



*The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club*

Volume 11 Issue 1

March, 2018

## **K3Y Wrap-up**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the SKCC 12th anniversary event. Despite the changes in HF propagation K3Y operators managed to log over 28,000 contacts. That's a modest increase over the last couple of years. Let it not be said that SKCC members aren't game when conditions are tough!

Special thanks go to our DX members who struggled the most with fewer openings, narrower DX windows, and the shift in activity to longer wavelengths. If the QSOs are fewer this year they are at least more highly prized. All your hard work with weak signals is greatly appreciated!

Most especially, thanks to Pablo KP4SJ who coordinated K3Y/KP4 operations. Despite all the difficulties in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria he, Jose KP3W and Luigi NP4FW managed to put stations on the air and log QSOs for K3Y/KP4 once again.

Over 200 SKCC members signed up as event station operators this year. That's more than ever before. And for the first time ever we had operators in all 50 states. (Congrats to Al KD8DEU for working all 50!) We hope you will all return again next January for more.

See these and other stats/results on the K3Y page here:

[www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-statistics.php](http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-statistics.php)

The K3Y "sweep" QSL cards should go out by early March to members of the SKCC QSL Bureau and to others who have requested cards. New this year: cards will indicate State or Province for contacts with K3Y operators in the US and Canada.

Thanks, again. Hope you all had fun!

73,  
Drew - AF2Z  
K3Y Planning Group

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SKCC BOOTH ----**

### **See 'ya at DAYTON XENIA! – May 18-20 2018**

Another year has passed (the older I get, the quicker it seems to zip by!) and once again, we're approaching the Ham Radio Operator's favorite springtime rite: Ham fests. But not just 'any' ham fest – we're thinking of the Big One: 'DAYTON' – which is now 'officially' located in nearby Xenia, Ohio. Your intrepid fellow SKCCer has, once again, failed to take one step back when asked to volunteer to staff our SKCC Booth at the Xenia Fairgrounds. Being a glut-ton for punishment, I'm now looking for 'volunteers' among you that are planning on attending the shindig this coming May.

The SKCC booth will, once again, be "manned and ready". Planning has begun and a call is being sent out (*via this article, the SKCC web page, the SKCC sked page, and 'word-of-mouth'*) to all SKCCer's that are planning to make the pilgrimage to Dayton. We know you are there to see the show and we'll give you a place to 'take a break' from the crowds (and, if you haven't been to Dayton or Xenia – there are CROWDS!) at the booth during the show.

Now, those of you who've graciously helped in the past – we welcome you back; for those of you who are making your first pilgrimage – fear not! To volunteer, simply send me (Larry, AH6AX – SKCC 11165S) an e-mail with any particular hour or two that you can contribute or, if you don't have a time in mind, that you are willing to help, with how much time you can give him. I will respond and attempt to coordinate a good spot for you. We need to provide for 2 people at the booth at all times the show is open. We'll have the brochures and, hopefully some CW keys to play with. **[To e-mail me: [lpwandel@comcast.net](mailto:lpwandel@comcast.net)]**

"Ok.., but whatta I gotta do while sitting at the booth," you ask (good question, Bunky!) We are there for three reasons: 1 – to introduce potential members to the "joy of CW" and belonging to SKCC, 2- to provide a 'home base' for members who are enjoying the show – sorta the "clubhouse" for a few days, and 3- to demonstrate that CW is alive and well (with over 18,300 members – as of this writing)! So, come out, bring your best sales pitch (actually, no sales pitch needed – the free membership and camaraderie demonstrated at the booth is a good sales point). We want to make the potential (and regular) member feel welcome!

All-in-all, we are looking forward to another fun time to be had by all. And, the opportunity to lighten our wallets as we drool at the new ham goodies....

73 fer now! SEE YA AT XENIA!



### **EA8/SM7BUA**

Hello OMs, I will be QRV from Tenerife as EA8/SM7BUA until 5th of April and then return to Sweden. I am looking forward to many QSOs with SKCC members from my home QTH in Bankeryd.

73 de Mats SM7BUA ( more info on [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com))

## **SEVERE HURRICANE DAMAGE TO AMATEURS IN PUERTO RICO**

Hurricane Maria is regarded as one of the worst natural disaster on record in Dominica and Puerto Rico islands. It is the tenth-most intense Atlantic Hurricane on record and the most intense tropical cyclone worldwide of 2017.

This hurricane was a powerful Category of 5 when made landfall on the island Of Dominica, later Saint Croix in the US Virgin Island before making landfall in Puerto Rico as a strong Category 4 hurricane, causing devastation on September 20, 2017 at 6:35 AM with maximum sustained winds of 155 mph in the Municipality of Yabucoa in the southeast coast of Puerto Rico along with extremely heavy rainfall that produced major to catastrophic flooding and flash flooding specially the northern half of Puerto Rico.

Maria's center moved over the coastal water of northwest Puerto Rico early that afternoon. The tropical winds continued well into the evening and overnight hours across mainland of Puerto Rico.

Many homes were destroyed or damages, many fallen trees, a lot of concrete, metallic and wooden poles of transmission lines were down and no power electricity for 100% of the people for a long time. Some locations were isolated and rescue was needed for evacuation by local National Guard and US Federal Agencies including FEMA. In my area I was lucky to have again home electricity two days before Christmas Eve. We are near to complete five months after the hurricane and about 400,000 habitants do not have power electricity. There are now different private Electrical Companies from USA assisting Puerto Rico and doing an extraordinary work to get back the electricity service. There is still a lot of work to be done and reconstructions of bridges and roads and infra structure but the island will recover in the future.

### **SKCC Members and Non members Affected**

**NP4A** Pedro Piza SKCC # 12274 is one of strongest signal in Puerto Rico from 160m to 6m bands lost three of his big towers, two of them due to heavy rain and sliding of the terrestrial area and another tower because a big pine tree hit the guy wires on its fall and the tower collapsed.

**KP4SJ** Pablo Soto SKCC #8843S was lucky to bring down his 8 elements log periodic Tennadyne antenna before the hurricane. His big tower bend over his big house roof, as seen on the photo, but the upper part of his tower is seen on the floor.

**KP4ED** Luis de Jesus SKCC #6589 S He lost his 3 sections tubular tower with his antennas but was lucky that did not hit his neighbor house because the cable that pulls up the antenna held it.

**KP3W** Jose Rodriguez SKCC # 14267 T lost his tower with yagi antennas and vertical antenna. He is using now a G5RV antenna and will start soon with the construction of his new tower. Jose is the Net Control Station of the Puerto Rico CW Net every Wednesday at 23:00 UTC in 40M band 7.120 khz. All are invited to participate.

**KP4EIT** Jose Montes is dxer from HF,VHF,UHF lost four big towers with Yagi, dipoles and vertical antennas loss. He is very active in DX 6m,2m and 70 cms bands.

**KP4WI** Luis de la Vega is the Puerto Rico QSL Manager for over 25 years lost one of highest tower in Metropolitan Area and his antenna.

**Julio NP3CW SKCC# 2632S** Lost the tower, Tennadyne Log Periodic 6 elements, Yagi 6 elements for 6meters, yagi 13 elements for 2 meters, dipoles for 30,40 and 80 meters.

Hope all people affected by hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and in other countries have faith that our future will be bright and bring us all hope and mercy from God, so we shall overcome.

Sincerely,

Julio C. Medina MD

NP3CW

SKCC # 2632 S

San Juan, Puerto Rico

*Ed....the following are pictures Julio sent of the damage to towers....*



KP4SJ Pablo SKCC 8843s



KP3W Jose SKCC 14267t



KP3W Jose SKCC 14267t



KP4ED Luis SKCC 6589s



NP3CW Julio SKCC 2632s



NP3CW Julio SKCC 2632s



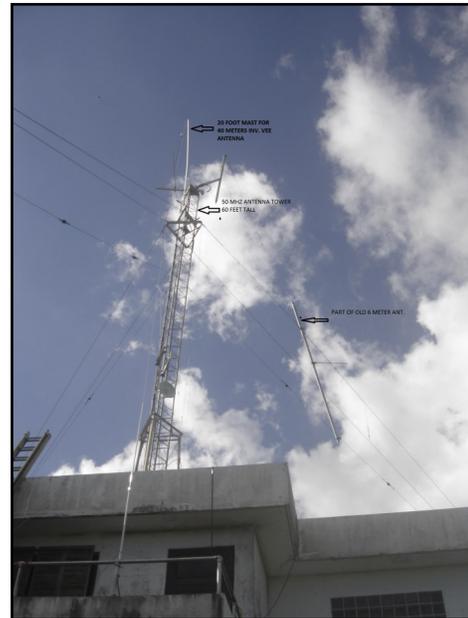
KP4SJ Pablo SKCC 8843s



KP4WI Luis de la Vega KP4 QSL Mgr



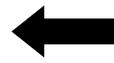
NP4A Pedro Piza



NP4A Pedro Piza



NP4A Pedro Piza



## K9JP Jeff #3008s



If you have received your SKCC number within the last eleven years then you probably were issued that number by Jeff Peters K9JP. Until this last year Jeff has been responsible for issuing and keeping track of all membership requests for numbers. If you also used the SKCC QSL bureau during that time then you sent and received SKCC from Jeff when Dave K9AAA became a silent key several years back. If you requested a club Elmer to help you along in your SKCC membership then Jeff directed you the right person! Whew, Jeff has been a busy man and then of course Jeff has been active on the air too as his “S” at the end of his SKCC number indicates.

It was a pleasure for the SKCC board to honor Jeff at his retirement of duties with a special plaque and to present him with a “camel back” key made by Curt KU8L #5380s who makes “VIZkeys.”

Jeff lives in Traverse City, Michigan with his wife Kris and although recently retired from both his

SKCC duties and his “real” job, Jeff is very active volunteering his time in the community and spending time at his workbench building projects for his shack.

Thank you Jeff for your many years of service to SKCC and may that camel back be the source of many, many SKCC QSOs!



## **EIGHT YEARS LATER, I AM ALWAYS A SKCC LOVER !**

**Bernard DELAGE, F5DE, SKCC #6247S**

As I wrote on a paper published into the August 2012 SKCC Rag Chew bulletin, I discovered SKCC by chance, looking for some key information on Internet and after having read the goals of this club, I decided to become a member.

My number 6247 was issued in 2010, January the 6th. I immediately played the game and quickly became a "Centurion" the 24th of January. Achieving the "Tribune" level, occurring on the 10th of May, same year. More difficult for me was to try the "Senator" level, but with a bit of patience I was happy to get the "S" the 4th of July, 2015.

In addition to this, I hunted some SKCC awards like DXQ, DXC, WAC, WAS, PFX and Miles per Watt Awards. I was glad to get them and now I try to improve their levels. I was also active in more than 90 WES and quite all of the SKS-E events (a very good idea by Thomas M0TRN in May 2011), even for a very few contacts.

Since 1964 when I became F5DE, my radioamateur activities were various. I was mainly using CW but also phone contacts on HF and VHF bands. Award hunting, QSL exchange, Meteor-Scatter (old CW and SSB methods), Sporadic-E, Aurora, FAI, contests, etc.

Now I am near eight years later in my SKCC membership. However I was not as active as I wanted, I tried to be the most possible "on the air" with other SKCC members, often using different keys coming from my little collection of about a hundred models.

Looking at my logbooks, my activity during these eight years was more than 90 % doing contacts with SKCC members (more than 5000 QSO with about 1100 different members). The rest being a few contest activity on HF and VHF, five to six times each year with my radio-club friends.

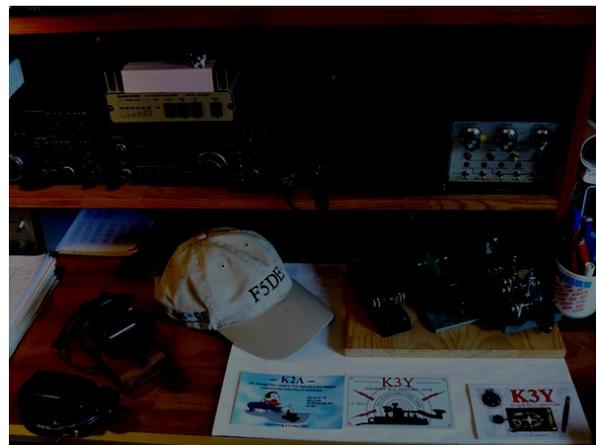
I might ask myself, why being "SKCC active" for such a long time ?



A simple answer is: I really like it mainly because the contacts are not only a quick "599 - TU" exchange. As I like to do CW with manual keys (I used to key with electronic keyers during big contests too), I am happy to exchange some more words than "report - thanks", and I found this activity mode possible (and encouraged) being a SKCC member.

As I said, I do a few contests using the minimum exchange but what I love in SKS-E and WES events is that

I can take a few minutes to say hello to everybody, often adding a GL, take care, cu agn dear OM, or other small sentences like that. No matter, if I do not do a big number of contacts, my pleasure being to have a nice night or week-end of friendly CW activity. Of course I am glad to see my callsign on the result page but for me WES and SKS-E are more a "CW activity time"



than a real contest.

Another great event is the every year "K3Y" activities giving another opportunity to have more SKCC contacts. I was introduced in SKCC just during the 2010 K3Y month and I remember what a great time it was for me to have so many friendly contacts !

Now, let's go toward the tenth anniversary of my SKCC membership ! When I am at the station, I always connect myself to the useful Internet SKCC sked page. Anyone seeing my call sign and want to call me are always welcome for exchanging CW for a few minutes or for a little ragchew, at variable speeds, even very slow speeds with newcomers.

73 to all readers, good CW traffic and I hope to meet you one day on the nearby SKCC frequencies !

Bernard, F5DE, SKCC #6247S  
D cembre 24th, 2017

## A True Lover of CW!

Geez, what can you say about a guy who has his arm "fortified" in a mechanical brace due to an injury and still pounds brass!

I ran across this picture on our Facebook page and it was just too great not to share with everyone.

