



## Handbook 2025

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### Participation Guidelines

SKCC was created to keep the spirit of the annual *Straight Key Night (SKN)* event alive all year round. We take our name and our heritage very seriously and remind members to use only fully mechanical keying devices – straight key, semi-automatic key (*bug*), or sideswiper (*cootie*) – for all SKCC related QSOs, events, awards and activities. Please abide by the [Club Policy on Key Types](#)

### Online Community

SKCC has an active online community. Our official discussion forum/list is hosted on [Groups.IO](#). It contains current topics of discussion plus archives, photos and files dating back to the Club's founding in 2006. As a new member you should

automatically receive an invitation to subscribe via email. Or you can subscribe at the link above.

Be sure to visit our [SkedPage](#). (See *Addendum I*) This is a unique and popular meeting place for arranging on-air contacts in real-time. You can post the frequency you are CQing on, or one that you are monitoring in the shack; also, request signal reports, chat with other active users, or just "lurk".

Unlike our Groups.io forum the [Facebook](#) page is open to non-members. Some content may be unrelated to SKCC activity or may not correspond with official policy.

## **CW Operating Guidance**

Would you like some help with your Morse Code studies or operating practice? You may be interested in our Morse [Elmer program](#). Here you will find experienced and dedicated members offering individual help in CW operation and practice.

The SKCC Elmer frequency at 7114 kHz is monitored by members who are looking for an opportunity to help others complete their first CW QSOs, or who just want to make themselves available for on-the-air code practice and slower speed contacts. Sending mistakes are expected; repeats are not a problem!

Please take a look at the [Beginner's Corner](#). There is a wealth of helpful info there of interest to new Morse operators and Old Timers alike: example QSOs, common Q-signals, operating procedure, hints and tips, etc.

[MP3 Learning Center](#) John KF7BYU, SKCC #6666 provides CW MP3 files for practice. Each audio file has a matching text file that you can follow along with. Some are full length books starting at a slow speed and increasing by 1 word per minute with each new chapter.

## **Logging and Award Applications**

Please visit the [Files and Downloads](#) page for software tools that can help you manage your logs and award applications. (See *Addendum II: Operating Awards*.)

The [SKCC Logger](#) is an invaluable tool for logging, tracking progress toward operating awards, and generating award applications.

The [SKCC Skimmer](#) app alerts you to members' activity and indicates which stations you may need to work to attain various operating awards and goals.

## **Monthly Events**

SKCC conducts several CW events each month, all featuring mechanical key CW of course! Check out the [Event Calendar](#) for currently scheduled events.

The 36-hour [Weekend Sprintathon](#) (aka "WES") starts at 1200z on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. A different theme every month. Like all SKCC events participation level is relaxed and everyone is welcomed regardless of skill level or speed.

The 2-hour [Straight Key Sprint](#) (SKS) is our original and oldest event. The 4th Wednesday of the month at 0000z, which is Tuesday PM for members in the Americas.

The 2-hour [Straight Key Sprint Europe](#) (SKSE) takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month during early evening European time (afternoon in US time zones). Special QRS slow speed segments at start and end. All SKCC members regardless of geographic location are encouraged to participate.

The [Slow Speed Saunter](#) (SSS) is a 24-hour informal event on the first day of each month that brings operators together at a slower CW pace.

The [Straight Key Sprint Asia](#) (SKSA) is a two-hour contest that promotes manual key CW contacts with ITU Region 3 operators. SKCC members and non-members alike are invited to participate regardless of their geographic location.

The 12-hour [Oceania QRS Saunter](#) (OQS) is a slower pace event, 12 WPM or less, with a specific focus on our members across the Pacific. Members in all geographic regions are invited to participate.

The [Monthly Brag](#) encourages contacts among SKCC members outside of sprints and contests. See how many different members you can log in a month!

## Annual Events

January is [Straight Key Month](#), (aka SKM) the Club's anniversary special event. More than 200 SKCC members around the world sign up as event operators and log tens of thousands of QSOs during the month; all using straight keys, bugs and sideswiper keys.



September is [Canadian Straight Key Month](#) SKCC members in a number of Canadian Provinces and Territories operate as special event stations.

The [SKCC QSO Party](#) is an informal 36 hour get together on the third Saturday in June.

