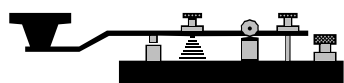


NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 329 • NOVEMBER 2025



Key Clicks

• *In This Issue*

The Prez Sez; A CW Journey; New WAC Award Recipients; plus Nets, QRP Events, Polls, Sprints, Soapboxes, and more.

• *Welcome our new chapter, Southern Tier New York!*

• *Vice President Opening*

With the resignation of Aaron Ray N4ARY, we have an opening for vice president.

• *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 <https://naqcc.info/memberlist.php> to make sure the rest of the fields are correct and then fill out the member update form here: https://naqcc.info/member_updates.html. **Note that we had a bug in the system (now fixed), so if you made an update in the last month or so, check that it took and retry if it didn't.**

• *Content Submissions*

As always, keep sending us your stories and we'll keep getting them into the newsletter.

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The Prez Sez...

Volunteers Needed

Volunteerism is the backbone of any organization such as ours. Do you have the backbone to spare a few hours? All organizations from churches to youth groups, and of course Ham Radio, need a "pool" of volunteers to help with the daily, monthly, and yearly tasks of running the organization. Please join our "pool." Just drop me an email and give me an idea of what skills you are willing to share with us. Thank You!

Swap and Shop

The Swap and Shop email was a few days late this month due to staffing and such. Thanks to Brent and Andy in getting it back working. December issue should be on time.

NAQCC VP

A Vice President for the NAQCC is really needed due to the resignation of Aaron N4ARY from that post. Please contact John, KK4ITX for more information ASAP.

ARRL HOA Antenna Campaign

The ARRL is promoting an HOA Antenna letter campaign, the purpose of which is to send letters from as many hams as see fit to do so to their representatives and senators in Congress. HOAs are all over the US and so are the emergency ops that respond to emergencies as some live in HOAs and need the FCC rules modified to

allow antenna restrictions to be removed. All you need to do is click on this link www.arrl.org/hoa, enter your callsign, name, and address and the letters will be sent at no expense to you. We need your help even if you're not living in an HOA or if you're not an ARRL member. Your support is appreciated.

mW Sprint

The December mW Sprint is on the schedule. The mW Sprints have become quite popular and shows just how far you can go with a watt or less. Give it a go on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 0130-0330 Z.

Donations

Donations are always needed, appreciated, and required for operating expenses. Please mail your tax-deductible check payable to:

*North American QRP CW Club, Inc.
35 Heather Circle
Cave Spring, GA 30124*

Also an option (not my favorite) is to send to me through my Paypal account (jleahy00@yahoo.com). If you choose this method, PLEASE be sure that you indicate NAQCC and your membership number.

SARC Communicator

The SARC Communicator had a very complete article describing the NAQCC and its programs. Take a look at this very infor-

mative publication (Google Drive link) and perhaps subscribe:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_C5xVDDx9kKdRs5xEdk1T2saA-B46e22/view

WAC Award

We have not one but TWO members who presented an application for the Worked All Continents (WAC) Award! Just amazing!

New Chapter

Finally, we welcome a new chapter, the Southern Tier New York Chapter. The

group lives in a beautiful part of southern NY that I travel often. Perhaps I can catch them on an outing sometime?

Until next time, salute a vet and enjoy Thanksgiving (US) with family or friends. If you're in the northern climes, better get your shovel sharpened up!!

72,
kk4itx@proton.me
John, KK4ITX
#7249



$$(e^i)^0 = \left(\frac{2\pi}{\tau}\right)'$$

Weinersmith's Identity has been far less popular than Euler's Identity, despite having far more fundamental constants.

<https://www.smbc-comics.com/comic/identity-2>

Club Callsign: N3AQC

Use the Club Call

Help promote NAQCC by using our Club Call, N3AQC. Simply contact John KK4ITX via email and he'll get you going. Let him know the date(s), time(s), bands to be used, expected OPs, and location.

We'll Advertise Your Event

John will promote your outing via the NAQCC Groups.io and the NAQCC general news email system. Your event will be posted on the N3AQC QRZ page and is the official record of the call's use.

My CW Journey

By Tom VA2NW #2846

My CW journey started over a quarter century ago. In middle school, I was active in the Ham Radio Club at Barre Town School in Vermont which was run by Phil Acebo (KA1YUB).

When I made a contact with a station in Georgia from Vermont, under Mr Acebo's supervision, I was hooked and decided to pursue getting an amateur radio license. Back then, the FCC had a 5 WPM code test in addition to the written test for the novice license.