"A true CW op doesn't let arm surgery keep him off the air!  
K2UPS [#5931C](#)"



## Santa Came Early!

Jeremy KD8VSQ  
#13072t sent along this picture of his new Christmas gift.

"Santa came early! Rig Expert AA-55 Zoom. Thanks Mom & Dad! Time to tune antennas!"

## SKCC at Angola, IN Hamfest 2017

No doubt, the Angola hamfest is one of the smallest hamfests you could frequent. Even though small and admission free, there are always bargains to be found, friends to meet, and the



Mark KK9U SKCC #3818t

presence of SKCC! Mark – KK9U #3818T, makes sure that at every hamfest he attends as a seller, a proud display of SKCC, including brochures and keys, are present. Mark enjoys working with older equipment and restores old AM radios. He also has a great knowledge of tube amateur radios. This year the hamfest fell on WES weekend so Mark set up a portable



Carl K9LA #14633, Ken N8KR #7559s, Mark KK9U 3818t

vertical antenna and fired up his KX-3 and made several contacts. Naturally, the setup attracted local SKCC members including Carl – K9LA and Ken – N8KR: each taking a turn at the SKCC station. Mark is an active member of SKCC and we regularly hear his “left handed” key sending in our monthly events. He’s also easy to spot at hamfests: just look for those “flashy” shoes!!



### Keys!

Gary VE2GK, published this on Facebook. A close examination just might show your favorite key. Both straight keys, bugs, cooties and paddles are shown here. CW can be “spoken” with many tools... where is the keyboard!

## Radio On The Square de K3ZGA #12392t

*Several Months ago I received a request from Bob K3ZGA for our SKCC promotional cards that we give out at Dayton and other hamfests and to requesting members for their clubs and hamfests. I received the following from Bob regarding his club's activity and how his club and he used the promotional cards....Editor*

"I want to thank you sending us some of the SKCC promotional cards. A number of them were distributed to interested members of our Villages Amateur Radio Club and the rest will be saved for future promotional opportunities. I know of several of our over 200 members have recently joined SKCC and we have a number of members interested in CW.

We had a very successful event this year for our Radio on the Square event. We showcased Ham Radio to the public and this year I volunteered to demonstrate Morse code to some of the Grandchildren who were visiting The Villages for the Thanksgiving weekend. We taught the kids how to encode their name or initials into Morse and I taught them how to send their name using an oscillator and my WWII Navy Flameproof. They left with worksheet so they could encode other words and messages on their own and a certificate of their achievement.

A display of the K3ZGA QSL card collection was of interest to visitors. They paged through my three ring binder to view domestic and DX cards.

I took the opportunity to introduce SKCC during the conversations that ensued about CW among our attending club members. That is where your promotional cards came in handy. Thank you again for those."

73, Bob Schwer K3ZGA #12392t



*Editor... The cards are free to members upon request to the SKCC board as well as the banners used for hamfests mentioned in an earlier Rag Chew.*

## An SKN with W7PAU #1440

Well here it is...2018...Wow! How did that happen...just had a birthday now 64 yrs old!!! Again how did that happen?

It's New Years Eve...first thing that comes to mind is Straight Key Night!!!! Ya! Well this year I have a really nice Kent Straight...a Begali SideSwipper...and my best friends Vibroplex Bug...so I think I'll run the Begali New year's eve...and Kent and the Viboplex New Years Day...now What rig?

This year my shack is in the living room and I have my K3 and a Flexradio 3000...I wish I had my New location done because I have a Col-

lins 75A-4 and a Viking Ranger...which is my all time favorite pair....did you know if you turned off the AM portion of the Ranger..you just have the single 6146 glowing...and it runs so cool in temp you can run it all day with CW! Ya! That's what I love about that little transmitter...and with its own VFO too! But with that I honk 'll get back I reality and run the Flex...100 watts with auto tune and QSY so easy it's almost criminal....so that my pick!

So my wife made a nice dinner for us and she went to a girlfriends for the evening as she knew what I was up too...most of the night! Hi hi hi...and turned on the computer for a hour before I lite up the Flex.

I always love that night and the next day because I love chasing the signals as my fellow HAM brothers are running their Vintage Radios...sometimes a little drifts..and sometimes a little saggy power supply...old keys and bugs....this is just music to my ears and very very cool!

Some might say that I'm a little sick! But I love what I love! When I was a kid I grew up listening to my sister's wood radio...and when no one was listening I was on the long and med wave portion of the radio with CW coming in loud and strong on that audio tube with a 10inch woofer...wow! What a smooth sound!

I still get that sound with my Collins...and tube audio ...well it's the best! I hope I can still hear a fellow from Idaho ...I've worked him every year for about 30 yrs...he's got a old homebrew transmitter with the most borky borky power supply I ever heard hi hi hi...and again well you know!! Music!

So I'm kinda concerned about the band's condition...as you guys know..it's not been very good the last few ...well years now...when first I got my ticket...I was still playing music at night so I got up in the morning...turned on my TR-3 Drake and my Gonset Amp with 811's and my 2 element 10 and 15 meter quad...pointed North East and worked DX until lunch...ah those were the days!

So again back to now...hey! the band seems full of signals....so I started with 50 watts on 40 answered a CQ...and was a 559...not bad..ok there is another one...time to open the log book...and I was off to a nice start...I was very happy got about 50 qso's...time for me to go to bed....very happy to be on the air!

Monday morning...started the computer and ate breakfast with my wife...what a gal been married for 34yrs now and never been happier!



She doesn't try to change me...she said she's tried but I'm too stubborn to get down that highway...hi hi hi...maybe she's right...but it's good to be understood hi hi hi... I thought I would start on 20meters today...some QSB...some quite a bit...was working a W2call and the light swtch turned off....to never get him back...he was a S3 to start with...so it's going to be that way today...Well OK I can get some patience for this...time for another cup of coffee and maybe just listen for a minute or two to see what's working for more that 30seconds.

I changed band's and found a couple of guys on 30meters...so I worked them and a little QSB still....back to 40...hope not yet...another cup of coffee coming up!

I waited until 1 pm...and I fired up the K3...and my Begali Cootie...got on 20 again and it seemed a little more stable...so I worked about 25 qso's and most of them were very friendly and most lasted about 20- 30 minutes...nice! That's perfect for this New Years CW...turned it back to 30...worked only one fellow over to VE land...very nice QSO with him...you know you can really get to know a guy with a straight key or a bug...I could tell when 3 or 4 of my Friends fist as soon as I heard the CQ from them...very cool I think!

Well now it's time for me to eat supper with my beautiful wife and relax with yet another 50 qso's for the year of 2018...wish the band's would get better but there is always another day and maybe next time I will have my tubes up and tuned ....always a great time and I have all of you folks to thank for it...you all have a great and wonderful New Year...and keep up to beautiful CW tones coming threw the air...regards and a very 73.

#### **Paul's bio from QRZ.com**

*Muscian for 40 years now, been a ham for over 20 years, you can hear my album IN FLIGHT"on the CD BABY website under my name Paul Painter, you can also hear me on CW most of the time on 40 meters and 17 meters.....two of my favorite bands.....also get on 160 and 80 meters in the morning and sometimes in the eve. Radios are a hobby and a habit with me, have a lot of older ones and some new ones, running now are a new Yaesu FT-950, FlexRadio 1500 with a solid state RM ITALY 150 PLUSbrick amp 10-160 meters, this little amp is a FB amp for the Flex QRP....Hallicrafters SX-73 I rebuilt about a year ago, I just really love this receiver! Collins 390-A, Johnson Viking Ranger and also Pacemaker, both with just one 6146 final....they are very stable transmitters, I use the Ranger for CW, AM and the Pacemaker for SSB, CW, RTTY, and PSK31....Also working on a single 3-500z Amp Supply and a homebrew 813 amp for the older stuff.....Antennas I use is a Bi-Square cut for 17 meters with a relay at the top....if I close the top relay it will tune on 40 and make it a vertical loop on 40, also works very well on 10 meters....the second ant is a inverted vee feed with 600 ohm open wire....they are both at 50 ft high.....and have good luck with them from 6-160 meters, also interested in 2 meter SSB and CW, just not much action, some though on Sunday mornings. The FlexRadio 1500 can be used on 2 meters with a transverter but have not got around to building that part yet....still looking for the right one for the job! Well the rest of the gear is mostly hand built and you can see the tuner and the bird forward and reverse meters, with the bird antenna switches that I use for all the rigs and the antennas.....also just built a indoor receiving ant that works very well on my vintage receivers....lots of fun this hobby, and lots more to build and play with, while leaning on the learning and the fun....well last but not least and I know that a lot of cw ops want this my SKCC NR is 1440, my best friend K7IE nr 440 now a silent key, talked me into getting my number and I have had lots of use out of it ever since, so best to all hope to work you down the log 73 W7PAU, Paul*

## SKN 2018 with KD8BBK Tony, #2443t

Well another Straight Key Night in the books for the new year. I always enjoy operating in this old nostalgic event. I had a fair share of QSOs under some lousy band conditions. One contact I had was on 80 meters in the evening and the station was in PA, ( I am in Ohio) and we could barely hear each other, not typical of 80 meters. After we strained ourselves to get what info we could we cleared with each other. I was getting ready to change bands when I had a station call me so I went back to the station and it turned out the station was in CA. Now I have worked a lot of DX on 80 meters but I do not have a lot of contacts to the west coast on 80 meters. The signals were good both directions so the band was going long, it was cool. The guy was running some vintage gear and was running a separate transmitter and receiver and was doing a great job on the straight key. I myself was running a Lionel J38 and a Icom 7200.

The most interesting QSO I had was with AA8V, man what a signal and great fist. This ham was running a homebrew transmitter that was so rock solid on frequency it was hard to believe. We talked about the transmitter he made and he explained how it got it to be so steady on frequency. He explained how the tuned circuit was built in a separate box and kept away from the heat of the exciter and thus a very stable signal. I am no electrical engineer but this guys homebrew set up was amazing to me and how it sounded. I could not tell the difference from it or a modern day transceiver. You can check out his website on QRZ at AA8V. He has a lot of good pictures of his shop and his equipment. Oh yea, by the way he is a electrical engineer professor, go figure.

Well that is about it from the KD8BBK shack. I hope everyone had a fun and great New Year. Take care and God Bless, 73, Tony



KD8BBK Station 2



KD8BBK Station 1



AA8V's fine station

## Marconi Key

I received this Marconi key from the widow of Jan Fernhout PA3CBS SK. He was aR/O on board many ships as well on the coast station Scheveningenradio/PCH.

In the late sixties we were both active on

JAN FERNHOUT (1967) OP PCH TIJDENS MORSEVERBINDING MET SCHIP



← Jan PA3CBS SK  
De Neptune - marinevliegtuig - verkent de situatie voordat het de post dropt



Scheveningen Radio, sluiseland IJmuiden 1951-1972

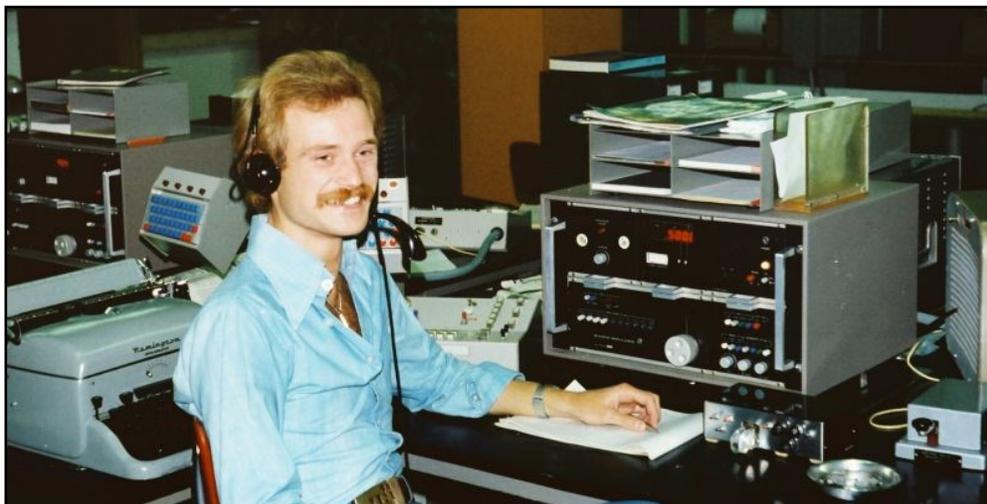


Type 365A number is 8513

board the Dutch WX-Ship Cumulus/PBVQ.

When he retired Jan became ill, he promised me his Marconi key (see picture included).

How old the key is, is unclear. According David/N1EA, it originates about 1939/1940. Others think approximately the early 1950. PA1HR/PA3DEU ex PCH operators and PA3EGH have this kind of key but not exactly the same.



73,

Ronald/  
PA3CWG  
SKCC #2762

## New Life for an Old Key

I'm always amazed at what I find and garage sales. This past October while "saleing" in a local neighborhood, I ran across an old straight key. It was laden with rust and looked like it was ready for the trash. The young lady who had it mingled with her household trivets had it priced at \$30. After looking at it, and walking away, I decided to return and ask a little about the key. It seems that it belonged to her grandfather and she had vague memories of his radio station but could not remember his call. She found the rusty key in an old box and decided to put it out on her table. After explaining how hams are still using straight keys



and the resurgence of these older keys, she smiled and offered it to me for \$5. Even for an old rusty key, I figured I



could do something with it. For restoration, I removed all of the parts from the wooden base. The base had a crack in it but I decided to leave the base as is to preserve it's original integrity. A little glue kept the wood base intact and I simply cleaned and polished the existing wood finish.