## Web Page

The [SKCC Home Page](#) headlines the latest Club activities and news. Make sure to bookmark this page and visit it often to keep informed of updates. It is your gateway to all SKCC events, resources and happenings. Please browse the Index column for links and resources too numerous to detail here.

## Newsletter

The [Rag Chew](#) is published quarterly. Each issue contains comprehensive coverage of club activity and *many* interesting articles and photos. Back issues from 2007 to present are available for download.

## QSL Bureau

SKCC operates a [QSL Bureau](#) for participating members. You can save a lot on postage costs by bundling cards for distribution to Bureau members. Also save the time and effort of addressing individual cards.

## Print Calendar

SKCC publishes a printable [PDF Calendar](#). It contains items of interest to CW operators, on-air events, historical radio-related items, astronomical events, etc. It is illustrated with selected QSL card designs submitted by members each January for the Club's annual Straight Key Month special event & anniversary.

## Comments and Suggestions

As you can see, there are lots of fun things to do in the SKCC. We are always open to ideas or suggestions for making the Club more interesting and informative to its members. Our goal is to keep SKCC an active force in promoting brass pounding and filling the bands with the distinctive sound of hand-formed Morse Code.

If you have questions concerning your membership or anything related to the SKCC, please send an email to the Board of Directors. We want to hear from you. Please email us at [skccboard@skccgroup.com](mailto:skccboard@skccgroup.com)

# Addendum I: SkedPage User Guide

Following is an annotated screen shot of the [SkedPage](#). Brief descriptions of interactive features are shown in red text. If you have any questions feel free to post them on the SkedPage.

**SKCC Sked Page** Wed 02/21 02:33 UTC Tue 02/20 09:33 PM Your call is shown here if connected Welcome AF2Z  Enable PMs | Logout

**Announcements** [close](#) (click on the tab to view) **Enable or Disable PMs (Private Messaging)**

- The Monthly Brag bonds member for February is Dave, N9EEN (ex-KD9VT).

**Everyone** ZL2BLQ  PM **Click for PM Manager** **Click any blue callsign to send them a PM** Settings

**Message Log:**

- 02/21 02:18 K0KEX AH6AX GN Larry about ready to shut down here also...
- 02/21 02:18 N9EEN K2PI - Bragger...
- 02/21 02:17 AH6AX Well, had no takers for my call earlier - See y'all tomorrow! 73 - Aloha from MD
- 02/21 02:15 K0KEX K2PI I hope for warm w/ tomorrow, my truck is frozen shut Lol 73 rick
- 02/21 02:14 K2PI K0KEX yes, ice and all, worked fine. Was 78F here today. Crazy.
- 02/21 02:13 K0KEX K2PI tks Harry with an ice covered ant it's good to know I can get a signal out you have a great sig into No West Mo 73 rick
- 02/21 02:12 K2PI K0KEX nice. You were very light at first, but came up, and I used the West facing beverage on you which helped too. Tks Q50 on 160M!
- 02/21 02:07 K2PI K0KEX heard something. Not very strong here.
- 02/21 02:04 K2PI K0KEX I'll be listening Rick
- 02/21 02:03 K0KEX going to tune up on 1.813.5 If anyone hears me please report here...TU rick
- 02/21 02:00 K0KEX AH6AX Larry it ls slow tonight..we had an ice storm this morning that left us with 1/4 to 1/2 in ice on everything exposed. may go to 160 to listen for awhile rick
- 02/21 02:00 KB4QQJ AH6AX - Hate I missed you in Orlando Larry :-( I left Saturday to get a head start on Hamcation orders
- 02/21 02:00 K2PI Evening
- 02/21 01:51 K0KEX GE as Larry AH6AX has noted..Don't be bashful...I'll monitor the sked page IF someone wants a contact....rick
- 02/21 01:38 AH6AX GE All: According to Skimmer there are several onboard that could use my call for their C or T chase... Don't be bashful - I'm locked and loaded to play... larry in md
- 02/21 01:19 N7EDK I'll keep watching...thanks
- 02/21 01:19 KN4GPT Another time....on here quite a bit
- 02/21 01:19 N7EDK I hear a faint signal, but no copy....not tonight I guess....thanks Tom. Ed
- 02/21 01:18 KN4GPT N7EDK...called
- 02/21 01:17 N7EDK I'm there...call
- 02/21 01:17 KN4GPT 3550
- 02/21 01:16 N7EDK I don't have the best antenna for 80, but sometimes it works. Name a freq and call me....
- 02/21 01:15 KN4GPT can you do 80?
- 02/21 01:15 KN4GPT And 40 is pretty long tonight...I may be skipping right over ypoiu
- 02/21 01:14 N7EDK Not hearing a thing Tom, I have a high noise floor on 40 here at night....sorry, another day....thanks Ed
- 02/21 01:14 KN4GPT N7EDK...hear anything?
- 02/21 01:12 KN4GPT N7EDK...Calling
- 02/21 01:11 N7EDK Call me...
- 02/21 01:11 KN4GPT sure
- 02/21 01:11 KN4GPT N7EDK
- 02/21 01:11 N7EDK KN4GPT...Hi Tom, Ed here on the west coast of Florida. Can we try 7110, could use your both your SKCC and FISTS number:....
- 02/21 01:08 KD8DD NA9E - not working here as well George - try 3.550 for a number exchange?
- 02/21 01:07 NA9E Thanks. Sri it isn't working but makes me feel better ;)
- 02/21 01:07 KN4GPT Na9E not working here either
- 02/21 01:06 NA9E Haven't been able to access <http://pa4n.xs4all.nl/bandmap.html> all day. Anyone else having problems ?