I went to my local Radio Shack and purchased the Gordon West audio cassettes for learning CW. I studied and prepared for my tests. At the Milton hamfest in 1999, I took both tests and failed the code test by one letter. I continued studying and attempted the test again at the Red Cross in Burlington, VT. Again, I failed the code test by one letter.

I was persistent and tried again when the Central Vermont Amateur Radio Club held a VE session in the fall. I finally passed the code test. About ten years later, I made my first CW contact on the air!

I used a QSO template from a book and started the QSO with GA OM (Good Afternoon Old Man) only to find out the other operator's name was Sarah. I was so embarrassed, but it taught me a valuable lesson: CW is the ultimate equalizer; there is no age, race, gender, class, or ethnicity when you're meeting and communicating with someone on the air, just dits and dahs.

I have since fallen in love with CW. If you take anything from my story, it's that being persistent will eventually pay off and it will get you to where you want to be.

Greetings from England

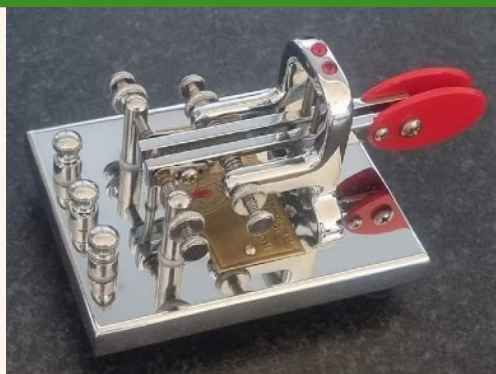
By Alan G2DXU

I've recently returned to the bands and have found myself going down the path of QRP CW.

The mode has so much history and tradition. It has drawn me in. I tend to run 5-10W from home as I live in an apartment. When propagation allows, I love working DX.

In regard to Morse, my instant character recognition needs improvement but I am





trying and I'm determined to be able to headcopy.

My favored keys are now the Vibroplex Straight Deluxe and matching Iambic version - both picked up second hand. I'd previously used Kent. The GW straight key (made in Wales in 1980s) has a special place in my heart though. Brass on Welsh slate. The slate formed over 500 million years ago, I understand.

I was first licensed in 2010. In the UK we have 3 levels and I went through them all in the same year, as quickly as the little club I attended could accommodate!



When I began studying for the first license, word got to a relative who was a widow of a SK ham, Bob Lever G2DXU. She suggested I keep Bob's callsign going. That may have been the motivation for upgrading so fast!

Bob had served in the RAF during WW2 and been stationed at Biggin Hill during the Battle of Britain with CW maestro John Wightman G3AH (later ZL1AH). John (now also SK) and I communicated by email and he gifted me a bunch of letters between Bob and himself which I hope to share with the world soon. John's UK callsign, G3AH is now registered to the club I founded in 2012 here in SW England, Riviera ARC.

If you hear my callsign with the fairly unusual prefix G2, give me a call back.

I've just taken delivery of a Kanga Rooster CW kit (20m version). It puts out 1W and I hope to be able to use it "out and about." I'm not an experienced constructor but it is supposed to be simple enough.

I have limited mobility due to arthritis so POTA may be off the agenda. But I still hope to work QRP out in the hills (Dartmoor) from the car.

If possible I would one day like to operate CW from Upottery Airfield where 101st Airborne "Band of Brothers" left for Normandy. It's not too far from my home (50 miles). If that would interest anyone, please let me know. I'm not sure if it's been done before.



NAQCC State QSO Party Challenge

By Don VE3DQN #5846

Final Weekend Recap

The NY and IL QSO parties weekend deserve special mention before looking at the overall results of the 9-month State QSO Party season. Lots of QSO points were to be had because both parties figure in the Top-Ten of the season. Just to show what QRP can do, in-state NAQCC members Will NQ2W and Mark WA2NYY scored BIG in the NY party, and Anthony AB9YC in the IL party. AB9YC has a great story to tell about how he "accidentally" went QRP in the party. Check it out at https://naqcc.info/qsoparties_soapbox.html.

Winners

The overall winner of our friendly NAQCC SQP Challenge competition is no stranger to the leaderboard. Alan KR4AE was also at the top in 2022 and 2023, then took a break in 2024, and now led the pack again. What's outstanding is that he also achieved the highest Challenge certificate, the Diamond, for his 100,878 score. Looking at his scores two months ago you realize it took a huge effort and high scores in the final ten parties to achieve this.

Congratulations, Alan!

