielding



Power is provided from a pair of battery packs. The filament supply is made of 'D' cells in a 1-1/2" PVC pipe with PC board end caps inserted into slots in the pipe. The 175-volt B+ supply is made of 9-volt transistor radio batteries connected in series.

The 9-volt transistor radio batteries were harvested after having served for a year in our home's smoke detectors.

The next project is a proper power supply to replace the batteries.



The original article states the transmitters power output to be about 1.5 watts on 40 meters. My measured output is about 1 watt with B+ voltage of about 175 volts. The receiver covers the entire 40 meter band from about 6.9 MHz up through 7.6 MHz and can copy both CW and LSB signals clearly, along with a few commercial shortwave AM stations.

I have breadboarded a power supply for 250 volt B+ for the transmitter and regulated 150 volts for the receiver along with the six volt filament voltage and I am currently working on putting that on a proper chassis and enclosure. Transmitter output should be better with a proper power supply and the 6SN7 can handle up to 450 volts B+.



The 40 Meter QRP Station of 1952



The original article states that the receiver can hear the transmitter crystal oscillate with the transmitter turned off, excited by the regeneration energy in the receiver. This has not been experienced yet either and some form of sidetone and frequency finding in the receiver must be accomplished.

Yes, this is yet a work in progress! I have recently found a 6AH6 tube circuit for QSK T/R control. I have the vacuum tube and the power supply can handle the requirements.

73, Harry KM3D



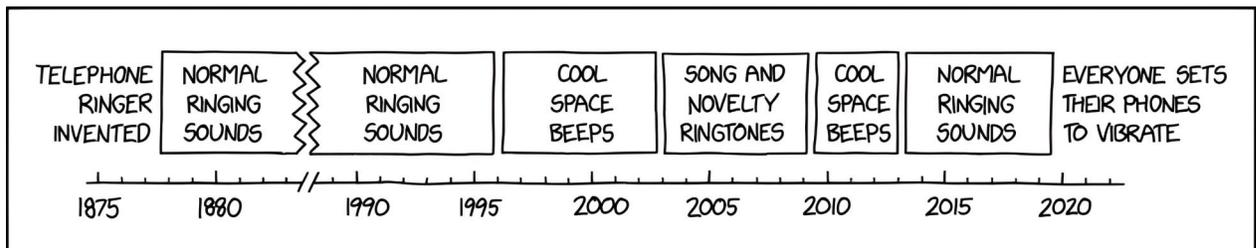
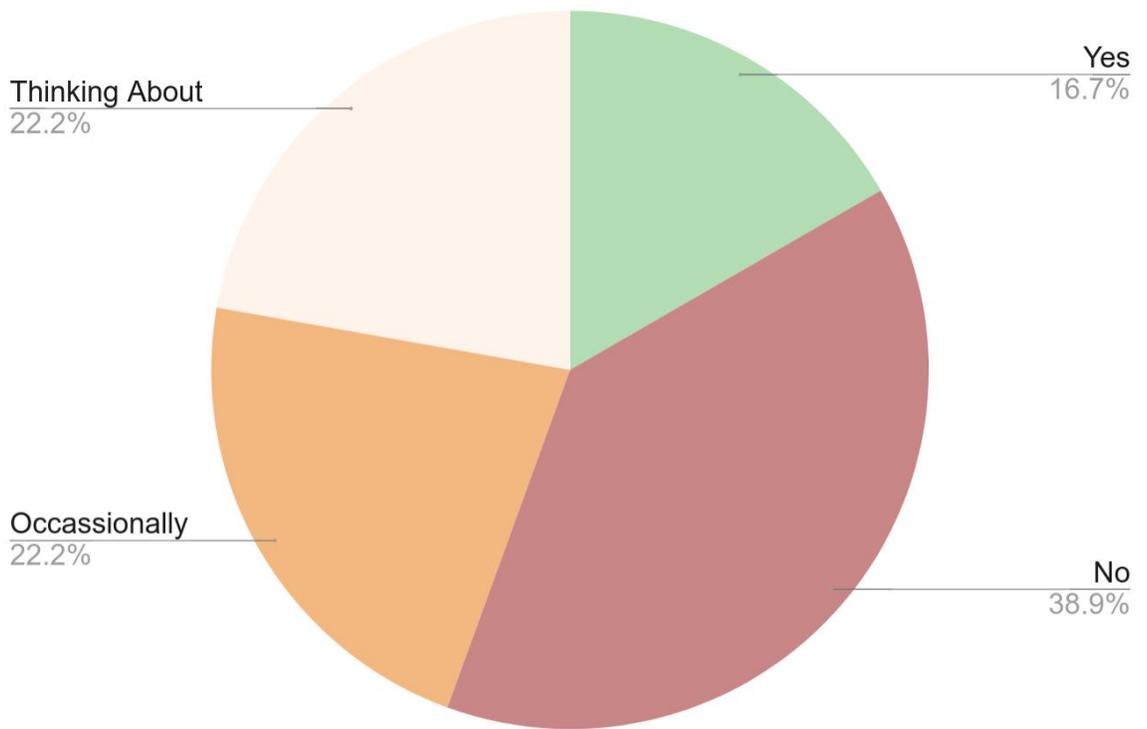
# MEMBER POLL