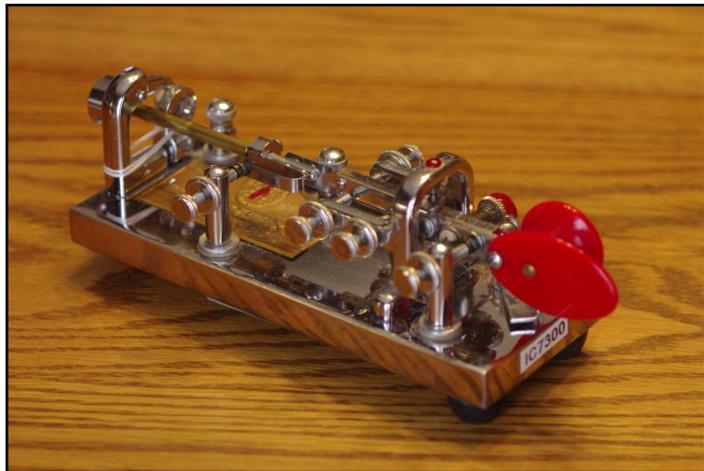
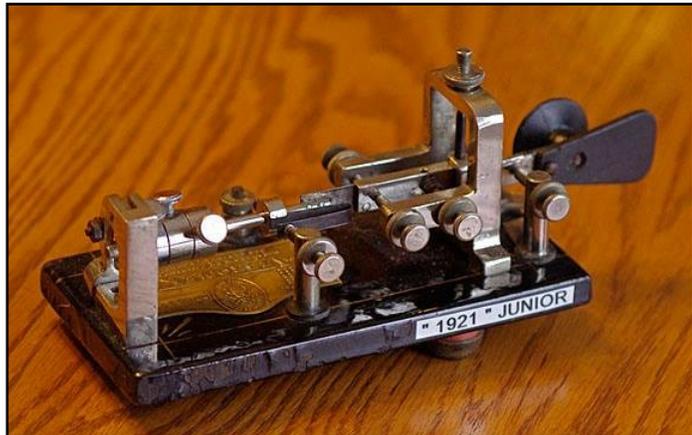
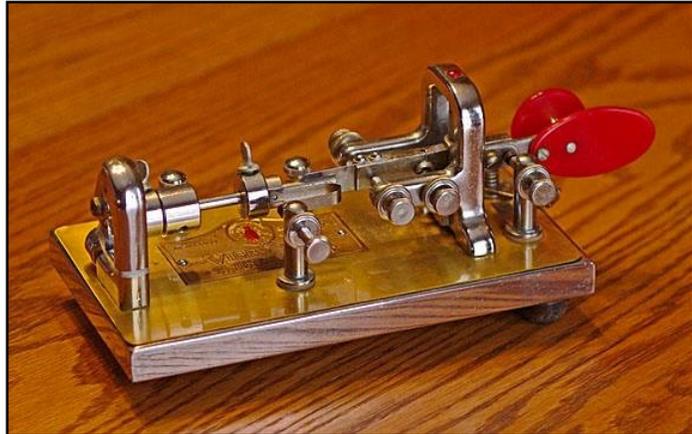
Using a soft metal brush on my bench grinder, I worked on removing rust from the non-brass parts. Steel wool was used to polish and smooth the metal parts and black flat crinkle paint was sprayed on the base. The can of Brasso came out next and



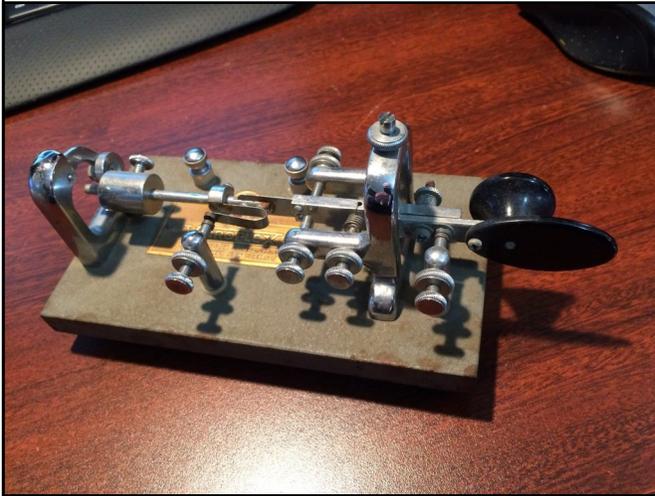
meticulous polishing of the brass parts by hand brought those parts back to looking near-new. I used an old toothbrush to clean the screws. I even used Brasso on non-brass metal for an extra clean/shine. After assemble (and cleaning contacts well!) the old key looked great and, wired up, went back into service! Fun project!

## Keys from SKCC Facebook Page

All SKCC members love straight keys. The next few pages are SKCC members' keys taken from our Facebook page. Didn't want you to miss these fine keys. You should checkout the SKCC on Facebook if you haven't yet. Which is your favorite key?



And here are more beautiful keys from Facebook.....



## The SKCC for the Intellectually Challenged

### Introduction

Why am I writing this? Well, in the four plus years that I have belonged to the SKCC, I have picked up quite a few nuggets of information and techniques that have greatly enhanced my enjoyment of the SKCC and CW in general.

Like a lot of new ham operators, I was glad the FCC did away with the code requirement. That was a hurdle I didn't think I could jump and kept me away from getting my license for many years.

Little did I know that after getting my license, I would be spending 99% of my time on CW.

The SKCC web site has a wealth of information Everything you need to know is there, but it can be overwhelming trying to sort it all out. What I hope to do here, is to give a simplified view of the SKCC and how to use all the tools available to enhance the experience.

Here is a link to the main web page: [Straight Key Century Club \(SKCC\)](#)

### The SKCC

The SKCC is a group of CW operators who enjoy using mechanical keys to make CW contacts. The goal of the group is to encourage members to make contacts with other members to achieve personal goals and promote the use of CW.

Your skill level is not important, but it does enhance everyone's enjoyment.

The members and officers are pretty laid back but are very active in their club duties. They are very responsive to any request or issue.

They have a user group here: [SKCC User Group](#)

### Software and Online tools

Software, I believe, is the key (pun intended) to the SKCC success. What software does best is routine repetitive tedious tasks repeatedly without complaint, something us humans hate to do.

One thing I am not going to do is explain how to use these programs. The old term applies RTFM! If you don't know what that means, Google it. The authors of these programs have spent a lot of time writing the help files. Please read them. Most are searchable and there is always Google or Bing, if you are of that camp. There are also user groups that you can search.

Warning to Windows user: Some of these programs write data into the directory that the software is installed. The windows directories "Program Files" and "Programs Files (x86)" may not allow you to write to these directories. Therefore, you may have to install these programs elsewhere. Mine are at C:\.

### SKCC Sked Page

Where to meet people. It is not a spotter page per se, but more of a chat board. Great place to hang out. My SKCC QSOs really took off once I started visiting the sked page. It was a little intimidating at first. I wasn't sure what to do and it took a while to get comfortable. But finally, I relaxed and have made some good friends there.

One approach is to logon but stay "Away". That way you can see who is there and send them a PM (private message) to request a QSO. New numbers are in great demand, so if you are visible on the sked page, you might get overwhelmed with request and panic, not that I did that..HIHI.

The Sked page is here: [SKCC Sked Page](#). There is a help file here: [SKCC Sked Page Help](#)

### **SKCCLogger by AC2C**

Don't let looks deceive you. This is a very powerful logger, especially for SKCC QSOs. The only thing it doesn't do, is to upload logs directly to either LoTW or eQSL.cc. But that is easy to overcome.

Its ability to analyze your logs and detect your goals and generate reports that can be used to earn your goals is outstanding. I have used it exclusively for almost all my SKCC logging needs. It can be also be used for sprints.

The program can be downloaded here [SKCCLogger Download](#)

Ron also has a user group here: [SKCCLogger User Group](#)

### **skcc\_skimmer by K7MJG**

This is a windows console based SKCC member RBN (reverse beacon network) program. No fancy GUI just the info you really need to know. I use this for my regular QSOs and for WES. You can have multiple copies running with different configuration files. This is a real -time update program. That means it periodically updates the members you have sent a "de THEIRCALL". For this program, the three things that you should supply to the configuration file are: your call, the location of your log file in adf (example: mylog.adf) format and your grid square. You may also adjust the SPOTTER\_RADIUS parameter. I have mine set to 200 miles radius. This gives me about 6 RBN stations that are near to me.

Another interesting feature of this program is if you call CQ, skimmer will report where your call is being heard, regardless of your radius limit. This helps to see if your signal is getting out. It is also a good indication as to how long it takes for the skimmers to decode your call. One thing you might also get from this is how good your sending is. RBNs are software tools connected to radios that listen to CW on the bands. If your sending is not good, then your call will never be decoded. So, practice your sending or you might never be heard.

You can download the program here. [SKCC\\_Skimmer download](#)

### **VOAProp by G4ILO**

GUI for propagation prediction software. Based on Voice Of America propagation prediction software. This software helps you determine which band may work for a particular station. Though it is not perfect, it will give you a good idea of what bands are good for the time of day.

You can download the program here. [VOAProp GUI](#)

## **SprintLogger by K2RFP**

Not a must but I like it for WES and SKS. It can also be used for cwfun events. The reason I like it is because for sprints, I start with a new log and then start skimmer with it pointing to the K2RFP log file. I also run skimmer without reading the sked page see below.

```
SKED = {  
'ENABLED':    False, # usually is set to True  
'CHECK_SECONDS': 60,}
```

This tells me if the calling station is already in my log. Save a lot of time. After the sprint, I import this log into my main SKCCLogger file.

You can download the program here. [SprintLogger by K2RFP](#)

## **Awards**

There are many awards that you can achieve with the club. I am only going to talk about what I believe are the top five awards. One thing to note. There is no cross-log checking for awards. I believe this was intentionally done because some people don't like to summit logs or don't like to be bugged by people to submit their logs. Since there is no monetary value associated with SKCC awards, it was felt the honor system was good enough. (IMHO)

## **Centurion**

The easiest, but the most critical. Why? Because a lot of members never reach this first goal. They may have joined the club for reasons other than awards. Myself, I was looking for help learning CW. I never really paid attention to goals, was not interested.

It was a follow ham that I used to talk to on 2 meters that got me interested in chasing some of these awards, Matt AA1JD. He would talk about the SKCC and some of the events and so I decided to try and get some of these awards. Once I got into it and started figuring out some of the tools available, I was in all the way. Matt was first on my list for Centurion.

Some things you might want to think about. If you are calling an unspecified CQ and are using an electronic keyer, please also have a mechanical key hooked up. Why? If a SKCC member responds to your CQ, he would like to exchange numbers. That means you will have to do the exchange with a mechanical key. If you do not have one connected, you can't do the exchange. Also, if you are looking for SKCC members please call CQ SKCC. It really helps other members who may want to exchange numbers, but are not sure that you will do that. Also, it wouldn't hurt to give your number for any exchange, providing you are using a mechanical key, e.g. "MY SKCC NR <YOUR\_NUMBER>. The other operator may not know about the SKCC and he might ask you about it. Never hurts to advertise.

SKCC\_skimmer program.

You can view Marks chart here. [Award Chart](#)

## **Tribune(s)**

These awards are a little confusing and daunting, at least to me they were. However, once I understood what each level meant, it was a piece of cake. Well, maybe not that easy. Mark, K7MJG, has a very easy to understand chart that explains all levels from Centurion to Senator. The basic Tribune award requires you to make 50 unique number exchanges with Centurions,

Tribunes or Senators. This is quite a lot so breaking it into 8 - 50 QSO blocks seems like a good idea. At least you have manageable goals and other members can see your progress with the SKCC\_skimmer program.

You can view Marks chart here. [Award Chart](#)

## **Senator**

THIS IS NOT THE END! You are almost there! The hard part is over. Getting that last number for Tx8 was a tough one for sure. Enjoy this part. Getting your Senator will be a walk in the park compared to reaching Tx8. Remember you start over with contacts. So, any T or S station you QSOed with to get your Tx8, can now be QSOed with again to get your S. But don't let it end here. All too often hams reach the Senator level and just go away. Why? IDK. I guess they were looking for a challenge and are now on to other things. Who knows. The more members who are active, the easier it is for others to reach their goals. We do have some members who are Sx5 so keep at it.

## **WAS**

There are four primary WAS awards WAS, WAS-C, WAS-T and WAS-S. Please see the explanation of each of these awards on the SKCC web page. Since this is a relatively new and small club and reaching Senator is not easy, not all states have Senators yet. In fact I was the first Senator in Vermont and only got that in Jan of 2016, so not quite two years ago. North Dakota, for example, doesn't have any Senators. But the good news is portable operation is permitted so a Senator from one state can travel to a state that doesn't have a Senator and exchange numbers for people to get their WAS-S award.

## **PFX**

Prefix award where the SKCC number of the prefix is added to the prefix score. The interesting thing about this award is if the SKCC number of a station you work is greater than the number of a previous prefix you work, you get to add the difference between the two numbers to your score.

## **Activities**

There are several monthly activities and one yearly activity. These activities are a great way to get more new numbers for awards. I usually get quite a few numbers that I need for awards participating in these activities. None of the sprints permit WARC bands. I am not going to go into a lot of detail here. The web site has all the info you need to operate these activities.

## **SKS**

Two-hour sprint. Always held at the same time every month. Much like other sprints.

## **SKS-E**

This is a special sprint that is more EU friendly. But NA participation is allowed. Also has some accommodations for QRS operators.

## **WES**

My favorite, the Week End Sprint. This is a 36-hour event, of which you are only supposed to work 24 hours. I like the “work a few then take a break” aspects of this sprint.

## **K3Y Anniversary event (not a contest)**

This is a month-long event held every January. This is the only event where all Ham bands, including WARC bands are permitted. The goal is to fill in as many K3Y/X band slots as possible. One thing to note here: Try to get as many DX K3Y as soon as possible. It turns out there may not be DX K3Ys for the whole month so get them while you can. I missed out on SA last year because very few SA stations were on late in the month. Those that were, were on late (after 00:00 UTC) and only on 20 meters. Which from my QTH in VT, made it impossible to get a contact.

## **SKN**

Monthly SKN is truly the reason the SKCC exists. However, over the years it has become less important since all the other activities seem to generate quite a bit of CW on the air. First night of every month. Not much is said on the web site about it. I assume it uses the same rules as the ARRL SKN. No logs or QSO counts are submitted.