Runners-up

Ernie N2DGQ very cleanly secured second place with a solid 1,570 QSOs in only 37 parties as multipliers. For the past three years Steve NI8W has always been high on our leaderboard—2nd in 2024—and this year came in 3rd. Steve and Brent WT4U also deserve special mention because, until the penultimate weekend, they had scored the multiplier in every SQP this season. Brent scored in all 48

Member	Mult	QSOs	Score	Award
Alan KR4AE #5847	43	2,346	100,878	Diamond
Ernie N2DGQ #11090	37	1,570	58,090	Platinum
Steve NI8W #11335	47	953	44,791	Platinum
Don VE3DQN #5846	41	873	35,793	Platinum
Ron VE3SIF #10033	34	939	31,926	Platinum
Mike W7LG #10391	34	858	29,172	Platinum
Rick KY0Q #9647	27	527	14,229	Gold
Kevin NN3E #9851	32	424	13,568	Gold
Anthony K8ZT #412	32	382	12,224	Gold
Kevin KE3V #855	29	380	11,020	Gold
Brent WT4U #9019	48	222	10,656	Gold
Don KI4MZC #10922	25	393	9,825	Silver
Will NQ2W #4839	9	639	5,751	Silver
Corry N1OI #10267	11	184	2,024	Bronze
Greg KB1AWM #9958	4	452	1,808	Bronze
AJ AB9YC #6319	2	481	962	Bronze
Mark WA2NYY #6388	2	335	670	Bronze
Steve WD4CFN #9754	2	280	560	Bronze

For the full list of scores, see https://naqcc.info/qsoparties_scores.html.

parties this season, and Steve missed the multiplier "by half a QSO" in the NV party, where the NV station got Steve's call-sign correctly but couldn't complete the QSO.

Congratulations Ernie, Steve, and Brent!

4th Year Running: "The Numbers"

Stats for 2025 show that interest in the SQP Challenge still runs high among the NAQCC members:

NAQCC Participants	55
QSOs	15,911
Earning Certificates	18
Diamond Awards	1
Platinum Awards	5

The next State QSO Party will be in February 2026. I'll include a reminder in the January NAQCC Newsletter.

Soapbox

Check out the experiences of those who do participate in the SQPs here: https://naqcc.info/qsoparties_soapbox.html. If crashing a party or reporting results on 3830scores.com seems a bit complicated, any of those who submit soapbox comments would be glad to answer your questions.

Questions?

... or comments? Don't hesitate to write me: don@hekman.net

In The Words of the Participants

Steve NI8W I had a fun time during the VAQP and made my best score ever.... There was a lot of activity, and the multipliers were plentiful thanks to a few mobile stations and some very good ops.

Will NQ2W My SQP challenge participation this year is going to be much more casual than last year... sitting back and enjoying them when I can without the self-inflicted pressure of trying to make at least 2 QSOs in each one. Keeping it fun.

Charlie N4IIT I had a blast working these two parties [SC and NC], Knowing that my QRP signal wasn't super-strong took a lot of pressure off, and I enjoyed slipping into the shack a couple of times each day to see who I could work. I'm really looking forward to the next ones!

Corry N1OI Had fun chasing N4CW from county to county (VA) to get some extra multipliers on Sunday afternoon.... Really had fun in this one chasing rovers and mobile stations on the APRS map.

Harv K2PI (Operating "in-state" in the VAQP) I had a fun time, and I am certain few, if any, knew I was QRP, so condx were pretty good. Thanks to everyone who worked me, and next year, a better QRP effort.

Rick KY0Q I had lots of fun chasing the mobiles [in the GAQP]. The pile-ups were fierce! Breaking through the pile-ups on AD4EB with 5W was an accomplishment.

Tom VA2NW (Operating in the QCQP, in a park in 3C temps and wind) After an hour and a half, I was feeling a bit chilled. I ended up with eleven contacts in the log.... It was a blast, and I'm looking forward to next year.

Steve NI8W Being in Ohio, working the OHQP was easy. I didn't try CQing and just answered stations that were calling. I find doing so to be a much more relaxing approach.

Ernie N2DGQ As for me on Saturday, it was such a nice day and the beginning of the college football season, I could not sit in my shack and work these QP's (KSQP and COQP). Therefore, I took my station and TV outside, built a nice fire in the chiminea and had a great time. I was out there until about 9 PM. Obviously, I was distracted by the games and keeping the fire going so my scores were not high as I wanted, but had fun nevertheless.

AJ AB9YC I did the CAQP last year QRP. I only dabbled and did better than I expected. This year, I decided to give it as much effort as I might to another contest.... I was just trying to log as many contacts as I could. I wasn't chasing counties, but kept an eye out for when they popped up. This was all S&P.... I greatly improved my score over last year, so this was a plus.... This is a fun contest for me.

Anthony AB9YC (Operating in-state in the ILQP) In the end I was only able to operate for 3 hours, and in that time I racked up 200 Q's; that's an average rate of ~66 Q/hr, which is pretty good for QRP.

