

# The SKCC Centurion

The official newsletter of the Straight key Century Club

VOLUME 02, ISSUE 02

FEBRUARY 2008

## Get Ready For Junkbox Warz

### February SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

- Theme: The 2nd Annual KJ7BS Junkbox Warz
- Duration is 48 hours.
- Weekend Sprintathon Sunday February 10th, 0000-2359z

It has two components, a non-operating component as well as an on-air component.

The event actually begins at 0000z Saturday February 9th, at which time participants begin building a manual or semi-automatic keying device, according to SKCC definition, from items in their "junkbox". No materials may be purchased for this event and all construction must be done using hand tools, no power tools of any kind are permitted. The use of a soldering iron IS allowed.

Participants may begin operating, for score, at 0000z Sunday for 24 hours, until 2359z Sunday. During this time, all normal weekend sprint rules apply. If you use your junkbox key, send you skcc number followed by JB. For example: Bill FL nr 1926T JB k - this will allow others to vote for the best Junk-Box fist.

If you choose not to build a key, you can still participate in the sprint as normal. Nobody will be excluded! A picture of the junkbox key should be emailed to me separate from your entry submission. I prefer 480x360 gif or jpg format photos, please. We also want you to vote for the best "Junkbox Fist" in your soapbox comments.

- Each Centurion is worth 5 bonus points as usual.
- Each Tribune is worth 10 bonus points as usual.
- K9SKC is worth 25 bonus points as usual.

WES Awards Manager Gene - KL7GLL plans to send certificates to the top three members overall as well as the top three places for members who do not yet have their C or T, as something to encourage newcomer participation.

- Normal bonus for Centurion, Tribune and the SKCC club call K9SKC
- Modified exchange. Example: TU Bill FL NR 1926t JB k
- SKCC K3UK Sked Page use encouraged.

73, Bill - NT9K  
SKCC WES Manager

## Amateurs On Television, Sort Of

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS 2240T

Take four hams, Jim N5SPE, George W5JDX, Tommy, N5ZNO, Peter VK3PB, put them in front of a video camera, have them talk about amateur radio and related topics, add in some humor, mix it all up and what do you get? One of the freshest ideas in amateur radio yet, AmateurLogic.TV. A web cast by amateurs for amateurs.

### History

Jim, George, and Tommy were friends long before AmateurLogic.TV. Jim and George worked in the radio industry in the past and George and Tommy worked on software projects and operated a business together in the past. They all earned their ham licenses in 1991.

### In The Beginning

In the summer of 2005 George discovered internet television and began following a few shows. He thought it might be an economical way to produce these shows and that there might be some people interested in his projects and stuff he did. Being a broadcaster by trade, he was already sold on the idea, he only needed some partners. Jim and Tommy also thought this was a good idea and AmateurLogic.TV was born.

At the time, producers and viewers of internet television were mostly young adults. AmateurLogic.TV did not start out as an amateur radio program and were trying to appeal to the current viewers of internet television. There was not much ham radio related content in the shows because the team felt there were few amateurs watching such shows.

### Maturing

As time went on and things progressed, the team noticed they were getting increasing numbers of emails from hams, so their content went in that direction. Today, AmateurLogic.TV has ham and non-ham views alike and they cover a variety of topics that appeal to both groups.

In the summer of 2007, Peter VK3PB started watching AmateurLogic.TV and contacted the team via email and Echolink. Peter really liked the program and offered to send some ham video he recently shot (Peter was already involved in Amateur Television in Melbourne). The team

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invited him to join the team as a regular host.

### What You Can Expect

AmateurLogic.TV has some interesting shows in the archives, check them out. In a recent show, they take you through the Ameritron factory. In another Jimmy sets up his for Field Day, complete with Jimmy falling in the pool setting up the antenna. In another show Tommy discussed the an FT-857D and the ATAS antenna. One show even shows you how to solder SMT components.