Message to Everyone... **Type your msg posts here...**

**SKCC Frequencies:** 1.913.5 / 3.530 3.550 / 7.055 7.120 / 10.120 / 14.050 14.114 / 18.080 / 21.050 21.114 / 24.910 / 28.050 28.114 / 50.090

**Right Panel:**

**status** Type your status here

Active Users: 9   
 Connections: 103

1	AF1RM	cg 7 057
6	AH6AX	(QRP/QRO)
	AK4NY	PM for QSO PSE
10	K0KEX	
5	K2PI	Too warm for February 78F
10	KA3LOC	
18	KB4QQJ	
51	KN4GPT	

**Active SPCs**  
 CO FL GA KS MD MO NC NJ VA

**Annotations:**

- Click on Reply to post a public reply to posted msg.** (points to reply button)
- Scroll through earlier posts** (points to message list)
- Click on Reply to post a public reply to posted msg.** (points to reply button)
- Activity Timer. Shows time since usr's last mouse or keyboard activity on Sked Page. (After 60 mts user drops from Active list.)** (points to status bar)
- Click Go Active to hide/show your call on the Active Users list.** (points to Go Inactive button)
- Mouse over an SPC to hi-lite users from that SPC in the msg pane** (points to Active SPCs list)
- Change your Grid Square, Password & email Address** (points to Settings button)
- Your call & status** (points to status bar)
- Enable or Disable PMs (Private Messaging)** (points to PM checkbox)
- Click for PM Manager** (points to PM button)
- Click any blue callsign to send them a PM** (points to callsign)
- Type your status here** (points to status input)
- Type your msg posts here...** (points to message input)

## Addendum II: Operating Awards & Endorsements



The [SKCCLogger](#) is highly recommended for award hunters. It keeps track of your progress and simplifies the application process.

[Centurion](#) or "C". The first of three basic operating endorsements. Work 100 other SKCC members. Endorsements of Cx2, Cx3, etc can be attained by working additional multiples of 100 members.

[Tribune](#) or "T". The mid level endorsement. Centurions work 50 other C, T, or S members. Additional endorsements for Tx2 (100 contacts), Tx3 (150 contacts), etc.

[Senator](#) or "S". The top level endorsement awarded to a Tx8 Tribune who works 200 additional Tribunes or Senators; a total of 600 contacts.

[Canadian Maple](#) Work SKCC members in ten Canadian provinces and territories.

[DXC and DXQ](#) Contacts with members in other countries in multiples of 25.

[PFX](#) Point system award for working unique call sign prefixes among SKCC membership.

[QRP](#) Low power SKCC contacts; both 1-way and 2-way QRP awards are available.

[QRP Miles Per Watt](#) Contacts attaining 1,000 miles-per-watt and multiples.

[Ragchew](#) QSOs with SKCC members of 30+ minutes duration.

[Marathon](#) The premier rag chewers' award: 100 QSOs, each of 60+ minutes duration.

[Triple Key](#) 300 QSOs demonstrating proficiency with the three SKCC manual key types.

[WAC](#) Worked All Continents: contacts with members in six continental regions.

[WAS](#) Worked All US States; plus C, T & S, single band, and QRP endorsements.

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