It was a bit of serendipity really as I didn't intend to operate QRP, but due to an oversight on my part I was operating QRP and having a blast.

Pete NO2G I participate in as many QSO Parties as I can during the year. Thus far I have not participated in the NAQCC QSO Party challenge. Perhaps next year.... I ended up with only 20 contacts [in the CAQP], and 1,080 points, far below my wishes. Nevertheless, I enjoyed it when I was in it.

John N6HI (In AZ) Decided to try something different this year, and managed to get 50 100mW QSOs in the CAQP, all on 20 meters. Tnx to all for your patience and the QSOs!

Alan KR4AE All the best to everyone and have fun with QRP!

NAQCC Challenge

The Whaling Ship Essex

By Gary KIYAN #2365

The early 19th century was a time when whaling was a hugely profitable industry. Sailors would spend years at sea in pursuit of whales and their oil. The whaler Essex left the port of Nantucket, MA in August of 1819 and headed for the whaling grounds. Only two days after leaving port, the Essex encountered a brief but violent storm. She suffered damage and lost two of the five small boats that were used to chase and kill whales. Repairs were made and the voyage continued. More storms and lack of whales marked the next leg of her voyage.

Information of a new and bountiful hunting ground came from an encounter with fellow whalers. The Essex set course for the

area and was rewarded with plentiful prey. Then came disaster. A huge whale rammed the ship and ultimately sank her. The crew of 20 salvaged what they could from the Essex and, with little food and fresh water, set off in the three small whaling boats to find land. They found a deserted island, which, having little to eat, was not the paradise they had hoped for.

After a month on the island, three of the crew decided to remain and the rest salvaged what they could for supplies and continued on. A storm separated one boat from the group. Some time later a whaling boat with three skeletons, thought to be the missing boat, drifted ashore on an island.

Hunger and thirst drove the sailors of the other two boats to cannibalism in order to survive.

Eighty nine days after the sinking of the Essex, one of the two whaling boats, which had become separated, was sighted and the sailors res-



You can use each letter in a call TWICE. For example you could use K3WWP for 2 K's, 4 W's, and 2 P's.

Subsequent QSO's with the same station cannot be used for additional letters. For example, no matter how many times you work K3WWP, you can only use his call for 8 of the letters in the words.

See General Rule #5 for more details on what callsign letters can be used.

If you need some help with your alphabet challenge record keeping take a look at our Alphabet Tutorial page for everything from some great pencil & paper methods to fully computerized tools.

Awards

A certificate goes to everyone making all the words and submitting their report before the deadline.

Logs

For your report, list the words you made and the station used for each letter in the word. The number of stations listed must be the same as the number of letters in each word, even though you use the same station for more than one letter as in:

WORD - K3WWP N2OD WA8REI N2OD
NEXT - NF8M W8REI N8XMS K9EYT

(Note how N2OD is listed for both the O and D.)

You may also include comments about the challenge. Please preface any comments you want posted with "SOAPBOX:" so we will know what you want posted and what is private.

Submitting your Entry

Send your results as text in the horizontal format shown above to Charlie N1AOK at: charlie.wilber AT gmail.com (You must type that address into your email program.)

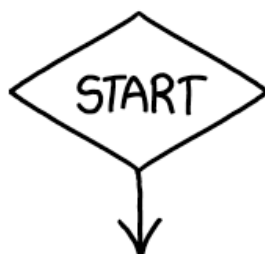
Subject must read: (your call) NAQCC (month year) Challenge

For example: K3WWP NAQCC January 2022 Challenge

All entries must be RECEIVED before the 10th of the following month at 2400Z.



SOMEONE IS CLAIMING TO
PREDICT THE EXACT DATE
OF A FUTURE EARTHQUAKE.
SHOULD YOU LISTEN?



NO

(THERE ARE BIG EARTHQUAKES
CONSTANTLY, SO IF ANYONE EVER
DOES FIGURE THIS OUT, IT WILL
BE IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS THAT
THEIR METHOD WORKS AND THEN
THE WORLD'S SEISMOLOGISTS
WILL NOT SHUT UP ABOUT IT.

YOU WON'T NEED
THIS FLOWCHART.)

NAQCC Awards

VK4MFX and DC1YY both claimed Worked All Continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania, and South America) awards this month using QRP on simple wire antennas! For more information on our WAC award, go to https://naqcc.info/awards_wacswa.html.