## MARCH POLL

What are your Spring plans for QRP Operations?  
Let us know at [http://naqcc.info/poll\\_new.html](http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html)

## FEBRUARY POLL

*Do you submit your articles, projects, and updates to the NAQCC Newsletter?*



AFTER 140 YEARS, HUMANITY IS FINALLY ON THE VERGE OF WINNING THE WAR AGAINST RINGTONES.

# 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 AWARDS:

### 30-30

The 30-30 Award is presented as an alternative to the QSO-A-Day Award for those who for one reason or other just can't get on the air each and every day even for such a short period as a month. Note the new DX endorsement.

#### Time Frame For Qualifying QSO's:

January 1, 2006 0000Z through the present

#### Basic Award Premise:

Make 30 QSO's on 30 meters during a calendar month.

#### Categories:

- A - Single Month
- B - Three Months (30-30 Magnum)

#### QSOs:

Rag chew and DX QSO's are acceptable. Just sitting on the County Hunters Net frequency and racking up QSO's is not permissible. However, you may count a maximum of two QSO's from the CHN each month.

#### Other:

You can earn as many as 12 Single Month awards per year or as many as 4 30-30 Magnum awards per year. The months for the Magnums do not have to be consecutive. Once a month is used for a Magnum, that month cannot be used again for a future Magnum. That is if you use Jan-Feb-Apr for a Magnum, you can't use Jan, Feb, or Apr for any future Magnums.

If you earn a 30-30 for a single month and get a certificate, you may use that month toward one Magnum award as well.

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

### 30-30 Award - 1 Month

Nr	Call	Month	Date
0060	PA9CW	Feb 2022	02/21/22 all DX Contacts
0015	PA9CW	Nov, Dec, Jan 2021/2	02/05/22 (MAGNUM - 3 months)

### 1000 MPW

Nr	Call	Stn worked	-	MPW	-	Award Date	-	Notes & Antenna
0582	K7TRT	NU1AW/5	-	2,431	-	02/15/22	-	EF wire @40'
0582	VK5GG	VK3DPH	-	4,110	-	02/14/22	-	W3EDP EF wire