These guys do a pretty good job. It is fresh, entertaining, informative, an a little bit wacky, too. This is not 60 minutes. It is four guys producing an internet television show, and doing a pretty good job at it. Check them out at <http://www.amateurlogic.com/blog/>. I think you will be pleased, I am.

## Hermit Lake In January

Jim Cluett W1PID, SKCC # 676

For the last two days I've gone out onto Hermit Lake in Sanbornton to try some winter operating. There's been a bit of a warm spell... it's been in the mid 30s, with some sunshine to keep the fingers warm. On Monday I worked Germany, Spain and California. On Tuesday I worked Seattle and Madeira Islands.



Bob houses and snowmobile trails across the lake

Hermit Lake is dotted with islands, and in the winter, a few bob houses for ice fishing. Snowmobilers maintain several thoroughfares which traverse the lake. But it's not a busy place. On the two days I went out, I didn't see anyone. I often cross-country ski here, but for my radio adventure I decided to walk out.

I set up on the south side of a small island. It offers a bit of a wind break and of course some necessary trees for an antenna. I bring a lightweight stool to keep my butt off the snow. In the winter my pack consists of an FT-817 with everything pre-

connected. Taking things out of the pack and connecting gear just means cold hands. So batteries, key, and antenna are all ready. And... the FT-817 has a speaker so I don't need ear-phones. All I have to do is throw up a wire, setup the stool, and I'm ready to go. I usually use a T-1 tuner and a half wave wire. But I just got a Par Electronics end-fed that has a little matchbox. It's incredibly small, light. I have a 33 foot wire on it and the SWR meter shows a perfect match.



I set up near a small island

On Monday I operated for 15 minutes. 20 meters sounded good. Right away I worked a German station. DN6SA, Arno gave me a 449. It was a quick exchange. Then I worked Vic in Spain, EA5KV. He gave me a 529. Before quitting I worked K6TLL in California. Jim gave me a 559, but I don't think he really copied me that well, because he asked for some repeats.

I went back to the same spot the following day. There weren't as many signals on the band, but the ones that were there were stronger. I worked Steve W7QC near Seattle. Steve wasn't all that strong at first, only 559 and I was a little surprised he came back to me. He gave me a 449, but I know he copied me better than that because we chatted for 10 minutes. And he was getting it all and asked if I were going to do any ice fishing. Steve was running a K3 and a 3 element beam, and he wanted all the details of my setup.

Then I worked CT3FT on Madeira Islands off the coast of North Africa. Cedric was a strong 599 and he gave me 579. He was running 500 watts with a 4 element beam.



Staying warm with 5 watts and some fingerless gloves

With that I packed everything up. Now that February is almost here, there should be more days in the 30s and 40s with the sun getting higher and warmer. With broad vistas, views of distance mountains and plenty of south facing islands, Hermit Lake is a great spot for winter radio. I'll be back before the ice melts. Thanks to everyone for the great contacts!

*Editor's Note: Jim was using a Yaesu FT-817 powered by a Lithium-Ion laptop battery to a PAR Electronics end-fed half-wave antenna. You might notice in the last picture, Jim is holding a set of Whiterook MK-33 paddles. Jim notes he frequently uses a mini SOX key from Morse Express while on these adventures.*

## My Experience As K2A/7

By Ci Jones, WU7R

When I read Mark's (KJ7BS) plea for operators for the special Event Station K2A/7, I thought to myself, "I can do that." After all, I have been a ham for three and one-half years, I have done nothing but CW all that time, and I have lots of contacts with SKCC members.

So after obtaining Mark's blessing to operate from 1900 to 1959Z, I prepared myself. I made sure my K-2/100 was operating well, and I readied my faithful Vizkey Vertical Bug for the

ordeal. I tried (unsuccessfully) to download the logging program suggested for use, but settled instead on my trusty legal pad and pencil. I headed up the columns on the paper with the information I needed to log, and I even wrote down the correct exchange I would give as the Special Event Station.

