

RAINBOW CANYONS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
CEDAR CITY, UTAH 84720

May

2005

April Meeting

ECHOLINK & IRLP

for more help on Internet

<http://www.echolink.org>

<http://www.irlp.net>

or

contact Ken W7KBM for

a personal tour. Kal

kb7fwr came by and was

up and on the next day.



Yagi antenna at Frisco pointed at Salt Lake.

These type of antennas stand ice ,snow and wind

Are you prepared to be called out?

Do you have a grab and go radio kit ready to go?

Are your batteries charged and do you know how

to change settings on your radio? Be Prepared.

May Meeting

Tuesday May10th at 7:30

VisitorsCenter on Main S

Come join in with us and

enjoy old and new ham

friends plus new ideas

regarding our hobby.

For Sale

HF Radio in good shap

with Mars freq. installe

For more info call:

Gloria Darley N6TWR

at 865-1898

Coming Ham Events

Scout Expo Saturday May 7 from 8 to 12 soccer field North of old Walmart

Tuesday May 10 RCARC Club meeting 7:30 pm at Visitors Center on Main St.

June 11 to June 25 is Summer Games. We could have many opportunities to work many

events in these games, so lets be prepared.

June 25& 26 is field day and Jon NR7T is in charge of this event and will need help.

More on the later events as they get closer.

We are also on standby with the county in case we get flood waters, so get out your

communications gear and exercise them to be sure they are up to par.



Amateur Electronic Supply

This is a great time to purchase a 2 meter radio from them. A sale is on and you can

purchase one for \$100.00 or less and get a great mobil or handheld.

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Please send me info for the newsletter. It is your letter and I would like to hear from you

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

1/3 of the year has already passed by. Can you believe it? Soon it will be time to mow lawns, weed gardens, plan our vacations and get ready for school to start! Well, maybe not quite the latter, none the less, time is quickly passing by.

With May approaching comes multiple opportunities to use our radio gear. Charlie Morris, the Iron County Emergency Services Director, has informed me that we (members of the RCARC) may very well be called upon to watch and report stream flow or other problems in low lying areas. Because "high water" usually occurs at night we may be calling upon you at a very late or early hour, whichever the case may be. That callout may very well test our resolve to serve the public using Amateur radio.

Charlie also informed me that the EOC will initially be located at the Iron County Sheriff's complex, on north main street. In the event 2 or more agencies becoming "overwhelmed" he may authorize the EOC to be "activated" Along with that activation, RCARC may or may not be called out. It all depends upon need. In the event we are activated, someone will be assigned to the radio provided at the EOC. The remainder of those called out will man whatever post Charlie assigns us to. Are we ready? 72 hour kits? Grab and go kits?

Along with May comes the Scout Expo. Bill Rankin, WA0YPL, has accepted the challenge to chair that operation. Hopefully, by the time you read this, you have been contacted to help. Not everyone needs to be there but a half dozen enthusiastic hams would be appreciated.

In May our thoughts should begin to turn toward "Field Day", the last weekend in June. Jon Rice, NR7T, has accepted to chair the committee which will plan and provide the opportunity for anyone wishing to experience HF portable set up and contesting. Because of work schedule Jon will be limited on his involvement on Saturday. He will definitely need your support if RCARC is to perform as well as it did last year. Please say "yes" when he asks for your help. Lets make this a fun event for all!

On Saturday, April 23rd, Russ Chaffee, N7BO, held a test which saw 4 individuals try for their Technician License. 3 were successful! I do not have their names but all were invited to attend our club meetings. We hope to see some new faces there! Thank you Russ, Brad and Dick, for your time and effort.

Our nightly 2 meter nets are doing well. Some nights very few show up and on other nights we have quite a turn out. If you are not a regular on 2 meters, avail yourself at 9pm. That hour was designed for you so you could relax a little from a hard day and enjoy a conversation with a friendly group before retiring for the night. See (hear?) you on the net!

As always, be *Radio Active!*

Low-Power Contesting; QRP Rigs and Antennas

Once again our column is overflowing with tidbits of good news and helpful notes for all QRPers—especially newcomers—and we begin with a good horizon-expanding question for all to ponder:

Have you ever considered operating QRP in a major contest such as the CQ World-Wide DX Contest, not necessarily to compete or win, but just to prove you can really work the world while running only 5 watts? You will not get a reply to every call and you may get walked over by the big guns, but when you do get through and make a special contact, it is a big-time achievement, especially when the contact is exotic DX. Simply stated, there is nothing comparable to QRP DXing.

How to do it? When? As I explain in this month's "World of Ideas" column elsewhere in this issue of CQ, signal paths to numerous DX areas worldwide generally peak at around dusk on most of our HF bands—and there is a dusk every day. Be there, on the air, operate skillfully, keep a positive attitude, and you will reel in the QSOs!

What kind of DXing results can you expect with very low power? That will vary with the day and band, etc., but as an example, during the last DX contest I had contacts with 5U7, JA, VK, IØ, HK, and KP4 (that's Worked All Continents!) in less than an hour while using 5 watts and a vertical antenna with its base only 5 feet above ground. You can probably do even better. Try it and see!

New QRP Club

From Larry Makoski, W2LJ, comes word of a new and rapidly growing group called the NAQCC, or North American QRP CW Club, and everyone is invited to join (fig. 1). This club, incidentally, is not affiliated with the recently formed American QRP Club, which evolved from the merging of NorCal and the New Jersey QRP Club. NAQCC presently has no membership fees and a simple mission/philosophy of just having fun operating QRP with simple wire antennas. Supporting that fact, they have held several Sprint-type contests and are presently sponsoring a unique "QSO-A-Day" award (fig. 2) you can earn by making only one contact per day during any four-month period of 2005. More details on NAQCC and its events are posted at <www.qsl.net/kb3lfc>. Check it out!