## **Brag**

A monthly - month long “event”. Contacts with other members not included in other events and not yet QSOs with that month. I try to work at least 3 brags a day. Doesn't always happen, but I manage usually get between 50 and 100 brags a month.

## **Final Comments**

The SKCC is not for everyone, but it seems to fit my personality. I always felt that there should be some objective to obtain or some skill to be mastered. The SKCC seems to provide me with both.

As of December 31, 2017, there are over 18,000 members. Granted not all members are active, but enough are active that you can always find a member on the air almost any time and almost any band. There are many other clubs that emphasize other aspects of CW. Each are very good at what they try to accomplish.

I hope these few pages will be of use to others and come join the fun of CW.

David Colson KB1WOD SKCC # 10530S  
260 Sunset Hill Road  
Randolph, VT 05060  
kb1wod@arrl.net

Still more wonderful keys.....



Could these be the latest "Chinese bug?"





AA9IL..Something fun about using a key that is bigger than the radio.



This is how you protect your gear! A Christmas gift at the KD8DEU shack!



Now that is a small key!



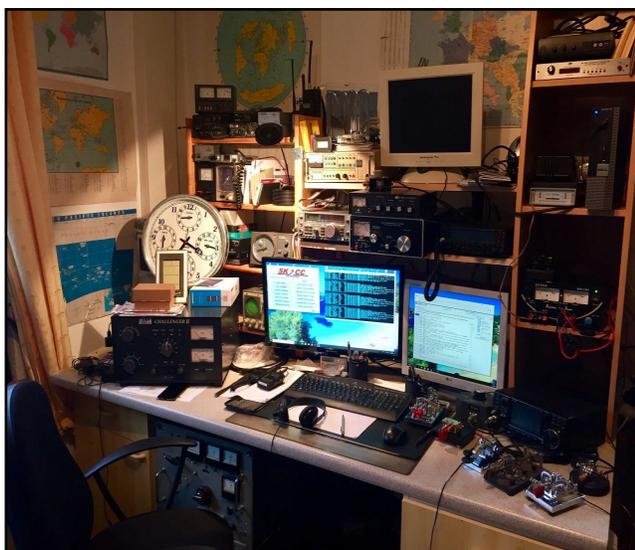
Mounted my 2 inch key to a 30 year old gift from good friend K6FJ. Does anyone know what the "2" meant?



Photo was entitled, "Kat and Key"...but where is the mouse?

## Shacks and Keys From SKCC Facebook Page

Some keys included great pictures of the operator's shack.....



# Why 'HI' ?

By Bill Chaikin, KA8VIT  
February 2018

(This is a rewrite of an article I first wrote about 25 years ago and was published in a few amateur radio club newsletters.)

Most of us know even if we're not CW ops, that "HI HI" or "di-di-di-dit dit dit di-di-di-dit dit dit", is Morse code for laughter or a laugh. Younger hams can equate it to LOL as used today in text messages and on social media. So universal is its meaning that its usage has even crept into the phone and digital bands. "That's a funny story old man, HI HI". I'm guilty of doing that myself. But have you ever wondered *why* we laugh that way?

If the Internet or social media were to give us a clue, you'd think that the way we would laugh in lazy man's shorthand would probably be "HA HA" or "HE HE" as these are in common usage on the Internet. Some believe that "HI HI" was really "HEE HEE" like someone giggling and that over the years the two "Es" have been run together so that instead of sounding like "di-di-di-dit dit dit" it now sounds like "di-di-di-dit di-dit". I even read one post where one ham was telling another that "HI" is a pro-sign for "HUMOR INTENDED". That *really* made me laugh... HI HI.

But, it is not "HI HI" or "HEE HEE" we're sending when we laugh in Morse code. It's "HO HO". Like Santa's laugh. What? No, really. Let me explain.

Many things with today's International Morse code usage can be traced back to its roots in the old American Morse code, (also known as the Land-line or Railroad Morse code).

In American Morse code there is a longer intra-character space used in the characters C, O R, Y and Z, (and also the & character) which is two element times long, (see figure #1).

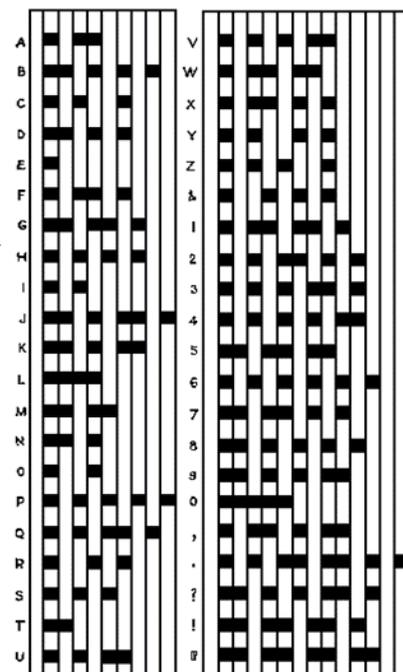
So, back in the day, the telegraphers laughed by sending, "HO HO", and it sounded like, "di-di-di-dit dit dit".

[With a noticeable pause between the last two dits.](#) Why "HO HO" and not "HA HA"? That can be attributed to mid-nineteenth century American English.

Later on as radio telegraphy came about and some land-line telegraphers took their skills to the air waves, "HO HO" went along with them.

Over time the Morse code went through some changes to become what is now known as the International Morse code. One of the changes was dropping the two element time intra-character space which lead to a simpler, more efficient Morse code. This is what has lead to a lot of the confusion over the origin of "HI HI".

So, as a CW op, history and tradition dictate that when we send "HI HI", we send it as "di-di-di-dit dit dit", *with a noticeable pause between the last two dits.*



1911 Chart of the Standard American Morse Characters

That's my story and I'm sticking to it... HI HI.

*Editor...While surfing through our Facebook page I found this great article. Being a fan of antennas and feeling "you can never have too many antennas," I thought I'd share this with you in case you missed it. I am planning on adding it to my antenna arsenal here this spring.*

## My Antenna is in the Gutter, Literally

Back around the beginning of August I posted about my new "EFG" (end fed gutter) antenna that I made using the downspout and continuous gutter system on my 2-story house. I have been asked several times lately to share an update about how the "EFG" is performing and what I have been able to accomplish with it so here we go.



### The Background

First, if you are new to the blog and not sure what I am referring to when I say "EFG" let me share with you the background of how and why this came about. I live in an HOA restricted community that currently does not allow me to put up any kind of tower or outdoor antennas. This really was not a big deal to me because my favorite part of the hobby was setting up and operating outdoors at places like

state parks, lakes, and landmarks. Fresh air and ham radio with a view! That being said there would be days or nights I was at home and wished I was able to get on the air. I did some research on a variety of stealthy antennas and after much reading I came up with a project that I thought would be fun, creative and educational for me. I was going to turn the continuous gutter system across the backside of my house into an antenna, and that is just what I did.

### The Construction

I wish I could tell you that this was some type of elaborate project that took days to plan and build but in all reality it took me about an hour to do and cost me less than \$5.00 in parts. I simply took an SO239 connector out of the drawer and connected it using a single wire to the "un-painted" side of my aluminum downspout, reinforcing the connection with screws. I also reinforced the connection point where the downspout and horizontal gutter connect with screws to ensure a solid connection. From the corner (ground) of the SO239 connector I ran several wires out onto the ground for counterpoise. I originally started with just 2 ground wires but eventually added several more. Once that was complete I simply connected my feedline coming from the antenna tuner inside my shack to the SO239 connector and I had an antenna. I just had no idea at the time how good of an antenna I really had.





### **The Initial Test**

Now when I set this up I had an idea that it would work, but I had no idea that after checking the antenna system with an analyzer that I would be almost 100% resonate on 40 meters and have very low SWR on several other bands including 20 and 30. I powered the radio up, not expecting much, but was surprised to hear signals from across the country blaring across my speakers. You can read about my first two QSOs with this antenna at the end of this article. Wow, it worked! I was pleasantly surprised at how well it worked and eager to continue to experiment with this antenna more and more.

The "EFG" Inverted L

### **Where I am today**

As of today I now have over 30 states and 10 countries confirmed using my "EFG" or inverted L gutter antenna. I have had QSOs on every band 10m-160m except for 60m. While those QSOs have been mostly using CW they also include SSB, Digital Modes like FT8 and more. Oh, and don't let me forget to mention this was all done using 5 watts or less QRP power. My goal now is to Work all 50 states using this unconventional antenna and CW. While I know the ARRL probably won't send me a "gutter endorsement" with my WAS certificate, it sure will make for great conversation at ham fest and amateur radio gatherings. I will be sure to keep you all updated on my progress.

### **What is Next?**

I am not sure what is next. I will admit the success I have had with this antenna project has got my wheels turning on what else I can use as an unconventional antenna. Do you have any ideas? For now I will enjoy sharing my stories with others who may be in the same situation I am in with HOA restrictions and limited space and helping them get on the air.

Please comment with an unconventional antenna story of your own.

Until next time,

72 de KQ9RP Mike SKCC #17018

### **QSOs with the EFG...End Fed Gutter**

QSO with Blake - AD9Y from Johnson Creek Wisconsin, about 260 miles to the Northwest of me. Blake has been a ham since 2010 and uses a simple G5RV JR antenna about 30 ft up in the air. I was using the MFJ 9040 sending my 5 watts straight out my gutters off the 2nd story of the house. Blake has the honor of being my first "gutter contact". The small village of Johnson Creek is located halfway between Milwaukee and Madison. It was founded where the Union Pacific Railroad crosses Johnson Creek and Rock River. Thanks for the QSO Blake, I look forward to doing it again when conditions are a little better.

QSO with John - K8JD from Commerce Michigan, about 260 miles North of me. John has been a ham for over 50 years and has explored many parts of the hobby. I smiled when I read that he still enjoys QRP and will occasionally operate on a MFJ 9030 and Cub QRP rig. John would be happy to know that I was using the 40m version of his MFJ, the 9040 and connecting with him at just 5 watts from my home brew gutter antenna. I'll make sure to mention that on the QSL card I send him. Thanks for the QSO and exchange of SKCC numbers John. I look forward to doing it again another time.

## Building a QCX QRP CW Transceiver - ON7DQ

The biggest hype in *homebrewingland* in 2017 must have been the QCX transceiver kit by QRP LABS (<http://qrp-labs.com/qcx.html>) in the UK. The designer of this little wonder is Hans Summers, G0UPL. Hans is also SKCC member #16941! He had already a very popular website (<http://hanssummers.com/>) which is a “homebrewers heaven” ... it contains an endless collection of nice little projects.

Later on, Hans was very successful with a whole range of WSPR kits and addons, with his company QRP LABS. Now WSPR is a very nice tool to check the propagation, and since the last edition of K3Y we all know how important propagation is !

Still, you can't make a two way qso in WSPR ... so here comes the QCX !

It is a small monoband CW transceiver which puts out between 3W - 5W (depending on supply voltage). It was designed as a building project for the RSGB Youths On The Air summer camp in August 2017. Six months later, over 3700 of these kits have been shipped worldwide.

I won't praise all it's wonderful specs, have a look at the website for an overview.

Also , a lot has already been written about this kit, one of the best write-ups is this one by PD7MAA <http://pa-11019.blogspot.be/2017/08/qrp-labs-qcx-5-watt-cw-trx-kit.html>

And I want to warn potential builders : this is definitely not a beginners kit !

There are no SMD's to solder, but the resistors and chokes are small in size and easily damaged, and almost impossible to remove without breaking, if you make an error. Another problem area may be the 4 toroids and 1 transformer which you must wind yourself. Make sure you thoroughly pre-tin the wires, almost half of the problems arise from bad contacts with the toroids.

That said, if you intend to build one ... it wouldn't hurt to read the FAQ and the MODS page before you start. The board that is currently shipped is Rev. 3, and all previously mentioned problems should now be solved. (Note : in the mean time, all mods are gradually included in the manual, so make sure to download the latest version).

<http://qrp-labs.com/qcx/qcxfaq.html>

<http://qrp-labs.com/qcx/qcxmods>

If it all goes wrong , there is an excellent troubleshooting guide too

<http://qrp-labs.com/qcx/qcxtrouble.html>

But don't let me scare you off, if you work slowly and with good care, you can do it ! It all starts with placing your order, for just 49\$ you are in line for a cardboard box, shipped from Japan. And the wait can be long ... the kit is getting more popular by the day ...

I ordered a 20m version in October, and had to wait until end of December to receive my kit, because the 20m LPF components were out of stock. [Note : Hans reported that waiting time is now only 2 weeks] And then your box arrives ... this is what you get.



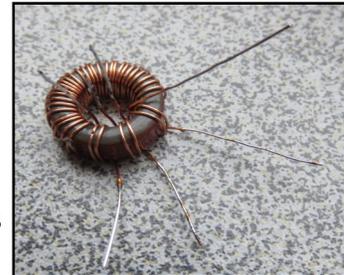
The two SMD chips are pre-soldered, all other components are through hole. Everything is very close together so just take care nothing touches where it shouldn't touch and you're fine.

The 141 page manual will guide you step by step, and the drawings show exactly what goes where. But remember to skip the components that are not needed, as explained on the mod page. Also don't be surprised if some trimmers have other values ... did you really read the whole MOD page ?

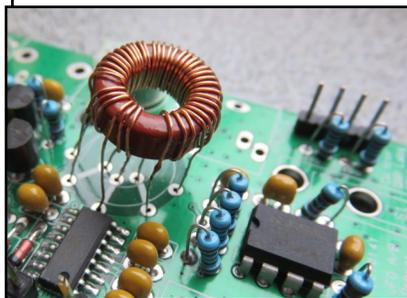


After a couple of hours, your board should look like this.