As the time to begin came closer and closer, I got increasingly nervous. I thought to myself this was ridiculous: I hadn't been this nervous about a QSO since passing the three hundredth QSO over two years ago. I posted an email and a message on the Sked page announcing when I would be present and asking everyone for their mercy, patience and courtesy.

When the moment arrived as indicated on my Atomix Clock, I sent a tentative QRL? No answer, so I began with a CQ. Well, you would think that Montana or /7 was some obscure island on another planet! Immediately there was a blur of tones in my headset at a volume suggesting everyone was using legal limit power from next door to me.

If you have never been the object of a pileup, and if you are like me a casual operator, you cannot imagine the panic that wells up inside you as you seek to discern the one signal and call sign to which you shall respond. Out of all the tones and beeps I heard, the only call I discerned came sort of late (I guess because of the time it took to get to Montana from North Carolina), and I sent the exchange to Rick, N4RE. To be honest, I sent the exchange to N4AE not RE. We finished the QSO, and immediately the pileup returned.

After my second contact was completed, I heard N4RE calling and thought the call awfully close to the N4AE I had logged on my yellow pad. So I answered, and Rick very politely informed me I had his call wrong in the first exchange.

My time as K2A/7 continued with each operator mercifully abiding by my request for patience and indulgence in my inoperability. It went well until my bug somehow got unadjusted. My sending suddenly went from bad to worse, but no one came back with LID. What a great group these SKCC'rs are.

All-in-all, I made fourteen QSO's (fifteen counting N4RE twice). Did I enjoy it? Well, it was another new experience for me in ham radio. Would I do it again? Yes. It was actually good for me to test my adrenal system in this way. But you need to know that this fifty-nine minutes of operating has lessened my desire to do a DXpedition and be the object of a pileup. I just don't think my heart could stand the experience!

## Editor's Soapbox

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS SKCC 2240T

As I sit here pondering the influx of Super Bowl fans, the extra traffic, the crowds, all the hoopla, and the rude and discourteous visitors that will be Super Bowl weekend here in Glendale, AZ, am reminded of some of the operations surrounding the Straight Key Century Club's month-long second anniversary celebration. I was definitely listening more than usual trying to get a sweep (not in the cards this year) so maybe that accounts for some of the poor operating practices I heard.



I can't say whether any of it was SKCC members, but regardless, it was poor operating practice.

I had opportunity to be guest operator of K2A/7 several times and what I experienced makes me shiver. First, we amateur operators need to learn how to Zero Beat the calling station. Some stations were off frequency as much as a kilohertz. Thankfully my radio has RIT and I was able to adjust the receiver to compensate. Unfortunately, RIT has to be reset to zero or turned off or we risk missing stations calling us. Zero Beating is not difficult and articles have graced the pages of The SKCC Centurion on this subject. We need to learn how to Zero Beat better.

I herd on one frequency where a K2A station was working turn into what one club member so appropriately called "the intergalactic tune-up frequency". Listen folks, some operators need to tune their radios, some need to tune amplifiers, and most of us need to tune antennas and we have to do it somewhere. That is what dummy loads are for! Please, please, please do your tune-ups into a dummy load. If you don't have one, get one and use it. However, if you must tune-up on air, please do it away from the calling station on a clear frequency. I can't tell you how many times I had to ask for a callsign repeat because someone was tuning up on my calling frequency.

Starting to call CQ on an occupied frequency is easily avoided by sending QRL? and LISTENING. I heard lots of stations start calling CQ without checking to see if the frequency was occupied. This is basic folks.

Almost as bad as not checking the frequency is stealing a frequency. I had occasion to operate over a weekend during the "Winter Field Day" event and the bands were not crowded, but some operator decided the frequency I was operating K2A/7 on was a must have and started calling CQ as I finished my contact. When I responded my personal call and asked him to vacate the occupied frequency, they just kept calling CQ. I moved a few kilohertz and resumed my K2A/7 operations, but send QRL? twice first and actually listened.