And Jim Curley, KE8EOM, earned a QSO-a-Day Award for 31 contacts on 31 days in October 2025. Check the website for more information on the QSO-a-Day award here: https://naqcc.info/awards_qsoaday.html

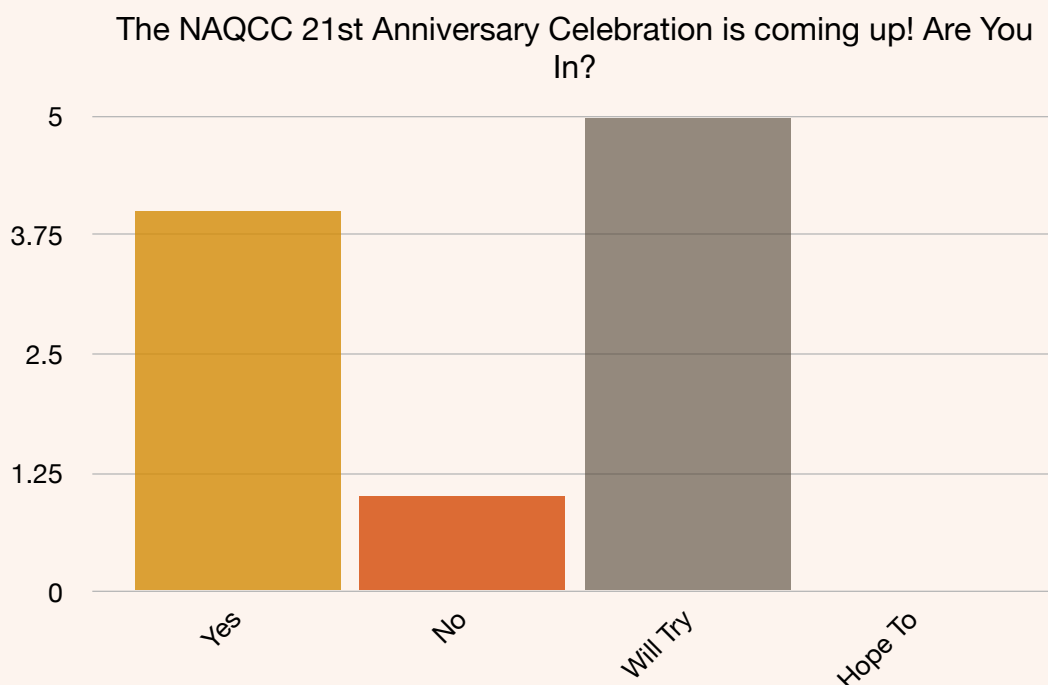
For more information on the various award winners, including for WAC, see https://naqcc.info/awards_winners.html

Member Polls

November Poll

Now with winter slowly creeping up on us, do you plan on more 'Indoor QRP CW' with NAQCC Sprints, etc.? https://naqcc.info/poll_new.html

October Poll



QRP Contest and Event News

By Jim K7QI / Z8IA #5020

Hello fellow QRP hobbyists. Well, it appears winter has set in the deep South here in Mississippi. Time to settle in and start building new QRP rigs or repairing vintage QRP rigs such as my Heathkit HW-7 and HW-8. Both are on the bench. My QRPLabs QMX is operational and works great with a lot of QSO's already made with it.

I hope everyone had a chance to make a few contacts during our 21st anniversary celebrations. I had a lot of fun operating as N3A/5. ARRL Sweepstakes is already going on at the time of this writing.

As always, if you would like to see anything further please let me know. This section I've volunteered to do is still new and growing—I could use your input to make it better.

72/73,
Jim K7QI

Event	When	Link
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	Nov 1, 2100Z to Nov 3, 0300Z	https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
High Speed Club CW Contest	Nov 2, 1400Z to 1700Z	http://www.highspeedclub.org/
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	Nov 29, 0000Z to Nov 30, 2400Z	https://www.cqwww.com/rules.htm
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	Dec 6, 0600Z to 0800Z	http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng
PRO CW Contest	Dec 6, 1600Z to Dec 7, 1559Z	https://proradiocontestclub.com/PCC%20Rules.html
CWops Test (CWT)	Dec 10, 1300Z to 1400Z	http://www.3830scores.com/
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	Dec 13, 0000Z to Dec 14, 2359Z	http://www.arrl.org/10-meter
QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Sprint	Dec 14, 2000Z to 2300Z	http://qrparci.org/contest/holiday-spirit-sprint
RARRL Rookie Round up	Dec 21	https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar
RAC Winter Contest	Dec 27, 0000Z to 2359Z	https://www.rac.ca/contesting-results/
Original QRP Contest	Dec 27, 1500Z to Dec 28, 1500Z	http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrpr.html
ARRL Straight Key night	Jan 1, 0000Z to 2359Z	https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar
North American QSO Party, CW	Jan 10, 1800Z to Jan 11, 0600Z	www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf



Equipment Review: The Xiegu VK-5 Straight Key

And you thought Xiegu only made radios!