Then come the toroids!  
The 4 single layer coils shouldn't give you much trouble, but transformer T1 is the tricky one, especially if you order a 40m or lower band kit. The manual suggests you wind all wire at once, and make loops to cut open later and



separate the 4 different windings. I did it a bit differently: I wound all windings separately, scraped off the enamel and tinned the wires. I made every wire a bit longer than the next, and so could fit each wire in the corresponding hole, one after another with a pincet. Then I pulled all wires one by one, until T1 sat at its final position. This is my transformer "going in" ...



Here the kit is finished, after

more or less 8 hours of work.

And of course I had to make a qso with the board just lying on the table .. I worked Italy after a few CQ's, so that looked promising.

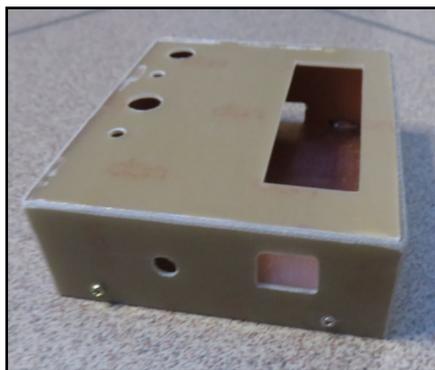
Now came the next problem, what case to put it in ?

I had a number of boxes from old DSL modems, etc, but none really fitted the kit. So I decided to construct my own box from pcb material, inspired by the work of Ken, WA4MNT. You can admire his box in this document

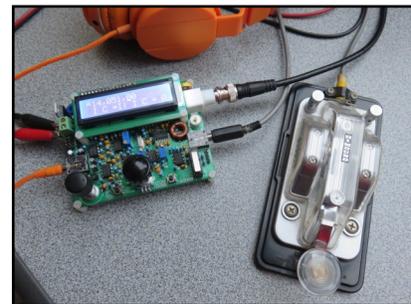
[http://qrpguys.apps-land1.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/qcx\\_pcb\\_chassis\\_110317.pdf](http://qrpguys.apps-land1.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/qcx_pcb_chassis_110317.pdf)

I wanted this rig to be a backup for my KX3 when hiking for SOTA, so it had to be as small as possible, and use the same accessories as the KX3, so the same power plug etc ...

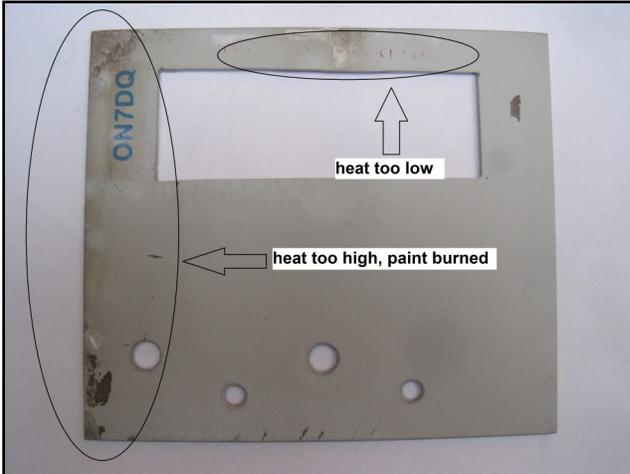
I made a chassis of a bottom plate and three sidings (front, back and left) soldered together. The cover is an L-shape, made from the top panel and the right siding. That way, I can slide it over the fairly large BNC connector and click it over the LCD and the two extension shafts for the pushbuttons. Inside the cover I soldered small pieces of pcb and drilled a hole, then 4 small countersunk parker screws go into those pcb supports. Under the board, I added a separate round DC jack and an ON/OFF switch.



Here you see the completed box before painting (the screws in the picture were not the final ones).



After sanding the box with coarse, then fine sandpaper, rinsing with water and dish wash liquid, I sprayed the box with two layers of matte gray paint.



Then came the problem of how to put the lettering on the box. I didn't have the decals, as suggested by Ken, so I wanted to test the "toner transfer method", as shown in many YouTube videos.

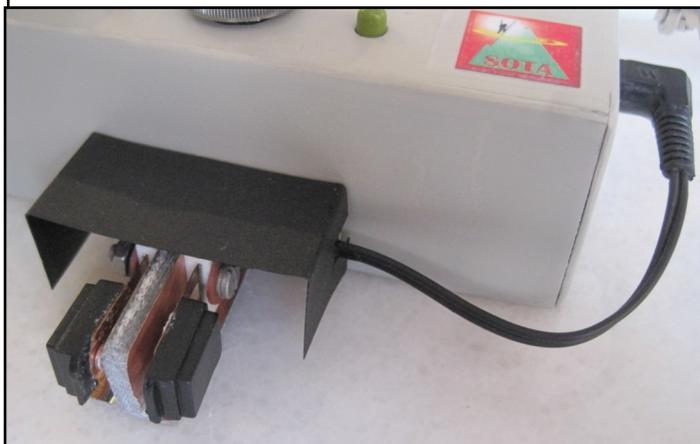
I made an error in drilling the top panel, so I had a "test object" to try this out ... This method may work fine for transferring a pcb layout onto a layer of copper, but as I found out, a painted surface didn't withstand the heat, or when I used a lower temperature, the toner didn't transfer ... So finally, I used

my old quick method of printing on paper and fixing it with some clear Scotch tape ... works well enough for me.

This is the final product, note the SOTA logo on the bottom right. Below it is a micro-switch which can be used as a STRAIGHT KEY ... yes ! But I intend to use an external key or paddle all the time, so I didn't bother making a hole for it.

Then I also needed a paddle (oops ... since this is for SKCC, I probably shouldn't mention I have a "secret pleasure" ... I use a paddle from time to time too ! hi).

Again inspired by the QRP Guys paddle in Ken's document, I made a iambic paddle from two relay contacts and four pieces of pcb, each 3cm x 1.3 cm (you non-metric guys figure out for yourselves how many inches that is ...).



The paddle just sticks to the case with "blue tack" (although my blue tack is white, hi)

Next April/May I will be in EA8 Gran Canaria for some SOTA fun, if you hear me give me a call ... straight key ... or not !

73

Luc - ON7DQ / KF0CR #14984

## Which Coax and Why

Should you use “large” coax or “smaller” diameter coax? Does it really make a difference? These are questions often asked and actually the answers are not always cut and dried.

Product	Frequency (MHz)	Attenuation (dB/100ft)
RG8/U, Belden 8237	1	0.2
	10	0.6
	50	1.3
	100	1.9
	200	2.8
RG8X/U, Belden 9258	1	0.3
	10	0.9
	50	2.1
	100	3.1
	200	4.5
RG58/AU, Belden 8259	1	0.4
	10	1.5
	50	3.7
	100	5.4
	200	8.1
Source	<a href="http://www.belden.com/products/industrialcable/electronic-wire/machflex.cfm">http://www.belden.com/products/industrialcable/electronic-wire/machflex.cfm</a>	

Here is a listing of Belden coax and the various db loss per 100 ft of three different sizes of coax. Other manufacturers have different values based on their coax construction but I would suspect this chart has some validity regarding the normal and commonly used sizes of coax by amateurs, whatever the manufacturer.

What you choose to use depends on many factors; cost, what you plan to operate as and ability to transport. Obviously if you’re looking to get the maximum power to your antenna you would consider a larger diameter coax. If you’re not too concerned about getting the last mili-watt to your antenna then a smaller diameter would be fine. If you’re traveling and weight is a consideration as well

as space you have another set of conditions to think about; weight vs size vs space vs loss!

There is no easy answer; on several of my trips to ZF and V47 running with 100 watts with my K2 and because space and weight were considered, I actually used 100 feet of RG-174 which has a diameter of about 1/8 inch! Was it lossy...sure but as DX I was still able work lots of SKCC members and DX stations! Using my watt meter and running 100 watts at the antenna end I saw 80 watts...a 20% loss of power and I am sure as the frequency change to 28 MHz the loss was even greater!

Use the table here as a guide to decide what is best for your situation.



Rumor has it this is an early picture of Ron AC2C #2748s. Is this true Ron?



Could this be the next big thing from Amazon and soon to be in all our shacks?

## CW Classes and SKCC in NE Indiana

After an informal meeting (advertised on the local Fort Wayne, Indiana repeaters) yielded 23 hams interested in learning, practicing, or mentoring cw in the community, Ed – WA9BBN and Ken – N8KR took action in developing a plan to help promote cw activity. One group are hams who know the code but have never been on the air, another are those who basically know cw but need practice, and one for those who wish to learn cw. Ed took the leadership in mentoring and Ken has taken the leadership in teaching cw. Included in the picture are 4 of the 5 students in Ken’s class: Rose – KA9GKE (#17764), Rich – KC9PUX (#17787), John – KA9G (#17672), and

Brien – KF7OHA (17803). Betsy – KD9GFO (#17877) missed being in the picture. The course follows the old, “Tune in the World,” using the old recording. The five students sit at 5 operating positions in Ken’s shack where they copy as they listen to cw through the radio and headphones and, using keys at each station, send practice to each



Seated: Rose – KA9GKE #17764, Rich – KC9PUX #17787, Brien – KF7OHA #17803  
Standing: Ed – WA9BBN #17763, Ken – N8KR #7559S, John – KA9G #17672, and Josh – W9HT #7474T

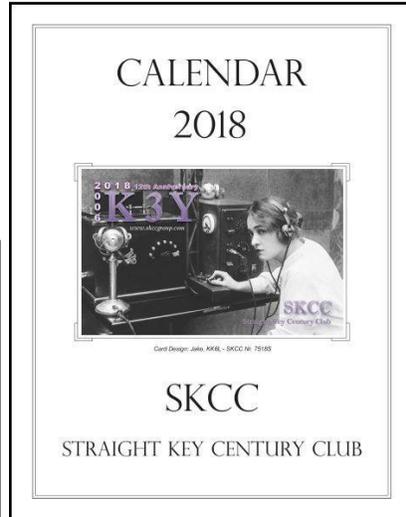
other! When ears and fists tire, they talk about operating and keys and radios and antennas and cw filters and, of course, SKCC. As students go home to do their homework and practice, each have found the, “Just Learn Morse Code” program by LB3KB, available on the SKCC webpage, extremely helpful. Classes continue weekly until all have been on the air with success! Much emphasis has also been given to SKCC and their resources including the more than 18000 members and committed operators who are happy to slow down and help the new “guy” along with his code! (As of this writing, SKCC has gained 14 new members from the Fort Wayne area in November!) The class took a *Christmas Break* from classes while N8KR vacationed in Florida. During that time, Rose – KA9GKE made her first “on the air” cw contact with N8KR/4! The group will resume classes in January with a focus on getting each member on the air.

## 2018 SKCC Goodies!

Looking for some sharp shack goodies? How about the 2018 K3Y coffee cup or the new 2018 SKCC Calendar? You can find the cup on the web at:  
<https://www.cafepress.com/skcc>



The calendar can be downloaded from:  
[http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-docs/SKCC\\_2018\\_Calendar.pdf](http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-docs/SKCC_2018_Calendar.pdf)



## A Classic FT-101 Rises Again!



Al, NW2M #15929 in Rockville Maryland just assembled his classic FT-101 station just in time to participate in the January 2018 SKCC events. Although this photo looks like it was taken in 1974, it was actually taken on 1/1/2018. He purchased his original FT-101F back in 1985 and it took another 12 years to complete the entire station. For years it sat in

boxes and on shelves only being used to keep the power supplies happy. Al finally updated his shack to include a display and operation area for his "complete station". It took time for Al to make his first SKCC contact, but he finally worked Jim W9BM 13170T in Georgetown, TX. They have exchanged QSL cards as this was Al's first SKCC contact. Well done! Al is glad to talk about the FT-101 series as he also restores them. If you have a 45 year old FT-101, please contact Al as he would like to work you over the air.

## An RF Driven On-Air Indicator

In days of yore operating and boat anchor gear, it was somewhat difficult to obtain a clean CW monitoring signal. This was especially difficult if you happened to be using a bug! Thanks to good friend Steve NQ8T #5919, I was pointed to an article in the August 2004 QST Pages 56-57 by Keith AusterMiller, KB9STR for an rf driven indicator to power those nifty tube call letter shack lights of K9JP and AC8W displayed in the last issue of the "Rag Chew." Keith developed his circuit for lighting an "On Air" sign which you can see in the picture. The schematic for this circuit is shown below but with a slight change the circuit could be used as a cw monitor. If you're as old as me you remember turning the rf rcvr gain down on rigs that had no muting just so you could hear your cw. Ugh, what a mess and hassle that was! Maybe now I can use a bug with my "Gold Dust Twins!"

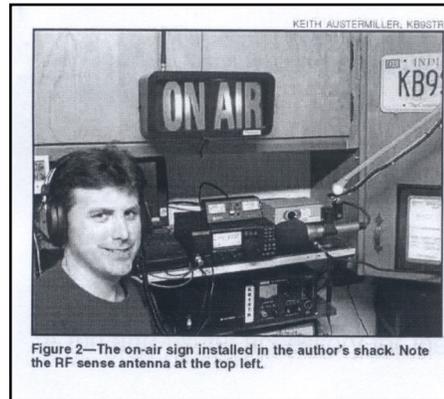


Figure 2—The on-air sign installed in the author's shack. Note the RF sense antenna at the top left.

So how about switching "K1" out in Keith circuit to a DPDT (9VDC) relay and connect something like those old 9 vdc cpo units from Heathkit, Ameco or MFJ? You could power the cpo from the same 9 vdc wall wart as Keith's supply and just short the key jack on the cpo with the pole of the relay! According to Keith's article, C3 controls the hold time for the relay:

*"A holding capacitor C3, is used to keep the relay coil energized during SSB and CW use."*

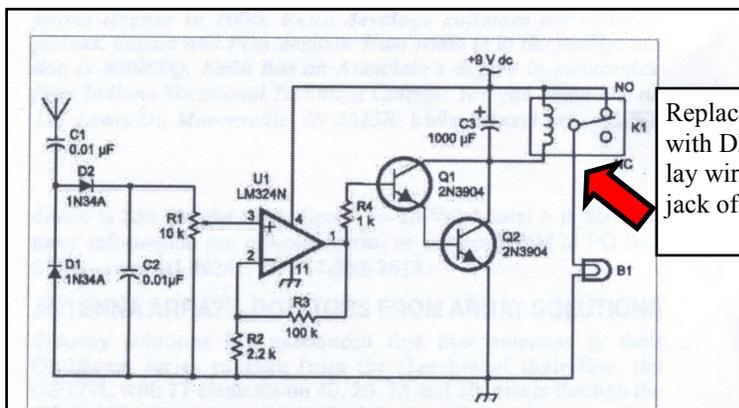


Figure 1—The schematic and parts list for the on-air indicator. (RS=RadioShack, [www.radioshack.com](http://www.radioshack.com); M=Mouser Electronics, [www.mouser.com](http://www.mouser.com).)