I had lots of positive operating experiences, too, like the operator that called me to say a net was scheduled to begin shortly just below my operating frequency and ASKED if I would kindly QSY up a bit. No problem I replied.

Let's take a few minutes to examine our operating practices and ensure we are not contributing to the poor operating practiced.

**Go Pound Some Brass!**

## SKCC Contest Results

### SKS Sprint

**January 2008**—It was a fantastic turnout and another participation record this month. Congratulations to Bert W5ZR for taking first place, and to Tom K4ZGB and K8MP for taking second and third, respectively. Ed KG4W and Jack W7QQQ were not far behind.

## WES Sprintathon

**January 2008**—Congratulations to Ed KG4W for taking first place, and to John K5IZO and Duane K4LNN for taking second and third, respectively. Jay AA9KH was not far behind.

## New Members

4023, K2IUC, Dan, Leesburg, FL  
 4024, WA0ITP, Terry, Ottumwa, IA  
 4025, WB0KRI, Ron, Waseca, MN  
 4026, W6LX, Al, Arcadia, CA  
 4027, KN1W, Lou, Londonderry, CT  
 4028, WD4LST, Pete, Citra, FL  
 4029, AC7QN, Chuck, Fox Island, WA  
 4030, WD0AKZ, George, Falcon Heights, MN  
 4031, AA0RI, Chuck, Sioux Falls, SD  
 4032, KD8EZH, Rich, Columbus, OH  
 4033, VE3UCW, Les, Chapleau, ON, Canada  
 4034, NK1N, Glen, Riverdale, NY  
 4035, WN0WWY, Dale, Manhattan, KS  
 4036, KA6WSD, Jim, Cedar Rapids, IA  
 4037, N3EFN, Bernie, Saegertown, PA  
 4038, KC5GWU, Jim, Portales, NM  
 4039, AA2L, Edith, Golden, CO  
 4040, WA4DEO, Dozier, Stone Mountain, GA  
 4041, N0NS, Joseph, Cedar Rapids, IA  
 4042, KA1LBH, Louis, Farmington, NH  
 4043, OZ1HYI, Willy, Mern, Denmark  
 4044, LU1DZ, Alberto, Adroque, Argentina  
 4045, N2QFD, Malachi, Corinth, NY  
 4046, KM5IT, Gary, Fort Worth, TX  
 4047, KK5QA, Barbara, Arlington, TX  
 4048, KA3DPW, John, Parkesburg, PA  
 4049, W4NBS, Tom, Decatur, AL  
 4050, K8HIB, Paul, Traverse, City, MI  
 4051, AD4VL, James, Georgetown, KY  
 4052, KC2PPR, Joe, Plainview, NY  
 4053, W0SZP, Rick, Millington, TN  
 4054, K1DVA, Roland, Rio Rancho, NM  
 4055, W7ARE, Mark, Snowflake, AZ  
 4056, N3GQ, Bart, Stafford, VA  
 4057, K6KSG, Dick, Howard, CO  
 4058, KB8FE, Keith, Medina, OH  
 4059, WA4GQG, Kevin, Graham, NC  
 4060, KB1OJU, Brandon, New Cloucester, ME  
 4061, AA4Q, Bill, Scottsdale, AZ  
 4062, N3RIK, Bruce, Perkasie, PA  
 4063, W7EDO, Mike, Sun City, AZ  
 4064, W4NIO, Russ, Cocoa Beach, FL  
 4065, KG6CGE, Glenn, Rail Road Flat, CA  
 4066, W7KY, David, Ammon, ID  
 4067, WI6T, Rex, Centennial, CO  
 4068, K7RA, Ta, Seattle, WA  
 4069, K9PWK, Patrick, Springfield, IL  
 4070, KC2RGU, Kurt, Flemington, NJ  
 4071, KU9RK, Tom, Indianapolis, IN  
 4072, W9HZ, Mitch, Pottstown, PA  
 4073, K8WIK, Jerry, Salem, OH

