

The SKCC Centurion

The official newsletter of the Straight key Century Club

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2008 Junkbox Warz

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS SKCC # 2240

Wow! This was an exciting event and lots of creativity came out. Not only did we have a large number of participants, but the variety of keys was short of amazing. The keys covered the spectrum between Gilligan's Island to down right MacGyver-ish. Before we get to the stars of this event, the keying devices, lets look at participation and results.

- Operators in 23 states an 1 foreign country participated in the 2008 Junkbox Warz.
- 34 operators turned in sprint results. (That's a 70 % increase from 2007)
- 752 QSOs reported
- Accumulated 3200 in bonus points total
- Accumulated 21087 points total

This is impressive for a club that is only two years old.

Reading the event soapbox leaves readers with the distinct impression everyone had a good time. Here are just a few remarks:

K7JSW Another first for me! I threw together a straight key from the junk box. Really just a piece of wood with a copper strip screwed to it. Just like one I made as a kid so many years ago. Took some getting use, but loads of fun. Hard to pick the best fist. Everyone sounded great!

K5EWJ It was a fun contest. All the RTTY signals for the CQ WPX Contest made for busy bands and sometimes it was hard to find a hole. 85 QSOs with a junk box key made for one tired right arm at the end of the event. I used the junk box key for all qsos. My vote goes to Randy, KB4QQJ but it was hard to choose between Randy and Damon, W4HDM. Both were great.

W4HDM Had a Blast! Thanks everyone for a great time doing JunkBox WES. My vote for best fist goes to Cookie in Texas; I would not have known he was JB. Enjoyed all of the contacts and even had a couple first time ever CW ops. I got to try and recruit some new members as well! The wind took out my

antenna at the end, but I got it back up (sort of) in time to squeeze in a few more contacts. All of my contacts were made with the JB key!

K1NNJ Next month I'm building a key and trying.

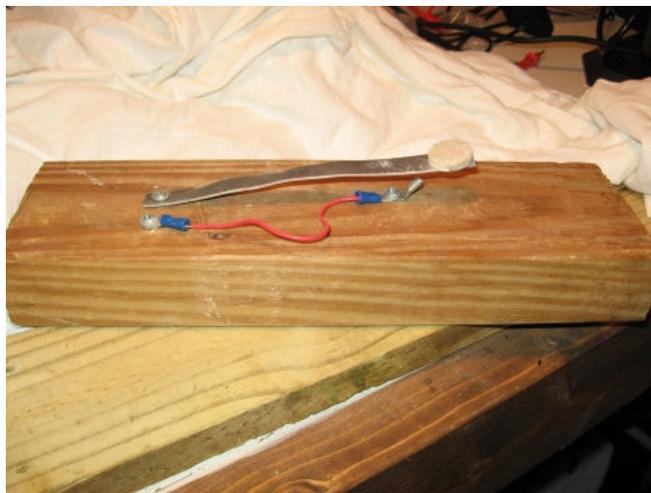
N4RE Sending CW with a pair of needle nose pliers was more difficult than I thought. The alligator clips kept popping off and shorting together. Best JB fist was W4HDM, Damon in GA.

To read the full accounts of the junkboxers, point your web browser to <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/results/WeekendSprintResults.html> and scroll down a bit.

Now for the real stars of this event, the junkbox keys.



K2RFP



AD5VC

Inside This Issue	
Feature Columns	
Editor's Soapbox	4
SKCC Contest Results	5
New Members	5
SKCC Awards	6
Operating Afield	6
Key of The Month	6
Shack of The Month	7
QSL Of The Month	7



