

NAQP Multioperator, Two Transmitter Field Day Style

When the call came from the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) leadership for operators to participate in the North American QSO Party CW and SSB, I suggested to Rob, N3HU, and Barry, K3NDM, that we try to operate Field Day style from my QTH as NA3DX¹. My residence is not really set up for Multioperator, Two Transmitter (M2) operation, but I thought it we could use Rob's RV for the shack and tap into my antennas. The goal was to give the PVRC some points, hone our multioperator skills, test my Single-Operator DXing station in an M2 operating environment, and have social time with cooking out and cool beverages.

NAQP CW M2

Because many of my antennas are on remote switches and connect to static arrestors, it was fairly easy to disconnect them. The only antenna we needed to raise was the 40 meter V beam, which we did using a halun up into my pin oak tree. We then put out two 15 foot guyed end supports in the neighbor's cornfield.

We used VA2SQ's *Win4K3* suite with com0com drivers to integrate *N1MM+*, *CWSkimmer* for local CW spots, and the rig's band scope display. We did *not* connect to the Internet for spots. Most of the setup was done Friday. The only thing I could not get working was a remote serial controller to the rotor controller. So we just pointed the Navassa 5 to the west.

In addition to Rob and Barry, operators

for the CW event included Bill, AB3TM, and me. Bill and I were able to get some CW runs going, while Barry and Rob mostly operated S&P during their rotations.

Everything was going well until later in the evening, when it seemed that gremlins were messing either with our coax or with my K3. We tested and swapped the coax, but that made little difference. I thought it may be a tuner failure, so I hustled up an external tuner, and we were back on the air on 80 and 160. My K3 *still* was not acting right, but we were making contacts again. Upon later inspection, it seems a toroid came loose on my K3's synthesizer board, affecting the bands from 40 down to 160. That's been fixed.

The largest portion of our contacts occurred when we were using the Navassa 5 on 20 and the V beam on 40. We occasionally used the 40 meter loop to work north and south.

While our modest group had a so-so CW score, we were confident that our score and multiop format would help the PVRC in the NAQP challenge.

NAQP SSB M2

After having had so much fun for the CW contest, I pitched to the team that we give M2 another go for NAQP SSB. The Friday before, I suggested to Rob and Barry that we raise another AB-577 aluminum tower and put my spare Mosley TA-33 on top. I figured it would work well on 10 and 15, and we could manually rotate it south later

to help the 20 meter station pick up some north-south multipliers. We had fallen short on 15 and 10 meter multipliers during the CW weekend, so I was hoping the new antenna arrangement would help our score.

Once again we set up on Friday. Given that most of our software was up to date, the only thing was to add Internet WiFi, so we could connect to the DX cluster and contribute spots during our S&P efforts. The setup was much smoother the second time, even with the extra work of raising a second tower and running more coax. I also raised the ends of the 40 meter V beam another 5 feet to 20 feet, with the apex at about 35 feet. It was amazing; everything was up and working 22 hours before the contest. Barry, my wife Leah, and I all agreed: Don't touch anything! The next morning I set up *N1MM+* with the commands necessary to operate the DVRs in the K3 and KX3.

The plan for food this time was simple. I would cook pizza, and it was BYOB. I figured that pizza would keep ops in the chair, which it did. Operators for the NA3DX NAQP SSB M2 were the same as for the CW event plus Wayne, AB3RY.

Just before the contest I found a frequency on 20 meters and started making contacts with my own call sign. We were worried about 15 and 10. Nothing seemed to be there. Barry tested 15 meters by calling CQ. At the top of the hour, he was ready on 10, calling CQ, but there were few takers. He dropped down to 15, but



Figure 1 — JK Antenna's Navassa 5 on the left and a Mosley TA-33 on right. The oak tree in the middle supported the feed point of a 40 meter V beam.



Figure 2 — The Navassa 5 with a 6 meter kit.

the action was slow there as well, and 40 was also way too quiet. The bands seemed very poor.

I opened up running on 20 and had a blast for the first hour, before giving Wayne a chance to operate. He said something like, “Thanks, but I think you drained the well dry.” Wayne shifted to S&P, and Barry continued to struggle with S&P on the other bands. When I sat back down, I told Wayne I would try running, and he took over S&P on the other bands. My run rate was better than the S&P rate, but neither was great. Before mid-contest, Rob arrived. I cooked the pizza, and everyone grabbed their beverage of choice. Barry and Wayne continued to operate, with pizza in one hand, while trying to log and drink beverages. What sacrifices the guys made for the PVRC!

The Field Day style M2 score, even with much poorer band conditions, resulted in our NA3DX station earning Worked All States, our first award to hang in our Field Day RV. While the setup wasn’t fancy, we all had an excuse to operate, and I got a chance to see how the new Navassa 5 might work for the 2015 ARRL November Sweepstakes.

¹ NA3DX is the call sign of the Explorers Radio Club. The majority of the members of the club are also PVRC members. The call sign has mostly been used during Field Day in the 2A Battery QRP category. The Explorers Radio Club operated as 3A Battery QRP during the 2015 Field Day.



Figure 3 — Barry, K3NDM, on the KX3 (left), and my K3, during the NAQP SSB event.



Figure 4 — Bill, AB3TM (left), and Rob, N3HU, operate the NAQP SSB.

Table 1 — A comparison of NA3DX’s NAQP CW and SSB claimed results.

Band	CW QSOs	CW Mults	SSB QSOs	SSB Mults
10	0	0	4	2
15	26	14	10	7
20	209	39	292	43
40	188	42	141	36
80	92	33	106	28
160	13	9	10	7
Totals	528	140	563	123
Score		73,920		69,249