4074, KD9B, Dennis, Slaughter, KY  
 4075, N0PP, Juerg, Iowa City, IA  
 4076, KC8ZBQ, Opie, Parkersburg, WV  
 4077, K5EWJ, Cookie, Dogpatch Ranch, TX  
 4078, W5EPW/4, Bill, Boca Raton, FL  
 4079, WA1AR, Alan, Wrentham, MA  
 4080, K8EE, Gene, Parma, OH  
 4081, WW4HX, Gary, Suwanee, GA  
 4082, KQ1X, Pete, Hamilton, OH  
 4083, K8WPE, David, Traverse City, MI  
 4084, KJ4WD, Carl, New Hill, NC  
 4085, KK0DJ, Dennis, Pella, IA  
 4086, N4CMB, Mark, Greenville, TX  
 4087, WA3HIC, Jim, Gaithersburg, MD  
 4088, W4EY, Bill, Waldorf, MD  
 4089, KB1NFW, Adrian, Reading, MA  
 4090, WA0MWW, Ron, Batavia, IA  
 4091, W4UCI, Sandy, Wichita, KS  
 4092, K16ATB, Herbert, Alamo, CA  
 4093, WN4KPG, Rick, Lake Oswego, OR  
 4094, KA0VJX, Dennis, Fort Dodge, IA  
 4095, N4QR, Bob, Maiden, NC  
 4096, KB1PSX, Tony, Jefferson, NH  
 4097, N1VFU, Gary, Claremont, NH  
 4098, NF7R, Don., Logandale, NV  
 4099, KG2PE, Edith, Toms River, NJ  
 4100, KA0RJY, Reginald, Waseca, MN  
 4101, K1PUB, Charles, Boxborough, MA  
 4102, KK4CV, Chuck, Eatonton, GA  
 4103, N4UXA, Bryan, Luray, VA  
 4104, KB3HAL, Bill, Vanceboro, NC  
 4105, WA1BXY, Don, Tiverton, RI  
 4106, K6TOB, Richard, Newhall, CA  
 4107, KH6OY, Jeff, Wyoming, MN  
 4108, K9CNP, Jim, Auburn, IL  
 4109, K4ZRP, Lou, Rockwood, TN  
 4110, WD4BMG, George, North Wilkesboro, NC  
 4111, AF0H, Robert, Park Hills, MO  
 4112, KA7W, Tom, Hamlin, TX  
 4113, K9STN, Stan, New London, WI  
 4114, KF8KT, Darrell, East Liverpool, OH  
 4115, KA5JRX, Bob, Canton, GA  
 4116, DF1PH, Uwe, Rengsdorf, Germany  
 4117, KC9ACL, William, Ellettsville, IN  
 4118, AB8CJ, Doug, New Canton, OH  
 4119, KD4UHA, Tom, Portsmouth, VA  
 4120, DL7GEM, Marcus, Frankfurt, Germany  
 4121, KB3MOW, Dave, Port Allegany, PA  
 4122, AL7EN, Russ, Two Rivers, AK  
 4123, WB3GCM, Vince, Lehighton, PA  
 4124, AD5TC, James, Corpus Christi, TX  
 4125, K2NEO, Brett, North Brunswick, NJ  
 4126, W8AOQ, Steve, Warren, MI  
 4127, VE4WZ, Mike, Winnipeg, MB, Canada  
 4128, W5EEA, Mike, Littleton, CO  
 4129, WA8KAN, Dave, Parkersburg, WV  
 4130, WA4TNM, Jim, Gastonia, NC  
 4131, KE1LG, Steve, Pembroke, ME  
 4132, K7ZX, Greg, Springfield, OR  
 4133, N4NRL, Jay, Winston, GA