By Fred K8NGW #8949

Background

As an engineer (recently retired), I've always been attracted to finely made mechanical assemblies such as clocks, watches, fountain pens, AND morse code keys. Like many of you, during my Novice days (1980's), I cut my morse teeth on a military surplus J-38 key. Over time, as shortcomings in a key design were discovered, the key was sold and replaced with one that was better. Later on, I'd come across a yet better key and the cycle would repeat. Over 40 years, my stable of keys have somewhat settled. The everyday users include:

- NT9K Pro-Pump SKCC Club Straight Key (2010) - The "Reference" key for this review.
- Begali Simplex Mono single lever key (setup for a lefty).
- Vibroplex Original Gold Bug left hand model (a VERY rare key).

Although I'm happy with the above keys and was not in the market for another, I still keep an eye out for new keys. The Xiegu VK-5 was preceded by several versions that were offered on

eBay, AliExpress, and Temu for approximately four years. Each year the base geometry and/or material and/or finish would change, but the upper components: key lever, trunnion bearings, and striker/anvil remained about the same. The prices varied quite a bit ~\$120-~\$220. I was always intrigued, but never purchased one. When the key appeared under the Xiegu name on the [Ra-](#)



[dioddity website](#) at \$69.99, I pulled the trigger.

The Xiegu VK-5 Straight Key

Type: Pump style key, sealed bearings, Navy style knob. The key is held open through spring tension (rather than compression).

Material: CNC aluminum. The base is gray anodized. All surfaces appear to be sand blasted which results in a micro-pebble'y finish that does not show finger prints. The striker is a small copper nib press fit into a bronze (or brass) tongue which in turn is inset into the lever arm. The contact point on the nib is silver plated. Rather than depend on the sealed bearings being electrically conductive, a short copper braid is attached between the lever and the base which completes the circuit when the key is pressed. The Navy style knob is machined plastic (may actually be Delrin). Underneath the base is a full-size anti-slip rubber pad.

Base Length/Width: 16cm (6.3in)/6cm (2.4in)

Key Weight: 400g (0.88 lb.)

The Key Arrives

After ordering on the Radioddity web site, it took about 2 weeks for the key to be delivered from China. Inside the very well-padded box I found:

1. The VK-5 key,
2. 3.5mm 3 conductor cable,
3. Two adjustment hex keys,
4. Instructions

After unpacking, the first thing to do was to take the key apart! Specifically, I wanted to check bearing friction, bearing play, and trunnion alignment. Everything was near perfect (much less than I could measure.) With a magnifying loop, I checked all surfaces for machining marks and scratches. None were found. With the natural finish aluminum upper assembly, the gray base, and the satin black knob, visually the key is quite appealing. The key was reassembled without issue.

The VK-5 In Use

October was a good month for CW. During the month, the Xiegu VK-5 was used to:

- Make nearly a dozen general CW QSO's.

- Operate as K3Y/8 in the week long NAQCC 21st Anniversary Celebration.
- Operate as K3Y/8 for the NAQCC October Sprint.
- Participate in the SKCC October Sprint.
- Participate in the Zombie Shuffle event.

Throughout the month, the VK-5 was a pleasure to use. Its stable/solid base, comfy handle, and a pivot that moves freely and is dimensionally stable gives it just the right feel. It's amazing that Xiegu can offer a high-quality key at this low price. However, it wasn't all unicorns and rainbows. Three times during the month, the gap adjustment screw worked itself loose mid QSO! The first two times I quickly reset the gap, tightened the locknut and continued on. The third time I grabbed needle nosed pliers and gently snugged the locknut. It has not moved since.

Can the VK-5 be Improved?

Yes, of course it can. Were I the Xiegu VK-5 product manager, I would:

- Replace the full length/width rubber pad with three rubber feet. While the rubber pad works well on my glass top operating desk, it won't work as well on the uneven boards of a picnic table. Replacing it with three rubber feet will provide a stable base no matter the surface.
- Increase the thread pitch of the gap adjust screw. A finer pitch would permit more precise adjustment and, more importantly, a more secure gap screw lock.
- Reduce the thickness of the bronze tongue (or replace it with spring steel.) A thinner tongue will give a little when the anvil is hit (see below).

Conclusion

I can say without hesitation, the Xiegu VK-5 straight key is better than any historical brass, steel military, printed plastic, or other under \$100 (Speed-X, Ham-Key) straight keys that I have used. This key just feels right! If you have any of the above keys, the VK-5 will be a noticeable upgrade. At \$69.99 it's a no brainer! The VK-5 would also make a nice gift for the ham aspiring to learn the code.