I recall another QRP club that started out small and simple with only a brief magazine announcement like this during the early '60s—the QRP ARCI. I joined as member #1289. Today membership is over 11,000. It is possible NAQCC will do as well.

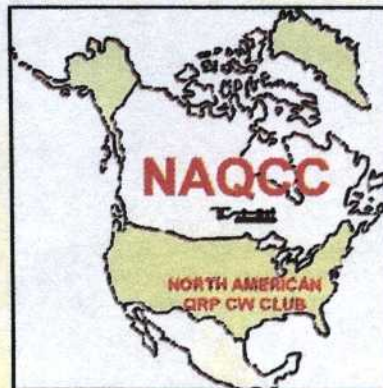


Fig. 1—Logo of the recently formed North American QRP CW Club discussed in text.

MFJ 90s Revisited

In our continuing quest to bring newcomers up to speed, our last few columns revisited several of today's popular QRP rigs from Yaesu, ICOM, Elecraft, etc. This month we cover three of the more well-known and economically priced transceivers in QRP circles: MFJ's 90-series of monobanders. These mini-rigs have been around for several years (time proven, you might say). They work well, recently have been upgraded for even better performance, and are sold fully assembled and ready for operation.

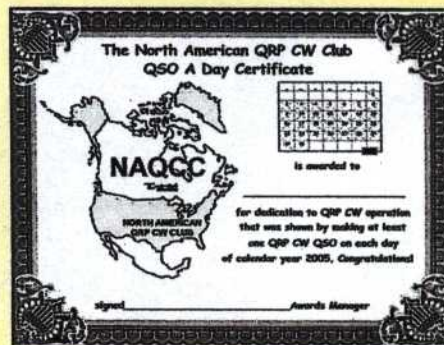


Fig. 2—The new NAQCC offers this neat QSO-A-Day certificate as encouragement to get on the air and have fun with low power and simple antennas. It is available for making one QSO a day during any four months of 2005 (approximately 120 QSOs). Details at <www.qsl.net/kb3lfc>.

Q SIGNALS and RST ?

The first set of jargon all hams should know is a group of International Q Signals used on CW and sometimes on phone bands too. There is no question about the meaning of any Q signal, everyone in the ham world will understand what you are talking about. No matter what language they speak. If you are doing any distant dx contacts it is possible that many of your CW and some of your phone conversations could take place in using mostly Q signals. After saying that we have to remember that too much of a good thing turns out to be a bad thing. But if you do it on a repeater or overdo it hams on the radio may not understand you. Even worse people will think you are too wierd to talk to. Hi. Use plain language whenever possible., and save the Q signals for DX pileups and contests.

RST stands for Readability, Strength, Tone in CW operation. An easy readable ,strong signal with a good cw note or tone would be 559.

Readability

- 1 Unreadable
- 2 Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable
- 3 Readable with considerable difficulty
- 4 Readable with practically no difficulty
- 5 Perfectly readable

Signal Strength

- 1 Faint signals, barely perceptible
- 2 Very weak signals
- 3 Weak signals
- 4 Fair signals
- 5 Fairly good signals
- 6 Good signals
- 7 Moderately strong signals
- 8 Strong signals
- 9 Extremely strong signals

Tone

- 1 Sixty Hz AC or less, very rough and broad
- 2 Very rough AC, very harsh and broad
- 3 Rough AC tone, rectified but not filtered
- 4 Rough note, some trace of filtering
- 5 Filtered rectified AC, but strongly ripple-modulated
- 6 Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation
- 7 Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
- 8 Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation
- 9 Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind

If the signal sounds "rock steady" (under crystal control), add the letter X to the RST report. If there is a chirp, the letter C may be added. Similarly for a click, add K. The RST system is used on both CW and voice. (Tone is deleted when reporting voice.)

- | | |
|------------|--|
| QRA | What is the name of your station? |
| QRG | What is my exact frequency? |
| QRH | Does my frequency vary? |
| QRI | How is my tone? (1-3) |
| QRK | What is my signal intelligibility? (1-5) |
| QRL | Are you busy? |
| QRM | Is my transmission being interfered with? |
| QRN | Are you troubled by static? |
| QRO | Shall I increase transmitter power? |
| QRP | Shall I decrease transmitter power? |
| QRQ | Shall I send faster? |
| QRS | Shall I send slower? |
| QRT | Shall I stop sending? |
| QRU | Have you anything for me? (Answer in negative) |
| QRV | Are you ready? |
| QRW | Shall I tell _____ you're calling him? |
| QRX | When will you call again? |
| QRZ | Who is calling me? |
| QSA | What is my signal strength? (1-5) |
| QSB | Are my signals fading? |
| QSD | Is my keying defective? |
| QSG | Shall I send _____ messages at a time? |
| QSK | Can you work break-in? |
| QSL | Can you acknowledge receipt? |
| QSM | Shall I repeat the last message sent? |
| QSO | Can you communicate with _____ direct? |
| QSP | Will you relay to _____? |
| QSV | Shall I send a series of Vs? |
| QSW | Will you transmit on _____? |
| QSX | Will you listen for _____ on _____? |
| QSY | Shall I change frequency? |
| QSZ | Shall I send each word/group more than once? (Answer, send twice or _____) |
| QTA | Shall I cancel number _____? |
| QTB | Do you agree with my word count? (Answer negative) |
| QTC | How many messages have you to send? |
| QTH | What is your location? |
| QTR | What is your time? |
| QTV | Shall I stand guard for you _____? |
| QTX | Will you keep your station open for further communication with me? |
| QUA | Have you news of _____? |