K4CNW



K5EWJ



Junk Box Needle Nose Key
WES - Feb 2008
Rick, N4RE, SKCC # 942C

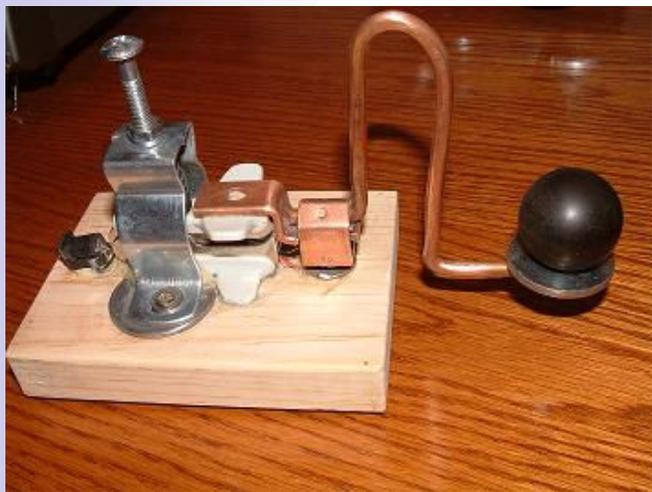
N4RE



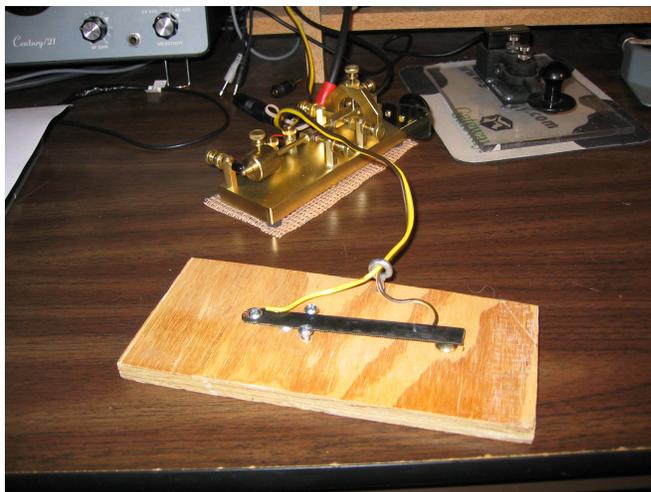
N8TI



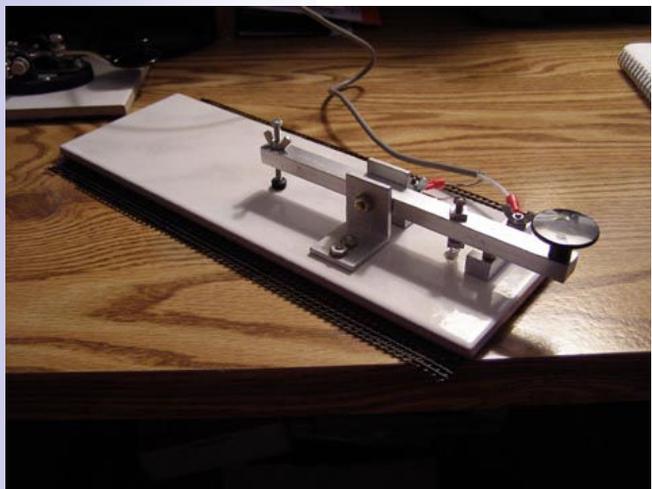
NT9K



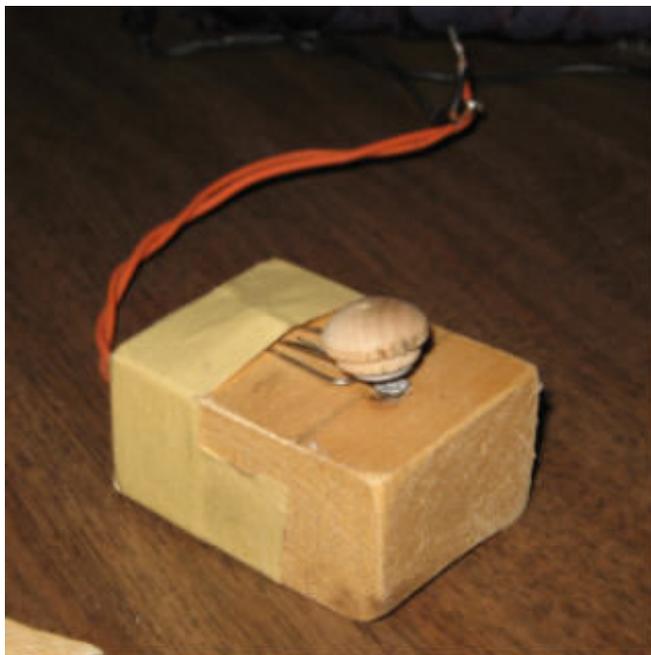
W4HDM



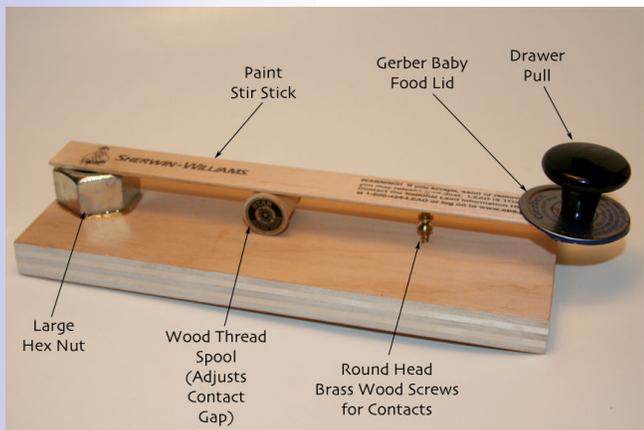
WU7R



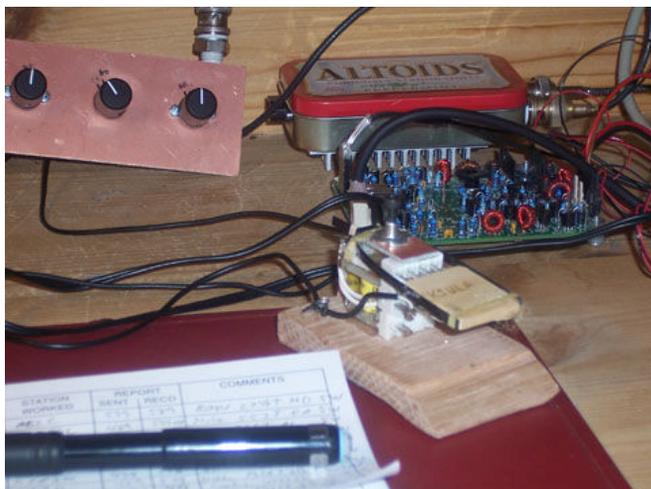
W6SQQ



N2QFD



W9QZ



K1ULF



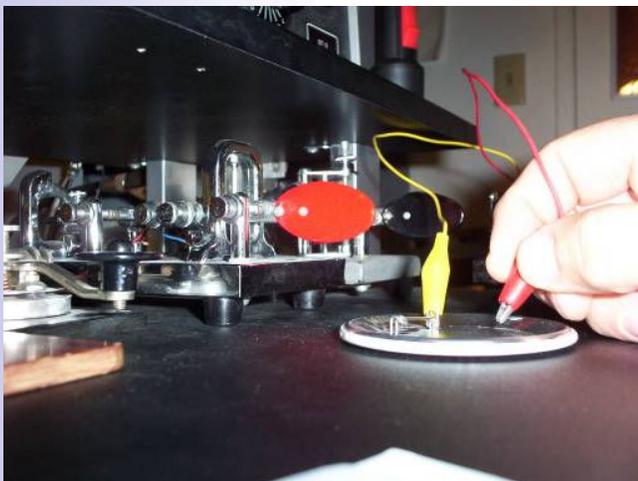
KB4QQJ



KK6AW



LW3EX



W1RO



KA3CTQ



N5IB

You will see some of these keys in the Key of The Month spot in upcoming issues of The SKCC Centurion.

All junkbox key builder/operators are to be congratulated. It is one thing to pound brass with a poorly made commercial straight key, it is another thing to pound brass with a key you made. If nothing else, it should give us an appreciation for what our predecessors went through many decades ago.