Will it replace my reference SKCC key? Well... no. In addition to its solid brass and steel construction, the SKCC key uses a spring steel striker which gives just a little when the contact is closed and opened. Although hard to explain (you need to experience it), but rather than a clack'ity-clack feel, it has a thunk'ity-thunk feel and is immensely satisfying. However, the SKCC key is nearly 9 inches long and weighs nearly four pounds. While its perfect for the shack desktop, I would not want to travel with the additional weight and size.

Will I sell the VK-5? Well... no. Realizing my “Recently retired” moniker, I’ll be spending more time traveling with the XYL. At 25% weight and 75% size of the SKCC key, I envision the VK-5 will be my “traveling” straight key and will allow me to participate in SKCC events while on the road or on the pond.

But Wait, There’s More...

The VK-5 was not the only key Xiegu released. They also released the VK-6, a dual paddle, magnetic return key. Could it replace my Begali Simplex Mono? Stay tuned for the review...

And you thought Xiegu only made radios!

Disclaimer

I have no connection to Radioddity or Xiegu. I purchased the VK-5 key with my own funds.



The Xiegu VK-5 (front) and the NT9K key (rear)

NAQCC Sprints

November Sprint

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Thursday, November 20th at 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, November 19th in North America. Complete information at <https://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202511.html>.

Rules

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found on our website [here](#). 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 from our website [here](#). 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 on our website [here](#).

OCTOBER SPRINT STATS				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Total QSOs	1045	705	3,154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	659	432	1,704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	386	273	1,450	4/17
20m QSOs	153	175	1,232	8/13
40m QSOs	788	490	2,203	4/17
80m QSOs	104	40	1,417	2/13

October Sprint Results

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found on our website [here](#). High scores can be seen in the following tables.

Sprint Soapbox Sampler

K9NUD Wow, I missed a few months. It was nice to get an hour in tonight and work a lot of familiar calls, along with a few new ones. Thanks for all the great contacts! 72

WG8Y Hi all, Started out on my K2 in the shack. Made 3 Q's then my dog wanted out. On the way back in I came thru the garage, looked over, and said why not. I sat down at my garage work bench where I had the K1 set up and worked 9 more contacts from there. I wrote them into the log when I came back in. Fun stuff! 72 all from N.C. Mark WG8Y

W4CMG Fun event - if only I could remember my REAL Callsign. I had just finished a run as N3A/4 a while before, and caught myself sending it purely by muscle memory a few times :)

SWA - STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	K1IX	KQ1P
W2	KN2G	KA2KGP	W2SH
W3	K3JZD	K3IY N3A/3 (TIE)	-
W4	KC5F	K4BAI	NA4O
W5	AI5BE	KE9DR	AC5BX KE5YUM (TIE)
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	N3A/8	NF8M	-
W9	K9NUD	WB9HFK	N8HWV
W0	N3A/0	AA0W	NN0SS
Canada	VA3KRJ	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA - BUG CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1TER	-	-
W2	N2TNN	WA2FBN	-
W3	NN3E	-	-
W4	KJ4R	W4NLT	W4CMG
W5	KD5ZCQ	KI5FZV	-
W6	KD7DUG	-	-
W7	N7QR	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	KD0V	-	-
Canada	VE3IIM	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA - KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	K1WOR	-
W2	N2ESE	WA1GWH	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	N4MJ	WB0CJB	WD4CFN
W5	N3A/5	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	KF7Z	-	-
W8	W8GG	WI8J	WA8SAN
W9	AB9CA	-	-
W0	W1TM	-	-
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-
DX	DK1VD	-	-

GAIN ANTENNA CATEGORY

Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	-	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	KD3CA	-	-

N3A/# ANNIVERSARY OPERATORS

Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	N3A/0 (W0EJ)	N3A/3 (KC3MIO)	N3A/8 (K8NGW)
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	N3A/5 (N5GW)	-	-

SPRINT FREQUENCIES

Band	Frequencies
80m	3555-3565 kHz Be courteous to FISTS operating on 3558 kHz
40m	7030-7045 kHz
20m	14059-14065 kHz



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 on the website [here](#). Direct questions to Net Manager Mark, W8EWH.

NAQCC Net Schedule				
Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7:00 PM CST	Tuesday 0100 Z	7067 kHz (summer) 3566 kHz (winter)	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CST	Tuesday 0130 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)	Thursday 5:00 PM PST	Friday 0100 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (WA)

Note: On the rare occasion that there is a conflict between one of our scheduled nets and one of our regular sprints, the sprint will take precedence.

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Control Station Report

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 7067 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

Oct 07 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, N4NN

Good copy tonight and YGA will have to get the leaf blower out soon. Still warm but fall is coming. NN is doing a few POTA's still with pretty good WX in GA. Daughter coming for visit this weekend.