- C1, C2—0.01 µF capacitor (RS 272-131).
- C3—1000 µF, 35 V (RS 272-1019).
- D1, D2—1N34A germanium diode (M 526-1N34A) (see Note 2).
- K1—SPDT relay, 12 V, 30 mA, 400 Ω coil (RS 275-248).
- Q1, Q2—2N3904 transistor (RS 276-1617).
- R1—10 kΩ potentiometer (RS 271-282).
- R2—2200 Ω resistor (RS 271-1121).
- R3—100 kΩ resistor (RS 271-1131).
- R4—1000 Ω resistor (RS 271-1118).
- U1—LM324N operational amplifier (RS 276-1711).
- Misc**
- 9 V dc, 1 A ac/dc adapter (RS 273-1771).
- B1—Automotive side marker lamp (see text).
- Wood, Lucite and plastic stock for housing (see text).

I suspect there are many more uses for this rf detector in the ham shack. Why not build a similar unit and share your work here with other readers?

By the way, Keith still has the same call and is very active in vhf/uhf satellite work according to his QRZ bio. His father Vernon NA9L is SKCC # 5627!

PS: Keith uses a 2m rubber duck as his antenna to detect RF. Find the best "rf leakage" for the strongest signal (coax switch, coax or amplifiers make the best choices).

73,  
Ted K8AQM #1629s

*Editor...I ran across this story referenced from our reflector and although the author isn't an SKCC member, the story has DX, CW, danger and amateur radio to the rescue.*

## **A Beautiful Story of Sailors and Radio Amateurs ...**

"If all the guys in the world ..." a Christian-Jacques film released in 1956 re-telling the story of a trawler whose crew is suffering from botulism during a fishing campaign. The on-board radio is out of order, but the trawler's boss, who is also struck by the bacteria, uses a radio broadcasting on the radio amateur bands. The distress message is picked up in Togo, then relayed to Paris. A chain is being built to deliver drugs that will save Brittany sailors. It will pass through Germany with a stopover in Berlin during the cold war to arrive in Norway where the Norwegian aviation will take care of parachuting the precious cargo on the high seas. The crew will be saved and when returning to its port of tie, he will be greeted triumphantly...

The first time I saw this movie was at the patronage on a Thursday afternoon. I had to be around ten years old. When the priest turned on the light at the end of the film, he spoke to us about friendship and mutual aid between men. I listened but listened distractedly because I was amazed by these characters communicating from one end of the planet to the other by radio. It was for me a "click," I'll be a radio amateur! A kid's dream generated by an imaginary story ... Since the dream of the kid I realized and discovered that sometimes, fiction and reality are very close. Back in the past.....

It all began in May 1938 in Saint Malo, the city of corsairs and Newfoundlanders. René Moreux (formerly Mouflon), a former Newfoundlander, left the port to rejoin his fishing zone of the Saint Paul and Amsterdam Islands via the Strait of Gibraltar, the Suez Canal, Madagascar and the Meeting. The trawler is equipped to practice lobster fishing and in these holds were set up cold rooms to freeze the crustaceans. On board is Emile HoHn de Boer, a curious character. The latter obtained from the then Colonial Minister, the Socialist Marius Moutet, the concession, the authorizations necessary for the creation of a fishing establishment on Île Saint Paul and a loan from the French State of 1.5 million francs to finance his project even though



he was enrolled in the unemployment fund of the 17th arrondissement of Paris ... .But it is true that the minister wanted absolutely to revive an activity in Saint Paul and Amsterdam to assert the sovereignty of France in this area.

The future "René-Moreux" "Ile Bourbon" in Le Havre in 1938. (Source: <http://actus.clicanoo.re>)

The ship was armed on April 16, 1938 and registered in Reunion. She is entrusted to Captain Philippe d'Armancourt, who knows the South Indian Ocean well. He was captain of Île Saint Paul, a langoustine of the French lobster for serving his plant on the island in 1930 and 1931. The crew is composed of twenty men and a dozen of passengers specialists in mechanics, freezing as well as a professional radio operator and a doctor.

After this four-month journey, she will remain docked at the port of Pointe des Gaets and will be disarmed while the various stakeholders find an agreement and solve the technical, administrative and financial problems. Most of the crew members no longer wish to continue, they ask for the payment of their balance. Captain Armancourt, will recruit a new crew composed of Reunion men for technical positions and twenty Malagasy. At the request of the Reunioneese shipowners and merchants of the "Société Réunionnaise des Pêcheries de Saint Paul and Amsterdam", the trawler will be rearmed on 18 November 1938 under the name "Île Bourbon".

Paul Bour, the new radio operator on board, is amateur radio operator FB8AB (ex FB8C), and receives on November 20 his shortwave radio. The radio is very damaged following a hectic trip between Madagascar and Reunion. Paul will carry out summary repairs but this situation will not be without consequences for the next events. We do not know what motivated him to get involved in this adventure and to leave his wife and children while he led a comfortable life in Antananarivo. Is it the temptation to discover a deserted island, to make a fortune in the lobster trade or some other reason that was personal to him?

It is quarter to nine December 18, 1938. Edwin R. Gibson, the head of pharmacy at the Navy Yard Dispensary in Bremerton, Washington, USA, is on duty. At this time everything is calm. To pass the time, Gibson who is amateur radio (W7DWG), listens on his portable receiver to short waves, just to pass the time. He sweeps the band of 40 meters and while passing on the frequency of 7.015 kHz he perceives a weak signal in the background noise. He comes back on this frequency and listens. There is indeed a program in telegraphy. He listens and hears a strange message: "QST of XFB8AN XFB8AB and 48 crew members are stranded here on Saint Paul Island – please warn Madagascar as soon as we miss coal through bad weather = have no chance to find coal on the island - called Madagascar but no answer - We can faintly catch Tananarive broadcasting around 3 pm GMT - We ask you to call us here tomorrow and the following days - Will be listening for any message or information – we worry since we left - my receiver burned and I now use a small 8-channel receiver - difficult reception - a lot of QRN - stay at listening - let's confirm the SS Bourbon Island ... "



The station of FB8C in Madagascar in 1935 and the QSL (Source: <http://hamgallery.com/>)

Gibson tried to contact this mysterious XFB8AB, but he heard no signal, even very weak. He made the decision to relay the distress message to the Naval Operations Office in Washington DC by radio using the Third Naval Command's alerting frequency. He also contacted the Coast Guard Seattle (WA) by telephone. ). The information was also sent to the French consulate in San Francisco (CA) via the radio network of the US Army, W7CQI.

On the Island of Saint Paul, Paul Bour did not know if his message had been captured. Patience is an indispensable quality for amateur radio. Paul Bour did not fail. Hour after hour, he picked up his pick (2) and repeated his message. The next morning, at 6:20 am Pacific Time, He caught the first response to this long series of calls. It came from Neil Taylor, W6MUS, a Californian radio operator from Coronado Beach (CA), more than 17,000 km from St Paul's Island.

It was the first liaison Paul Bour had been doing for 33 days. He repeated the misadventures of Ile Bourbon to his correspondent. Two other operators captured this exchange, Irving Astman, Donner's Summit's W6OMR near Norden (CA) and Erwin R. Gibson, W7DWG who had first heard the call. Irving Astman sent a telegram to the Coast Guards, the French Consulate in San Francisco (CA) and the shipping company on which Bourbon Island depended.

At the same time, the Naval Department of Washington had relayed the information to the Omaha cruiser to the attention of Rear-Admiral Henry E. Lackey who commanded the 40-T Squadron in the Mediterranean. The latter was instructed to relay the message to the nearest French authorities. The message reached Paris at the Colonial Office, which immediately ordered a ship to assist Bourbon Island.

Forty-eight lives were thus saved by the will and patience of a French radio amateur, Paul Bour, by the dedication and initiative of three Americans, also radio amateurs, located 17,000 km from the event, which allowed the rescue operation by the French authorities. A proof for sure that the reality sometimes exceeds the fiction!

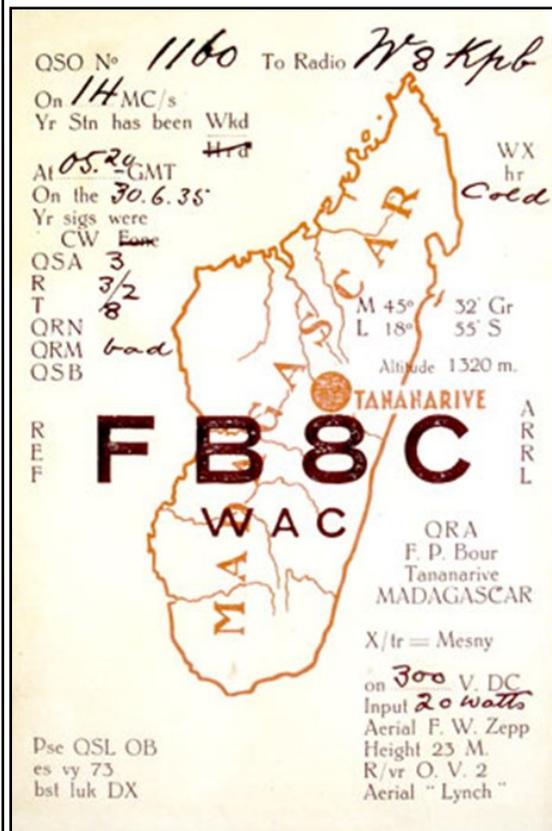
Richard F4CZV  
73

Reference documentation:

- QST of 02/1939 p15
- Chicago Dailly Tribune of 21/12/1938
- Radio 03/1939 p58

(1) The reader may question the presence of an X in front of the prefix FB8AB. At that time it meant that the station was aboard a ship. Today this information would result in the use of an indicative FB8AB / MM, the last two letters meaning "maritime mobile".

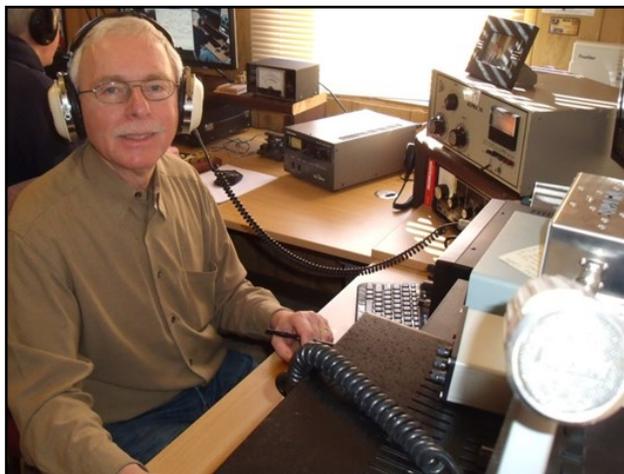
(2) The pickaxe, in the radio language, is the name given to the manipulator, or telegraphic key.



## K3Y/9 WES at N8KR

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual K3Y/9 festival at the qth of N8KR was held on Saturday, January 13 during the WES event. 10 Fort Wayne, Indiana area SKCC members operated the three stations throughout the day making about 200 contacts on 160, 80, 40 (30 – non-WES), 20 and 15 meters. Besides making lots of contacts, one major goal was to help our newbies get on the air.

(Since November 1, SKCC has added 14 members from our area!) Two of our “rookie” participants worked side by side with seasoned operators to add to our qso count. Jim – KD9GDY actually made his first cw contact with us and Rose – KA9GKE made several contacts as a *first experience* on the air. Ed – WA9BBN and Kevin – KB9RLW are *seasoned* cw operators but operated the SKCC K3Y exchange as new SKCC members! Also new to the shack was Jay – W9LW who has been an active SKCC member for years and always finds time to do a little K3Y from his shack. Returning from last year included Joe – WB9AEO who brings his own unique bug, Carl – K9LA our Central Division ARRL vice director and avid cw op, and Josh – W9HT a regular visitor at the shack.



WB9AEO-Joe

The day started at 7:30 am with Joe on 40 meters with the Yaesu FTDX 1200 and Ken on 80/160 with the Kenwood TS-590S and, as people began arriving, the 80/160 station went to 20 meters and the third station, the Kenwood 570D began operation on 30 meters. Even though 30 meters does not count for WES, there were many stations to work. We used that station for our “rookies” as they learned the SKCC exchange.



Rose-KA9GKE at 30m station

There was much less qrm there. Ed – WA9BBN has been working with our “rookie” operators in our local ham/morse code instruction and he spent time working with Jim – KD9GDY. Listening together at the radio, Ed patiently explained all that was happening in the qso/exchange. What was interesting was that the K3Y experience was new to Ed! Ed recently joined SKCC but is a lifelong cw operator. Ed now is chasing the K3Y stations for his own personal achievement and recently noted that he worked DX – Bert in France! Jim, now, has been bitten by the cw “bug” and is on the air at his own station!

Carl – K9LA and Vickie – AE9YL spent most of the morning (through lunch) with us. Carl jumped right in at the 40 meter station later moving over to the 20 meter station. Carl is quite active in cw events and apologized for leaving early to participate in NAQP CW at his own station. He is very supportive of SKCC and his participation this year marks his second visit to the station here.

Josh – W9HT helped provide and serve lunch before attacking the 20 meter station for more WES contacts. Josh always adds extra “life” to the party and can be very serious about operating cw!