4134, K5LKJ, John, Stafford, TX  
 4135, N4BNO, Rod, Elm City, NC  
 4136, KG4TVN, Claude, Fairfax Station, VA  
 4137, K4TTR, Peter, Clover, SC  
 4138, AA4MC, Mike, Falls Church, VA  
 4139, KD7KAR, Rob, San Clemenye, CA  
 4140, N3SW, Scott, New Cumberland, PA

## SKCC Awards

### Centurion

152, KE0N, Eliot, Minneapolis, MN, 6 January 2008  
 153, WL7WH, Bob, Anchorage, AK, 6 January 2008  
 154, WA1LWS, Hans, Gaithersburg, MD, 7 January 2008  
 155, W3RT, Red, Fairless Hills, PA, 8 January 2008  
 156, K4REB, Joe, Havelock, NC, 10 January 2008  
 157, N5PU, Leon, Moss, Point, MS, 10 January 2008  
 158, WA8KOQ, Wink, Sevierville, TN, 12 January 2008  
 159, W9DLN, Dan, Crivitz, WI, 14 January 2008  
 160, K5ICW, Hank, Montgomery, TX, 14 January 2008  
 161, K0DBK, Brad, Inver Grove, Heights, MN, 15 January 2008  
 162, AA4HT, Rip, Lakeland, FL, 15 January 2008  
 163, KB3MQN, Dave, Enola, PA, 15 January 2008  
 164, W4HDM, Damon, Cumming, GA, 16 January 2008  
 165, WQ9Z, Roy, Skesser, IL, 19 January 2008  
 166, N9CYF, Tex, Beach Park, IL, 19 January 2008  
 167, W2LJ, Larry, South Plainfield, NJ, 19 January, 2008  
 168, K4HL, Les, Pensacola, FL, 24 January 2008  
 169, N8UO, Ken, Warren, MI, 24 January 2008  
 170, W3FAF, John, Mahtomedi, MN, 26 January 2008

### Tribune

64, WB1EDI, Barry, Manchester, NH, 04, January, 2008  
 65, N1AFV, Gordon, Warren, ME, 13 January, 2008  
 66, AC0BQ, Johnny, Lebo, KS, 13 January, 2008  
 67, W5ZR, Bert, Martinville, LA 13, January, 2008  
 68, K4AHO, Jim, Orlando, FL, 13 January, 2008  
 69, K8BBM, David, Selby, SD, 13 January, 2008  
 70, K5PAX, Harvey, Albuquerque, NM, 19 January, 2008  
 71, N5PU, Leon, Moss, Point, MS, 19 January, 2008  
 72, KC2EGL, Michael, Brookville, PA, 20 January, 2008  
 73, W4HDM, Damon, Cumming, GA, 26 January, 2008  
 74, W9DLN, Dan, Crivitz, WI, 26 January, 2008  
 75, WI0S, Keith, Mound, MN, 27 January, 2008

## Operating Afield

**B**eginning with the March issue, this will be a new column in which we will present various topics relating to portable operations. We will feature radios, antennas, power sources, logging, getting there, and interesting places from which to operate. We invite your stories of portable operations like Jim Cluett's Hermit Lake In January featured in this issue. Please send all submissions to [kj7bs@cox.net](mailto:kj7bs@cox.net).

## Key Of The Month



The *Vibroplex*® 100th ANNIVERSARY ORIGINAL BUG (1904-2004) - This key duplicates one of the most popular early bases, a "weathered" black Japan-like powdered coat finish with gold pin stripe border. Chromed upper parts match the Standard Original Bug with black paddles and unique serial numbers.

## Shack Of The Month



TEN TEC OMNI A  
BENDIX MT-11B NAVAL FLAMEPROOF KEY  
VIBROPLEX 100TH ANNIVERSARY BUG  
TIMEWAVE DSP-9 FILTER  
TEN TEC TUNER  
BK FREQ COUNTER  
HAL KEYBOARD  
K1EL KEYBOARD KEYER  
OAK HILL WM-1 QRP METER

George , N2JNZ

## QSL Of The Month



Members, send images of your QSL card and see them posted for all members to see. Email images to [kj7bs@cox.net](mailto:kj7bs@cox.net).