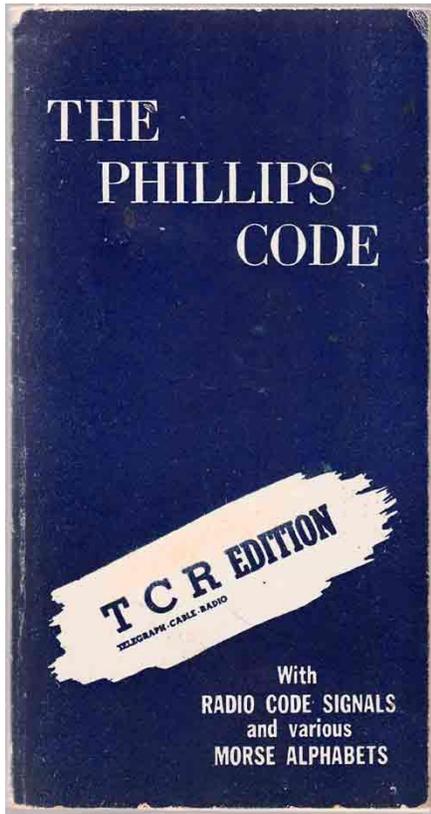
Awards earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual anniversary drawings.



# NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

## THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE:



Back in the day, when telegraphy was king, news, information and messages were relayed around the country by good old morse code.

As we all know, time is money, so rapid information transfer was a big concern. Enter Walter P. Phillips

He was born in 1846 and began a career in communications as a messenger for the American Telegraph Co. in Providence, RI. He progressed to the position of report operator, in which he copied dispatches from the Associated Press. Later joining the AP, he became their Washington bureau manager. He was the driving force behind the AP's leased press wire service which linked New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington and made AP the fastest service of the day.

In 1879 the first edition of his code for standard telegraphic abbreviations was published. Sure we all know time savers like 73, 88 and the Q signals, but Walter took it to another level entirely. Described as "Steno-Telegraphy arranged for use in wire and radio communication," his book enabled you to abbreviate complete texts for transmission

and ensure that the received message could be correctly translated back into everyday language. Some editions also included "Q," "Z" and other codes commonly used at the time. The book was pocket size, making it handy to carry around for quick reference. The terms POTUS and SCOTUS made their first appearance in his code system books.

Here is an example of a coded text actually sent in 1910: "T TRL O HKT FT MU O SW ON MU ROOF GARDEN, NW IN PG ..." Unfortunately, the coded text was published by the Kansas City Star newspaper exactly as received. Had it been transcribed, the story would have read: "The trial of Harry K Thaw for the murder of Stanford White on the Madison Square Roof Garden, now in progress ..."

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Dot Contacts  
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- Bronze bearing screws.
- Bronze alloy pigtail.
- Bakelite insulation throughout.
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No. S-100 at \$1.65 net.

Beautiful tear-drop streamlined base with heavy bluish tinged chrome. All parts chromed. Finely balanced key lever. 3/16" contacts, designed expressly for these keys. These pretty Streamkeys have a "feel" that makes good Morse easy for any operator.

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Designed to conform with United States Navy specifications for "speed key." It is just what its name implies! A fine Professional Operator's model Mac Key. Base 3 1/2" x 6 1/2" x 3/4" thickness. Beautifully black wrinkled over Parkerized base casting. Carefully designed super-structure, similarly finished. Chromed parts, circuit closer, bakelite insulation, 3/16" silver contacts. A key that will thrill any radio or telegraph operator.

**AMATEUR MODEL**, rich black polystyrene base, same lever, and large contacts, circuit closing switch, bronze bearing screws. A beautiful and superbly balanced key at an absurdly low price because of enormous volume. CATALOG No. S-100

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**T.R. McElroy**

82 Brookline Ave., Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

**WORDS**

- WALTER P PHILLIPS
- AP REPORT OPERATOR
- 1879 FIRST EDITION
- STENO TELEGRAPHY
- KANSAS CITY STAR PAPER
- POTUS

**CHALLENGE TRACKER:**

1	7	8	9	A	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	W	Y	

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. You can download a printable version of this month's tracker at: [http://naqcc.info/challenge\\_tracker.pdf](http://naqcc.info/challenge_tracker.pdf)

**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

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](http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html)

## NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

April's Bell Casting Challenge will break the mold.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202203.html>

## LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our Night Witches Challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202202.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](http://naqcc.info/challenges_sdchedule.html).