Jay - W9LW

Since he knows the station well, he’s a valuable asset to the total operation. Jay – W9LW made his inaugural visit to the shack later in the day. Jay spends a lot of his time on CW and has already hosted the K3Y/9 call this year at his shack. His appearance gave relief to the 40 meter operator and Jay knew exactly what to send and how to handle pile-ups! Even though you’re sitting at a different rig than what you may be used to, sitting on one frequency and calling CQ is pretty simple. Jay’s time with us was limited but appreciated. It’s always great meeting new people!

Kevin – KB9RLW, another recent member of SKCC, showed up not only to operate but to also video the operation. Kevin is the local guru on how-to videos along with hosting regular online webinars. After spending time operating, Kevin set up his camera and began filming. He began with a little interview and then moved to each station, filming (with audio) the action at each station. After spending time editing his recording, Kevin uploaded the video on YouTube. (You can look for the video on



The "Silver Slugger" Kevin - KB9RLW



YouTube by typing K3Y/9 or follow this link: <https://youtu.be/YhFK4idU3j8> Within a few days of posting, he had over 1000 views: a great way to promote SKCC! By the way, Kevin is a fine cw op! We’ve now labeled our silver- slugger.

We all had a great time at our multi-op K3Y/9 event. We made some new friends, shared lots of stories and experiences, honed our skills as cw ops, got familiar with a variety of new rigs and keys, and enjoyed food and snack and refreshments. All

in all, we made 200 contacts with 41 states, 12 countries and 3 Canadian provinces in our relaxed operation. Everyone agreed that we need to get together again. So you can look for us

again next year!

If you're wondering, the station has a modest selection of antennas including a 4 element tribander at 40 feet and separate dipoles/vees for 30, 40, 80, and 160 meters. Two stations utilized amplifiers: an Alpha 76 and a Tokyo Hy-Power solid state. We kept outputs at about 400 watts. Band Pass filters from DX-Labs were utilized on 20 and 40 meters. We ran the AC2C logging software. CU next year! 73, de N8KR #7559s



**Standing: WA9BBN - #17763, KA9GKE - #17764, KB9RLW - #13775, N8KR - #7559S, W9HT - #7474T, Seated: K9LA - #14633 and WB9EAO - #12021S Not pictured: W9LW - #6222S, KD9GDY - #18156, and AE9YL**

Jean Touzot, F8IL, of Albi, France — said to have been the world's oldest radio amateur — has died. The “dean of French radio amateurs,” Touzot was 109 and enjoyed operating CW with an old-fashioned hand key and a modern Yaesu transceiver. He “retired from the airwaves for health reasons” at age 105 in 2014, according to media accounts. Until then he had been active on the air, making daily contacts on 80-meter CW with other stations in France. In stepping back from his ham activity, Touzot said he no longer was able to send CW and made “too many mistakes.”

He was a member of France's International Amateur Radio Union member-society REF as well as of the Union of French Telegraphists (UFT).

Born in Algeria, Touzot had been on the air since 1936 and had learned CW in 2 months during his time in the military. Prior to military service, he attended the Technical Institute of Toulouse and became an industrial designer, retiring in 1966.

Touzot received considerable acclaim in 2009, when he became a centenarian. Among his gifts was a special Morse key created especially for him.

## Trapped In CW!

Shortly after Christmas a “friend” came over with a “gift” for me. Greg KE8CEW #15805t, give me this unique key! Now mama Rachwal raised only one dummy, my kid brother!



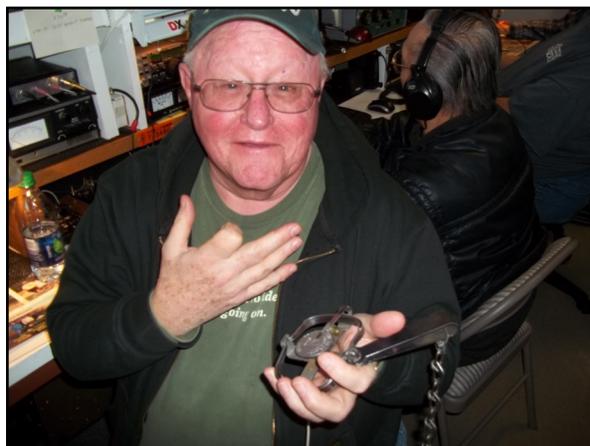
Greg actually thought I would give this key a try...ha! No way was I placing my hand into that



“trap” even though I do have a light touch on the

key! After some persuasion Jeremy KD8VSQ #13072t (Greg’s son) gave the key a try...meanwhile Greg sat there smirking and smiling at my hesitation! Without connecting it to a rig, a few “dits” and “dahs” were tapped out with no loss of fingers.

Greg makes those tube lights you see here in the Rag Chew and in several SKCC members’ shack. He definitely has a creative mind although possibly in an “unusual vain.” I put this picture up on the SKCC Fa-



Stan AC8W #2813 does not have a light touch! We now refer to him as “Stumpy”

cebook page and the comments came roaring in: “no spurrish emissions with this key, it has a built in trap,” “this will develop operators with a light touch” “could lead to on the air names like ‘stumpy”” “now I know where the term “fist” comes from” ...and on and on. There were even a couple guys debating exactly who made the trap and what the trap was made to catch!

At a recent SKCC gathering for K3Y/8 the key was a great hit and laugh. I can’t say for sure if it “trapped” any QSOs that day but we sure had fun with it!

I guess I either have to thank Greg for his “personal gift” or find better friends!

73,  
Ted K8AQM #1629s

## A New Key in the Shack de K8AQM

Just before the start of the K3Y/8 operation at KS8KCC I received a wonderful gift from some great friends. Curt KU8L #5380s of VIZkey fame, designed this beautiful key. The key has no spring and works on magnets. The base is solid brass treated with gun bluing and is extremely heavy. Along with a Navy knob it has a terrific feel and very smooth action. I quickly put it to work making K3Y/8 QSOs.



I had to laugh when Curt told me he planned to take it back because there were a few areas he wasn't "satisfied" with! Ha! No way was I ever going to let this key out of my shack! It is perfect just the way it is and I didn't have to adjust a thing!

I am certainly blessed to have friends who would present me with such a gift...thanks guys!



## The Value of a QSO

So....I'm tuning around listening for SKCC numbers that are missing from my log book.... and I hear 1433T, working as K3Y/2.....so I wait and drop my call sign. We make contact and each make a log entry. He also drops his call sign, W1DV.....and it sinks in a bit later that I know that guy! I tune around the band and hear him again. I drop my call sign and get a polite response that we have already made a 40 meter contact.....and I respond "hi Dave, just saying hi from your son Scotts father in law".....I knew Dave was a ham, but in all the years our kids have been married, we never had an on the air QSO. If it wasn't for SKCC, we probably still would be waiting for that to happen. Sorry if our short QSO got in the way of you making contact with K3Y/2... Love this group....bringing together friends that haven't chatted with each other for years....73, K3DRJ



## March Madness!

Have you recovered from K3Y yet, well here's a chance to regain the fun of searching and working special stations. If you're old enough to remember "crystal controlled frequency," chirps, clicks and tuning with your bandspread to find those stations calling you then this event may be just right for you!

Check out the web site listed on the flyer for full details of the event which includes certificates, awards and prizes.

You can even use these QSOs for Brag and other SKCC awards if you exchange the necessary

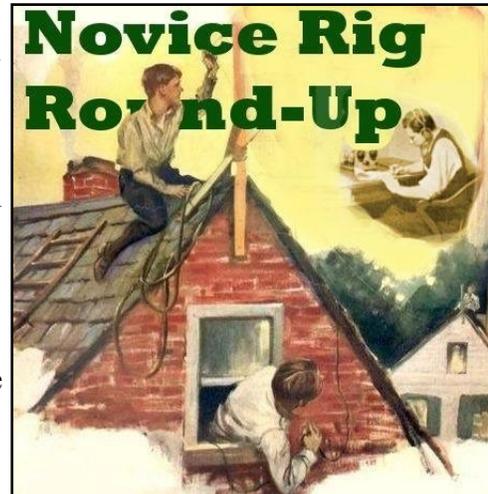
**ANNOUNCING**  
The 4th Annual  
**NOVICE RIG ROUNDUP!**

AWARDS!  
PRIZES!  
CERTIFICATES!

Join us March 3-11, 2018 for nine days of operating fun. Relive the glory years of 75 watts input and crystal frequency control. Novice-type equipment encouraged, but not required to participate.

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

WHEN: March 3 2018, 00:00 UTC to March 11, 2018, 23:59 UTC  
WHERE: 80m, 40m, 15m, 10m, 2m  
MORE INFO: <http://novicerigroundup.com>



information.

## ZUT!.....??

*Ed...So this was on Facebook and posted by Curt WA2JSG #3018s. Check out the exchanges on "ZUT."*

"Just had a very nice chat with W9EBE, and as I usually do after a nice chat, I checked out his QRZ profile and found this REALLY neat picture. I just had to snatch it (hope Chip doesn't mind) and share it here. ZUT = CW Forever"

.....  
"In reaction to the ever-increasing use of radio-teletype over that of CW, the Fraternal Order of Coast Guard CW Operators adopted an unused U.S. Military Z-signal, ZUT, and assigned it the meaning of "CW FOREVER!" in 1962."

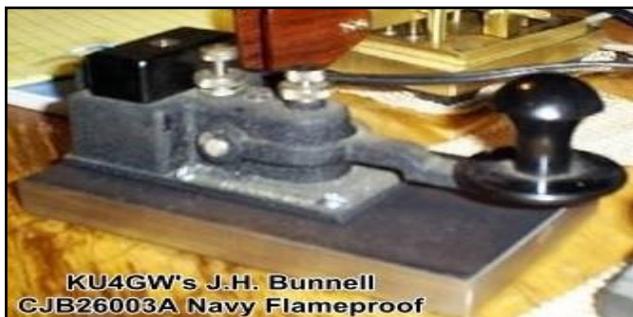
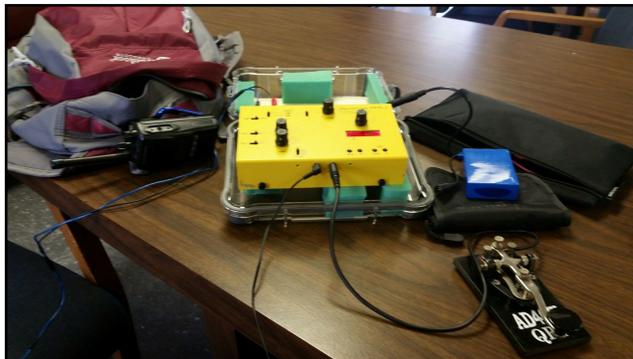
"ZUT alors" is French, it's what Frenchmen say when they get blown off the air by RTTY operators"

"ZUT", as I understand it, is on a list of military signals (along with others) that either have no meaning attached to it, or have been outdated and deleted. Chances are no meaning was ever attached to it, as with others. Here's a better explanation: <http://www.comm-one.club/about-us.html>"

"I think that ZUT in French is HECK in English"



# More Keys and Gear!



KU4GW's J.H. Bunnell  
CJB26003A Navy Flameproof



## K3Y/8 (KS8KCC) Multi-Multi 2018

Another year of operating multi operator and multi transmitter for K3Y/8 and another year of great fun! The weather was bitterly cold but sixteen friends gathered at the K8AQM shack for a weekend of QSOs, great food tall tales and lots of laughs. The operators were:

KD8VSQ KU8L AC8W N8LJ N8CC K8TEZ N8XI NQ8T KT8X N8GAS  
KE8CEW NU8Z K8MU W8IQ K8PRG K8AQM

All SKCC members from Michigan or Ohio.

We had five stations on the air running QRO (four of the five station had 500 watts); during the day 20m, 17m, 15m, 40m, and 30m (running only 200 watts). Night time bands were 20m, 40m, 30m, 80m and 160m. SKCC Logger was used and after the event all logs



L->R N8XI, KD8VSQ, K8KIC and NQ8T standing

were merged to give us a total of 466 QSOs. One amplifier (on 40m) developed a severe AC hum on the signal due to a bad filter capacitor but the amp was quickly switched out to a standby SB-200 (tough old amp, hard to beat). Other than the bad amp everything work flawlessly and Murphy stayed away.

That's the shot of Rick N8XI at the 17m station with a K2/100, Alpha 76 and both phased vertical dipoles and an extended Zepp on 17m. Also KD8VSQ logging for K8KIC on the 40m station: K2/100, SB-200 and several dipoles and 2 2L 40m yagis. Steve NQ8T standing and looking

on.

Below is part of the most popular place in the shack! There was chili (each bean "poked" to release gas before cooking!), smoked pulled pork, nuts, chips and M&Ms! No one

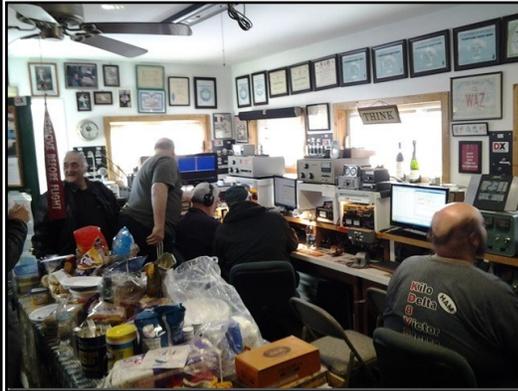


L->R K8MU, KU8L, KE8CEW and "part" of NU8Z!



L->R K8MU, N8GAS, N8XI and K8AQM

leaves this operation hungry! Seen in the picture to the right are Greg N8GAS, Jeff N8CC, and Mark NU8Z watching Lee N8LJ and Stan AC8W running 20m with a K3, Alpha 374 and Log periodic at 100 ft! We hear very well and are heard on 20m (It's the



160 station at night with an inverted L)

<- Here is a good view of the operating bench



L->R N8GAS, N8CC, NU8Z N8LJ and AC8W

along one wall. That's Rick N8XI facing the camera and heading to the 17m station (80m at night with a dipole at 90 ft, 1/4 wave slopper and 2 L wire ZL Spe-

cial)).