## The SKCC Centurion

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**With SKCC every day is Straight Key Night!**

## Operating Frequencies

These are the suggested frequencies (+or - KHz) for SKCC members to congregate and look for other SKCC members. These are suggestions only, nobody owns any frequency. Be courteous and find a clear spot.

1.820 MHz	3.550 MHz	3.530 MHz
7.120 MHz	7.055 MHz	10.120 MHz
14.050 MHz	18.080 MHz	21.050 MHz
24.910 MHz	28.050 MHz	50.090 MHz
	144.070 MHz	

## Operating Events

**Monthly 24 Hour SKCC Operating Event:** The first day of each month from 0000Z to 2359Z is designated as a monthly SKCC operating event. For SKCC members and non-SKCC members to work each other for credit. Contact with 100 SKCC members will qualify that person for a certificate of accomplishment. Visit <http://www.skccgroup.com> for more info or contact [n6wk@n6wk.com](mailto:n6wk@n6wk.com).

**SKCC Sprint:** SKCC Sprints take place each month on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 0100z to 0300z. Rules for participation can be found at <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>.

**SKCC Weekend Sprintathon:** Every Second Sunday of each month beginning at 0000z UTC and ending 2359z UTC. This operating event is open to all licensed amateurs. Periodically themes will be announced for upcoming weekend sprints. See <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/> for more information and rules.

## SKCC Member Resources

**SKCC website**—Everything you need to know about the Straight Key Century Club. Check back frequently as this site changes, <http://www.skccgroup.com>.

**SKCC Yahoo Groups Email List**—<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/skcc/>. A moderated email list for the exchange of ideas about SKCC.

**SKCC QSL Bureau**—Dan Rhodes, KA3CTQ manages this free service for SKCC members. Send and receive QSL cards for QSOs between SKCC members via this service. To re-

The Straight Key Century Club is the fastest growing CW club focusing on manual generation of Morse code. Founded in January 2006, SKCC has grown to over 3700 members in calendar 2007. Members enjoy a very active email list server, SKCC forums, monthly sprints, and a monthly 24 hour operating event. Information about the Straight Key Century Club can be found at <http://www.skccgroup.com>.



ceive your QSL cards, you need to have SASE (self addresses stamped envelopes) on file with the SKCC QSL Bureau. Dan also says non-members can send you QSL cards through the SKCC Bureau. For more information see <http://www.skccgroup.com/qs1.htm>.

**Award Tracker**—Don Kemp, NN8B (SKCC 0036) maintains an SKCC Award Tracker spreadsheet to assist members in keeping track of their current standings with SKCC awards. Don posts updates to this valuable tool in the files section of the SKCC Yahoo Groups <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/skcc/files/>.

**The SKCC Centurion**—The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club published monthly. The SKCC Centurion is posted on the SKCC site, in the files section of the SKCC Yahoo Groups site, and distributed via email to your email inbox. To join The SKCC Centurion email list, send an email to [The\\_SKCC\\_Centurion\\_subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:The_SKCC_Centurion_subscribe@yahoo.com) with Subscribe in the subject. (304 members subscribed to electronic delivery)

**Spotting Cluster**—Phil, AI4OF (SKCC # 600) has launched a spotting cluster and is making it available to SKCC members. Use this spotting cluster to announce your operations or to find other SKCC members to work. Point your Telnet client to [skcc.matrixlist.com:7300](telnet://skcc.matrixlist.com:7300). Login using your callsign.

**SKCC Sked Page**—Andy, K3UK (SKCC # 1325) maintains an interactive web page where SKCC members can arrange a meeting with other members to work towards SKCC awards or just to rag chew. Check it out at <http://www.obriensweb.com/skccsked/skccsked.php>.