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

### CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**VE3DQN - M0KTZ:** Just joined NAQCC and this is my first Challenge submission. It's good fun and the web app is super-easy to use. TNX ES HPE CU AGN SN

**W1ND -** For some reason, I needed G's, H's, and I's to finish which helped with some decent DX into the EU again this month.

**NX8Y -** Still needed another "h". Checked 40M before hittin sack and HA8RM was 599+ in Central Oh. Got him with 5w and wire. He turned down to 3w and was still good copy here. Went to bed with smile on my face!

**N8RVE -** My 3rd challenge and I think I am addicted. Very educational facts and more proof that qrp is fun. 72 N8RVE

**ON7DQ -** Most difficult challenge for me so far. I was desperate to find one last 'V', so I was very happy to work HA0VI in the end! 73 de Luc



# 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](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
Wyoming Daily QRS 80 Meter Net (WY80)	Daily 6:30 AM MST	Daily 1330 Z	3565 kHz	Steve KE7UUJ (WY)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7pm CST	Tuesday 0100 Z	7066 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 CST	Tuesday 0130 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 5 PM PST	Friday 0100 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.

**Note:** Net time changes associated with the change to Daylight Saving Time (DST) on March 13 will be posted online. Please check [http://naqcc.info/cw\\_nets.html](http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html)

## NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

### NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0130 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas) — Assisted by Dave AB9BZ

Feb 07 – No Net

Feb 14 – No Net

Feb 21 – QNI (4) W0CC, WK0B, W8OK, W8OSH

Initially, the band was quiet, then QSB during QSO with WK0B, Greg, then good signals from W8OK, Robert and W8OSH, John. Tried, but could not hear Dave, AB9BZ.

Feb 28 – No Net

## NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC,  
on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)  
Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

Feb 01 – QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA

Just me and Andy last night but good signals 599/599 and we had a good chat. Winter field day and slowing bugs down.

Feb 08 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N4NN

Good band last night. Solid copy and most heard each other as well. N4NN reports that his wife got covid and he did not, and she is recovering well. Great to hear that Allen for sure. Good WX in TX and AR and rain in GA reported tonight.

Feb 15 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, AC5EH

Good net tonight. Andy was 599 and all is well in Russellville and had Dwain for the first time on the net from Jonesboro, AR. He was 589 and indicates he will be back.

Feb 22 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, KE5YUM, N4NN

Lots of 2's in that date, HI HI. Good conditions but QRN picked up towards the end. All stations pretty good copy. Summer coming (I hope) so QRN will be picking up, I guess.n during the week. # after call = number of check-ins that week.)

---

## NAQCC PACIFIC NORTHWEST QRS 80 METER NET (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 5:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0100 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

Feb 04 – QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, W70S, KI7SJE, K7JUV, W7ANM, N7TB, WB7WHG, AD7BP

Feb 11 – QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, KI7SJE, K7JUV, W7ANM, N0DA, AD7BP

Feb 18 – QNI (3) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, WB7WHG

Feb 25 – QNI (6) NCS WB7WHG, KJ7KDB, WB4SPB, KI7SJE, K7JUV, AD7BP

---

## NAQCC WYOMING DAILY QRS 80 METER NET (WY80)

Daily at 6:30 AM MST which is 13:30 UTC, on 3565 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Steve KE7UUJ (Wyoming)

(Listing of stations checking in during the week. # after call = number of check-ins that week.)