Editor's Soapbox

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS SKCC 2240T

VP6DX, Ducie Island DXpedition, was by all accounts an overwhelming success breaking all kinds of DXpedition records. Operating 18 days on the island netted 183,686 QSOs. I think this crew just set the "gold standard" against which all future DXpeditions will be measured. So how did they accomplish such a feat? Superior equipment, antennas, and most of all, outstanding operators.

The Ducie crew's equipment were the new Elecraft K3 transceiver, amplifiers, and lots of antennas.

Elecraft outfitted the Ducie crew with K3 transceivers assem-

bled and tested. I understand this radio ranks among the highest rated transceivers ever reviewed by QST labs. I heard and read many an operator state the QSO rate success was due to the CW decode capability of the K3. The decode firmware is good, but still needs perfectly or near perfectly sent Morse code. Machine to machine Morse is even difficult to decode due to QSB, QRN, and a host of other things. I really don't think Morse decode was used, I believe these operators were just that good.

Most if not all operators were running Killowatt amplifiers. That certainly helps their signal to be heard.

Their antenna farm, and this is where I believe the magic happened, was interesting. This is the first time I've read about vertical dipole arrays. An internet search on them did not turn up much (this is a design I need to study). I'm sure the proximity to salt water helped a lot, but the real juju magic were in the Beverage receiving antennas. It has been said, you can have a \$10,000 radio and a \$100 antenna and your signal will be OK, but spending more on your antenna will produce a much better signal all around, regardless of how much your radio cost.

The combination of operators, rigs, amplifiers, and antennas made working VP6DX like shooting fish in a barrel. Too easy. I managed to work them from 10-40 meters both phone and CW except 30 meters which is CW and Data only. I even managed to work them QRP a couple of times.

I wonder how many SKCC members were able to log VP6DX.

Go Pound Some Brass!

SKCC Contest Results

SKS Sprint

February 2008—Congratulations to Jack W7QQQ for winning the February sprint! His win was quite decisive. Second went to John N9OL and third to Jon K1NV, but second through seventh place was a close race!

WES Sprintathon

February 2008—Congratulations to Tom K4GZB for taking first place, and to Cookie K5EWJ and Damon W4HDM for taking second and third, respectively.

New Members

4141, YV4AB, Ivan, Valencia, Venezuela
 4142, N1XGB, Jack, Burlington, VT
 4143, KB3DQO, Chris, Hookstown, PA
 4144, K1HRV, Dave, Walpole, MA
 4145, KC4MJB, Ben, Gainesville, FL
 4146, N4ZQ, Keith, Clearwater, FL
 4147, RV3DSA, Serge, Moscow, Russia
 4148, N1GUI, Charles, Granby, MA
 4149, KB6R, Robert, Llano, CA