Oct 14 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA

Terry doing well but tired from chemo. Andy Nas day off from radiation but 3 more weeks to go. Hope both will be great soon.

Oct 21 QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, NRNN, KE5YGA

Terry was light tonight and short time. Allen FROM GA was 599 and had great visit with his daughter from KS this week. Andy got rain and planning yard work this week.

Oct 28 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, KE9DR

YGA had 2 inches of rain over last 3 days and cooler. Trip to Little Rock again.

Good to have Dave KE9DR with us. 559 with QRP. Hope to hear him again from AR.

NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Control Station Report

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0130 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Bob WOCC (Kansas).

Oct 07 QNI (2) NCS WOCC, W1TM

Tim had a GREAT Signal!! Probably a lot of Monday Night Football Fans watching the Chief and Jaguars!

Oct 14 No Net

Oct 21 QNI (2) NCS WOCC, W1TM

Almost completed QSO with Tom, W2TJ; however, the QRN got the best of us! As usual, Tim had a great signal and a great week ahead.

Oct 28 QNI (2) NCS WOCC, KE9DR

Quite a bit of QSB; however, Bert did an Excellent job pulling out my 449 signal!

NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) Control Station Report

Thursday evenings 5:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0100 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

Oct 03 QNI (4) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, N7QR

Oct 10 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, NB6M, KB7DYP, WB4SPB, AD7BP

Oct 17 QNI (3) NCS NB6M, AD7BP, KE7LKW/p

Oct 24 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, KI7SJE, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, AD7BP, N0DA, NB6M

Oct 31 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, KB7DYP, AD7BP, N0DA

NAQCC Chapters

Start a Local Chapter

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters – West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, Florida, Southern Tier New York, 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 John KK4ITX.

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 John, at the email address listed on next to 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 at the email addresses listed on the next to 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, Club President John KK4ITX, to schedule the use of N3AQC.



NAQCC Green Swamp WCF

Items in this section are from the Green Swamp WCF Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Darryl N4VLP.

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



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 website is:

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



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 Southern Tier New York Chapter

Items in this section are from the Southern Tier New York Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Tom, W2TJ.

The chapter is located in the Broome, Tioga, and Chenango counties area of New York.



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.



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.



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www.qwantz.com

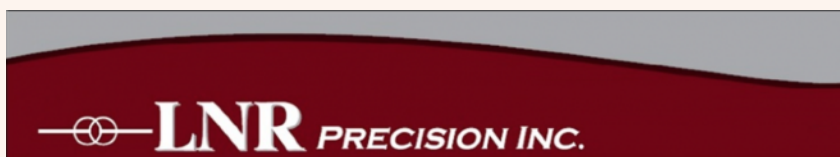
<https://www.qwantz.com/index.php?comic=4394>

NAQCC Sponsors

LNR Precision

LNR Precision, Inc. is a North Carolina based company that specializes in the manufacturing of QRP transceivers, namely the Mountain Topper series designed by Steve Weber (KD1JV).

www.lnrprecision.com



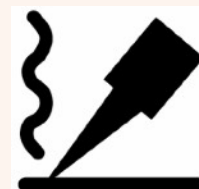
Four States QRP Group

Four States QRP Group is devoted to low power (QRP) amateur radio building and operation. We offer quality kits to the QRP community with all proceeds going to fund our annual Conference, OzarkCon.

www.4sqr.com

QRP Builder

Kits, projects, and ideas for the QRP community. Paddles, antennas, PTO kits, and more. qrpbuilder.com



Green Swamp WCF

Green Swamp WCF Is a chapter of the NAQCC.inc located in Pasco County, Florida in the area of the Green Swamp.

zaarc.org/gsqrp.html

Route 45 Apparel

Route 45 Apparel creates custom decorated products such as shirts, jackets, hats, mugs, & more for NAQCC and the Amateur Radio Community. Please visit our website and let's see if we can help you. route45apparel.com/



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.

NAQCC Contacts		
NAQCC President	John KK4ITX	kk4itx@proton.me
NAQCC Treasurer	Dennis W4DWS	w4dws90@gmail.com
Downeast Maine Chapter	Jeff KA1DBE	j.hanscom@gmail.com
Florida Chapter	Nikki KM4SBQ	nickies1130@aol.com
Illowa Chapter	Tim N9BIL	n9bil@arrl.net
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NAQCC Board of Directors 2024-2025			
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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, include a link to the club website at:

<http://www.naqcc.info>

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 Non-profit 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 John Leahy KK4ITX
3513 Aquamarine Way
Zephyrhills, FL 33540 USA