Week of Jan 30 – NCS KE7UUJ (7), WB7GR (5), WB7S (2), WC7S (5), AC7AF (2), WA7JUW (1)

Week of Feb 06 – NCS KE7UUJ (7), K7TRT (6), WB7GR (4), WB7S (5), WC7S (5), K0AMY (1)

Week of Feb 13 – NCS KE7UUJ (7), K7TRT (6), WB7GR (4), WB7S (4), WC7S (3), K7CLA (1)

Week of Feb 20 – NCS KE7UUJ (6), K7TRT (4), WB7GR (3), WB7S (5), WC7S (4), N7OOS (2)



# NAQCC CHAPTERS

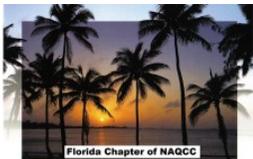
The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, Florida, and Green Swamp WCF—but we would be more than happy to expand on that list. Chapters are more or less independent local gatherings organized by NAQCC members 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 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>.

On Friday, February 18, 2022 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC arrived at another one of our favorite parks. We held our latest “Parkpedition” at Gemini Springs Park in DeBary, Florida.

Gemini Springs is 212 acres and was purchased in 1994 through the efforts of Volusia County, the Trust for Public Lands, the St. Johns River Waste Management District and the Florida Communities Trust. Approximately 6.5



million gallons of sparkling fresh water bubble up each day from the two springs. Gemini Springs is between the town of Enterprise, which was a busy center of commerce and government in the early days of the Florida frontier, and the city of DeBary. The land passed between several hands before it was purchased by its last private owners in 1969, Sandra and Charles Gray.

We arrived between 9:30am and 10:00am to clear skies and a nice breeze. It was 73 degrees when we arrived.

This trip we had a total of 2 members/operators in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5274 and Steve K8SR #10527.



### STEVE WB4OMM #5913

Steve's Elecraft KX-3 and a ground mounted Hamstick vertical on 20M. Steve was able to work 4 members and 2 non member for a whopping 6 contacts.

K2CWM NJ #3457, KB1M NH #8058, WA8SAN OH #792, WA9FZP WI #6061 and non members WC1N MA and NJ8L OH.



### STEVE K8SR #10527

Steve used an Elecraft K1 running 5W to a 40M and then a 20M ground mounted HamStick. Steve work 2 non members.

W4WYI GA (40M) and WA8HAN OH (20M)



## 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.

### 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>.

### 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.

### 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/>.

## 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/>.

## NAQCC DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER

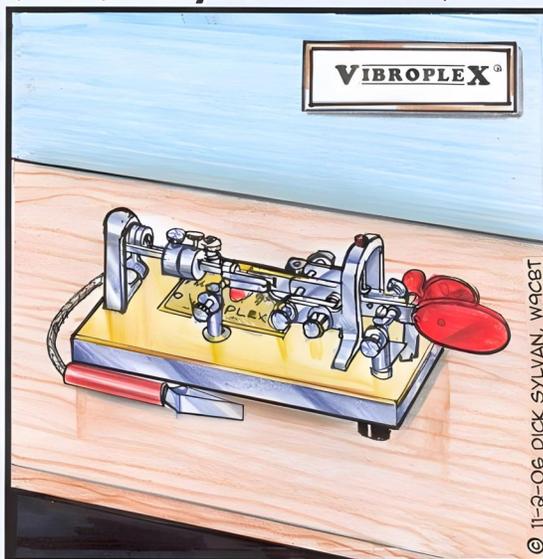


Items in this section are from the Downeast Maine Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Jeff, KA1DBE.

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



### Ham History BY DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



REMEMBER THE VIBROPLEX SUPER DELUXE PRESENTATION BUG WITH A GOLD PLATED BASE TOP? IT ONLY COST \$27.50 BACK IN 1950. (NOW IT COSTS ABOUT \$275.99)

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

# NAQCC PRIZE SPONSORS



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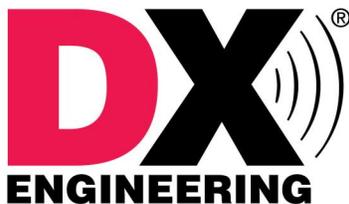

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# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## 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