4150, NZ5L, Norman, Beach Lake, PA
 4151, K9ADB, Denis, La Habra, CA
 4152, K4TRH, Jackson, Tullahoma, TN
 4153, N5IB, James, Baton, Rouge, La
 4154, K7CUU, Doug, Bremerton, WA
 4155, N9GOD, Don, Bloomington, IL
 4156, WA4PGI, Gene, Covington, VA
 4157, WD5ILB, Bob, Azle, TX
 4158, N6FSS, Bob, Stockton, CA
 4159, N5CA, Allan, Azle, TX
 4160, KC4ATU, Bill, Gainesville, VA
 4161, K0KJS, Mike, Stillwater, MN
 4162, W5IH, Bobby, Arlington, TX
 4163, N4NAB, John, Cape Carteret, NC
 4164, K6BFA, Peter, Vienna, VA
 4165, K8GWN, Gwen, Traverse City, MI
 4166, WB5EAT, Robert, Palestine, TX
 4167, K0GKJ, Gene, Punta Gorda, FL
 4168, K6TTT, Jack, Angels, Camp, CA
 4169, KN8N, Larry, Kalamazoo, MI
 4170, KJ4AJX, Tom, Woodstock, GA
 4171, KB8II, John, Hanover Park, IL
 4172, KF7ET, Cal, Shelley, ID
 4173, WZ7E, Steve, Vancouver, WA
 4174, N4DLA, Matthew, Orinda, CA
 4175, G3ASG, Ray, Norfolk, UK
 4176, G0UCD, Martin, Yorkshire, UK
 4177, KB5OG, Lee, Houston, TX
 4178, N0AIE, Everett, Wynot, NE
 4179, N0WNV, Ed, Troy, MO
 4180, V63TR, Ted, Micronesia, Micronesia
 4181, N4HBH, John, Breaks, VA
 4182, WB0VAO, Jim, Gering, NE
 4183, WJ1R, Jim, Dover, MA
 4184, WA8HSB, John, Mobile, AL
 4185, KE4RD, James, Morganton, NC
 4186, KI6BHB, David, Chino Hills, CA
 4187, N6UYL, Dennis, Chula, Vista, CA
 4188, KI4ZFR, Alex, Stafford, Va
 4189, N7BVY, Steve, Seattle, WA
 4190, G3MZV, Gordon, Cheltenham, UK
 4191, K2SAP, Ronald, Trenton, NJ
 4192, KA9BHD, Bob, Bolingbrook, IL
 4193, AI5F, Dick, Alamogordo, NM
 4194, K1GCD, Jim, West Newfield, ME
 4195, N0EHQ, Ed, Chariton, IA
 4196, K6GYL, Dianne, Windsor, CA
 4197, KC8LTL, Ken, Traverse City, MI
 4198, N0JKK, Fran, Ste. Genevieve, MO
 4199, N7KBJ, Jim, Silt, CO
 4200, TL8DV, Dave, Bangui, Central African Republic
 4201, KG7LR, Ron, Herriman, UT
 4202, WE4J, Bob, Waxhaw, NC
 4203, KD8CGH, Bob, Tallmadge, OH
 4204, K7RNI, George, Snohomish, WA
 4205, KD0ABR, Kevin, N. St. Paul, MN
 4206, WB8TDG, Rex, Yellow, Springs, OH
 4207, JA1AAA, Nob, Isesaki, Japan
 4208, N8FOX, Bill, Hudsonville, MI
 4209, KD5MMM, Phil, Fentress, TX

4210, WA6L, John, Alpine, CA
 4211, WB9TFH, Gilbert, West Allis, WI
 4212, W9HLR, Harold, Mount Morris, IL
 4213, W0MQY, Joe, Pittsburg, KS
 4214, KG6ZDO, Geoffrey, Santa Rosa, CA
 4215, W9FFU, Glenn, Oak Harbor, WA
 4216, K5DD, Scott, Houston, TX
 4217, W6PAP, Maynard, Citrus Heights, CA
 4218, JA7GGX, Yasunori, Yokohama City, Japan
 4219, N6HDC, Larry, Redding, CA
 4220, K2MUN, David, Summit, NJ
 4221, KA7PLE, Mike, Beaverton, OR
 4222, K4JSU, Paul, Miami Springs, FL
 4223, WA9WJL, Ken, Paducah, KY
 4224, KF5YU, Roy, Beaumont, TX
 4225, NN4ZZ, Al, Loganville, GA
 4226, G0FDJ, Keith, Lincolnshire, England
 4227, KE5LSU, Mike, Albuquerque, NM
 4228, AB4BX, Michael, Jamestown, TN
 4229, KE5PWL, Eric, Mount Hermon, LA
 4230, KB3ONA, Eugene, Peoria, AZ
 4231, WB6HWF, Ron, Newport Beach, CA
 4232, K8UPR, Mike, Westerville, OH
 4233, VE3DTQ, John, Hamilton, Canada
 4234, AB9QN, Lincoln, Winamac, IN
 4235, PC8E, Hans, Weesp, Netherlands
 4236, WB2HTO, David, Reading, MA
 4237, KB1MIC, Erik, Reading, MA
 4238, K4OP, John, Vine Grove, KY
 4239, W0ILC, Daniel, Newton, IA
 4240, W0DAB, David, New York, NY
 4241, IZ7NDH, Max, Taranto, Italy
 4242, XE2DOZ, Marco, Mexicali, Baja, Mexico
 4243, VE3VAI, Lori, Thunder Bay, Canada
 4244, N9FLZ, Rolf, New Berlin, WI
 4245, G0KZZ, Mark, Near Walsall, England
 4246, AD8B, David, Saint Peters, MO
 4247, W9FED, Fred, Pekin, IL
 4248, K1VU, Robert, West Bridgewater, MA
 4249, N2WFN, Eugene, Medford, NJ
 4250, WA7MLK, Gary, Hillsboro, OR
 4251, VK3DBD, David, Yackandandah, Australia
 4252, KC9DJQ, Gary, Appleton, WI
 4253, KF4LFD, Tom, Largo, FL
 4254, N0GR, Greg, Minden, IA
 4255, KB3PNU, Tom, Mount Airy, MD
 4256, K4GDC, Walt, Elon, NC
 4257, WB7AEI, Phil, Kent, WA
 4258, K0MVJ, Roger, Hermantown, MN

SKCC Awards

Centurion

162, AA4HT, 3352C, Rip, Lakeland, FL, 15 January, 2008
 163, KB3MQN, 236C, Dave, Enola, PA, 15 January, 2008
 164, W4HDM, 3729C, Damon, Cumming, GA, 16 January, 2008
 165, WQ9Z, 325C, Roy, Skesser, IL, 19 January, 2008
 166, N9CYF, 2408C, Tex, Beach Park, IL, 19 January, 2008
 167, W2LJ, 49, Larry, South Plainfield, NJ, 19 January, 2008

168, K4HL, 3713C, Les, Pensacola, FL, 24 January, 2008
 169, N8UO, 2642C, Ken, Warren, MI, 24 January, 2008
 170, W3FAF, 877C, John, Mahtomedi, MN, 26 January, 2008
 171, WD4SCZ, 556C, Emil, Elizabethtown, KY, 31 January, 2008

Tribune

76, W7QQQ, 1961C, Jack, Sierra Vista, AZ, 2 February, 2008
 77, KE0QM, 2166C, Dennis, Olathe, KS, 2 February, 2008
 78, K8LEN, 520C, Patrick, Pekin, IN, 15 February, 2008
 79, KE0N, 256C, Eliot, Minneapolis, MN, 15 February, 2008
 80, KE5AKL, 1113C, Mike, Albuquerque, NM, 15 February, 2008
 81, KB4QQJ, 3508C, Randy, Burlington, NC, 16 February, 2008
 82, K1NNJ, 2937C, Thomas, Shirley, MA, 28 February, 2008

Operating Afield

Operating Afield will begin in the April issue. Please send all submissions to kj7bs@cox.net.

Key Of The Month



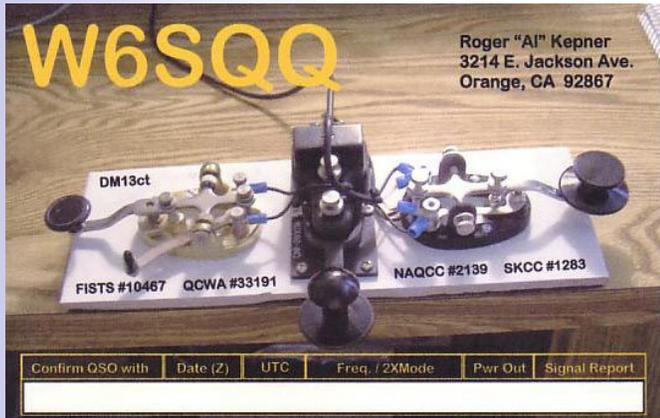
Marcel N5VU—Pictured above is my "Madonna" key. I joined SKCC and then realized that I didn't have a straight key. Ham radio junk box at its best.

Shack Of The Month



If you are expecting a photo of a radio shack, send your picture in. There are 4200 SKCC members and none want their shacks featured here? Email pictures of your shack with a description to kj7bs@cox.net.

QSL Of The Month



Send images of your QSL card and see them posted for all members to see. Email images to kj7bs@cox.net.

The SKCC Centurion

13226 N. 62nd Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85304
Phone: 623-606-1976
kj7bs@arrl.net

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.

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 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>.