To the right is Rick K8PRG on 40m and Stan AC8W (back to the camera) on 30m with a K2 (Alpha off), a 2 L full size 30m yagi fixed SW and a double Zepp antenna.



Just an FYI, there is absolutely "NO INTERSTATION INTERFERENCE" on any band! We use band-pass filters on each radio, stubs on the amplifiers and ALL equipment (rigs, amps and filters) are securely grounded. We check all PL-259s to ensure they are securely tightened. It has taken many operations to accomplish "no station interference."

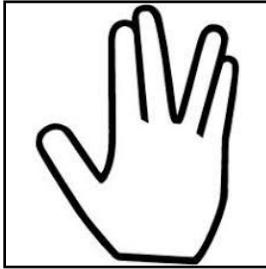
Our goal is always to have fun first and make contacts secondly. This is our 11th year running a multi-multi K3Y/8, and now we enjoy our club call KS8KCC and the name "Dit." It has been nothing but fun and there will be many more operations to come! We enjoy the K3Y event but enjoy our comradery even more! See you next year and in many SKS operations.



That's Mark NU8Z running and logging on 20m...where is everyone???

73..... "Dit" KS8KCC #16000t

## “Live long and ....Operate!”



Jean Touzot, F8IL, of Albi, France — said to have been the world’s oldest radio amateur — has died. The “dean of French radio amateurs,” Touzot was 109 and enjoyed operating CW with an old-fashioned hand key and a modern Yaesu transceiver. He “retired from the airwaves for health reasons” at age 105 in 2014, according to media accounts. Until then he had been active on the air, making daily contacts on 80-meter CW with other stations in France. In stepping back from his ham activity, Touzot said he no longer was able to send CW and made “too many mistakes.”



He was a member of France’s International Amateur Radio Union member-society REF as well as of the Union of French Telegraphists (UFT).

Born in Algeria, Touzot had been on the air since 1936 and had learned CW in 2 months during his time in the military. Prior to military service, he attended the Technical Institute of Toulouse and became an industrial designer, retiring in 1966.

Touzot received considerable acclaim in 2009, when he became a centenarian. Among his gifts was a special Morse key created especially for him.

No official records are kept to document who is the oldest radio amateur. ....de Wes AC8JF #10511 and the ARRL



## A Blast from the Past

I operated from this station, K3ORS, at the Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, MD back in 1969. That was my Vibroplex Original in the photo. The base has been gone for many years now, and the callsign is held by another guy who used to operate with it back in the day. Other Navy base stations I had the opportunity to operate were K9NBH (Navy's Best Hams) at Great Lakes, IL; W4NPT at Naval Air Station Norfolk, VA; WA6UIL at Naval Station San Diego; and KH6SP at SubBase Pearl Harbor. Lots of wonderful memories. Wish I had taken more photos, but it wasn't like now when most people carry a camera around with them all the time. ~ Wes W1LIC #1142s

*Editor...I get a lot of email as do you no doubt but this was a first! I don't do QRP, I don't belong to any QRP group so why this was sent to me I have no idea. That said, I was curious and went to the web site given for more information. For those of you who do QRP or QRPp this might be of interest. I have printed the email I received and have some pictures copied from the web site. Has anyone used one of these or made a contact with someone who has? I'd enjoy hearing from you and perhaps printing a report.*

## **KeychainQRP The Worlds Smallest QRP Ham Radio Transmitters**

For immediate release: KeychainQRP HF Transmitters from QirkyQRP Ham Radios are micro-sized CW ham radios that are small enough to keep attached to your car keys.

Each rig weighs in at roughly 1 ounce and measures 1" x 1" x 0.75" (inches).

They are currently for sale on Etsy in the following 7 amateur radio bands: 10m, 15m, 17m, 20m, 40m, 80, & 160m. Each KeychainQRP transmitter is set to a single operating frequency and are available in the following frequencies: 28.224MHz, 21.10248MHz, 18.080MHz, 14.1120MHz 14.1475MHz, 14.31818MHz, 7.200MHz, 3.57954MHz, & 1.8432MHz.

When paired with an inexpensive multi-band shortwave receiver or HF receiver kit, a very lightweight transceiver setup can be achieved. Another HF receiver option are the many dual band VHF/UHF handheld ham radios on the market that have a built-in wide band HF receive mode, which many hams already own.

Each transmitter has a built-in micro straight key for transmitting code without the need for an external morse code key. The latest model now sports a standard 3.5mm jack to allow the use any external straight key or electronic keyer. There is even the potential to use KeychainQRP as experimental propagation beacons or for RDF fox hunting transmitters.

With KeychainQRP attached to your car keys, you can be sure to always have an HF transmitter on your person everywhere you go. Plus, you can show off to your ham friends at your next club meeting.

KeychainQRP is powered by a standard 9 volt battery and puts out a maximum of 160 milliwatts of RF power via its SMA antenna connector. Batteries as well as BNC/SMA adapters are offered for sale as optional accessories.

A transmit indicator LED shows you that you are transmitting and can be helpful for beginners when sending code. Another little helpful addition for those still learning CW is the built-in morse code chart, which is part of the label on the front of the rig.

KeychainQRP is a great way to get a little real world experience practicing code live on the air with your friends across town or just across the room. They can also be a fun new challenge for long time hams that have already mastered code.

Each KeychainQRP transmitter is handmade in the United States of America.

Visit the following link for more information and purchasing options:

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/QuirkyQRPHamRadios>

Please feel free to disseminate, distribute and publish the information and photos within this

press release at your convenience.

73!

Jim - KH2SR  
QuirkyQRP Ham Radios



## Dave KB1WOD #10530s

Originally held a novice license (WB1AHE) in the late 70's, but let it expire in 94. But I was pretty much inactive from 84 on. Got my Tech in Jan, General in May and Extra In July all in 2012. Always wanted to get back in to it and glad I did. I have so many things I want to try I am having difficult concentrating on just one.

For radios I have two Baofeng VHF/UHF band HT, a 4 band HW-8 QRP CW rig from my novice days (still works), a Kenwood TS-520S, a Kenwood TM-281A and a Flex-6300.

Antennas: OCF 80-6m dipole, 40/20/10m fan dipole, Slim Jim J pole and a 100' random wire.

I am a member of the North America QRP CW Club, FIST and SKCC.

Modes I work are: CW, PSK31, JT65, JT9, FT8, freeDV and SSB.

Visit my blog - <https://dsckb1wod.blogspot.com>

or visit my web page - <http://www.qsl.net/kb1wod> (just starting to get it up and running)



## “Unknown Device” and the Solution

Brady, KD8ZM #18011 posted this message on Facebook along with this photo:

*“Recently bought a real nice QRP radio from a real nice fellow ham. But when I opened the box up, this “thing” fell out. What is it? Some ladies' undergarment, or a special tool of some sort? Can somebody help me out here?”*

*De Brady KD8ZM #18011*

I too bought a couple of these “unknown devices” and came up with an ingenious solution to make these devices useable in the SKCC shack.



The solution has made these devices quite useable and as of this date no further adjustments have been required.

So Brady, if you're reading this paper, this solution will cure your problem and your device will work properly for you.

73,  
Ted K8AQM

PS The “fix” can be done in colors suitable for your shack décor.



“One reason I make contacts when the bands are closed is that I have very reliable equipment and I mostly contact other people who are excellent CW operators....”

*de Larry K8TEZ #8426t*

## Morse Code: A Staple in the Navy IW Toolkit

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- The cryptologic technician (collection) (CTR) student cohort in the first revised Basic Manual Morse Trainer (BMMT) course wrapped up, Jan. 28, at the Center for Information Dominance (CID) Unit Corry Station.

The update included the latest Manual Morse software used by the Department of Defense and was tested out in a nine-week pilot course that concluded in September.



The self-paced course provides basic instruction and practical application in the interception of Morse-type communications.

"Morse code continues to be an inexpensive and efficient means of communication for many states throughout the globe," said Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection) (IDW/NAC/SW/AW) Tony Gonzales, CTR rate training manager for CID headquarters. "Manual Morse operators here at Corry Station are learning a skill set that has stood the test of time. Many of our most senior CTRs began their careers as Manual Morse operators."

In the updated course, Sailors learn how to operate radio-receiving and associated computer-based equipment. From basic safeguards of security to communication procedures and systems theory to operation of communications equipment, the course teaches how to intercept Morse communications, as well as copy and send Morse code.

"There is something special about learning a skill that Sailors have been performing since World War II," said Gonzales. "The connection between the past, present and future cryptologic technician (collection) is rarely seen in our line of work as technologies are forever changing."

Morse is just one tool that CTRs use as members of the Navy's Information Warfare (IW) community to perform collection, analysis and reporting on communication signals.

"Morse code is not only used in military operations but also in commercial navigation," said Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 1st Class (IDW/SW) Gabriel Albarran, the BMMT course supervisor. "Search and rescue, science navigations and weather status are frequently passed in automated Morse code."

Sailors can take the course immediately following CTR "A" school or can be assigned as fleet returnees to the course as part of their transfer. The course is now offered to about 40 CTRs each year in the pay grades of E-1 through E-5.



"It's a language," said Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Seaman Mary Kaitlin McKeeby, who beat the course record set during the pilot by two days, finishing the self-paced course in 39 days. "If you have a knack for languages, (Morse code) is going to be easier to pick up."

She stressed the importance of staying composed while learning Morse code and persisting through the lessons even when making a mistake.

Graduates receive NEC 9169 as a Morse code intercept operator and undergraduate college credit through the American Council on Education. They may also be eligible for selective reenlistment bonuses in both zones A and B.

Morse code training has been taking place continuously at Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station since 2005, when the Navy moved the training back to Corry Station, in favor of cost and time savings by relocating the course with the cryptology "A" school. A long partnership with the Army providing the training came to an end at that time.

The Center for Information Dominance (CID) based at Corry Station in Pensacola, Florida, is the Navy's learning center that leads, manages and delivers Navy and joint forces training in information operations, information warfare, information technology, cryptology and intelligence.

With nearly 1,300 military, civilian and contracted staff members, CID provides training for approximately 22,000 members of the U.S. armed services and allied forces each year. CID oversees the development and administration of more than 200 courses at four commands, two detachments and 12 learning sites throughout the United States and Japan.

**I predict that:**



**SSB operators will declare the bands "Dead," while CW and FT8 Operators make countless contacts.**

## **Ain't It the Truth!**

Scan those bands for:

- A. SKCC members calling CQ
- B. Scan the bands for any ops calling CQ (cw only)
- C. Switch to FT8 and work on a bench project while working a few FT8 Qs.

Now that a good band plan! Don't you just feel sorry for those guys that don't do CW, what do the phone ops do when they think the bands are dead?

TNX Jeremy KD8VSQ #13072t

***Ed...According to Dave VE9CB #12520, "working JT36 is like watching paint dry, working FT8 is like watching latex paint dry"***

No matter how many bands you like, there will always be that one band who can never be replaced. The band that got you into all of this, that literally changed your life. Other bands may come and go, but you will always come back to that one band. The one that will always hold a special place in your heart.

### Favorite Band

“A friend of mine who is a big rock music fan had this on his Facebook page this morning. When I first saw it, however, it wasn't music that immediately came to my mind.”

de Les W1LIC SKCC #1142s

*Ed...From my early days I still head for 80 and 15m, what's your favorite "band."*



VE9ZZ's fine station, cool key!



Anyone know what key this is?



Before



After

Sweet!



Everyone knows this key!!!

## QSL Burro



This wagon, drawn by a pair of QSL Burros, will eventually deliver dozens of QSL cards throughout Chihuahua, Mexico.

The **QSL Burro** is one of several techniques in the animal kingdom that amateur radio operators use to confirm they have listened to one another, given that radio itself works so poorly and even postal mail communicates more rapidly.

This legendary pack animal has faithfully transported "QSL cards" since the earliest days of ham radio. Sometimes misspelled QSL Bureau or QSL Buro, the QSL Burro system was once mistakenly attributed to Hämlich Hertz, the 19th-Century tycoon of mule-drawn

carriage rentals, or Nikolai Tefla, the inventor of the non-stick wireless coil. In fact, DNA testing proved that Italian inventor Gigolo Macaroni was the father of using pigs to produce emissions into ether. (Any Michigander with a working knowledge of pig emissions knows why Macaroni did not own up to his role.) Unfortunately, having spent all his liras on Pig Chow, Marconi could not afford a postage stamp for the first QSL card, so he trained his donkey to deliver it to the receiving pig on the other side of his farm. The QSL Burro has been featured on Animule Planet.

QSL Burros achieve communication between Ham Operators across national boundaries and even oceans. The limitations of the QSL Burro became evident as the distances successfully spanned by pig emissions progressively increased.

- The maximum velocity of the burro was 3 km/h or even slower, as when it took several years for the burro to cross the ocean on a raft to confirm the first Transatlantic signals.
- The QSL Burro service is not yet available for contacts with the Astronomical Space Station (ASS). The primary obstacle is getting a helmet to fit over its head.
- In times of famine, the QSL Burro has been known to eat QSL cards. At those times, ham radio operators are advised to use an alternate delivery system.



## New technology

Technology has somewhat improved reliability of the QSL Burro since the FCC assigned it use of the 220-222 MHz radio spectrum. This band, also known as the 12 cm band, is the distance between the ears of the QSL Burro. On this natural resonant frequency, the ears form a horizontally polarized, independently steerable, diversity reception array used for global positioning and long-range navigation.



## Future challenges

A Marconi-style transmitting apparatus, showing a Ham Operator.

The QSL Burro is an endangered species due to the increasing use of eQSLs.

The increasing greenhouse effect of pig ether emissions has also rendered the QSL Burro susceptible to overheating, though Burro emissions are solid-state and Burrito emissions are not. Much like aging racing greyhounds and rock stars, QSL Burros and Burritos are placed in willing homes after the end

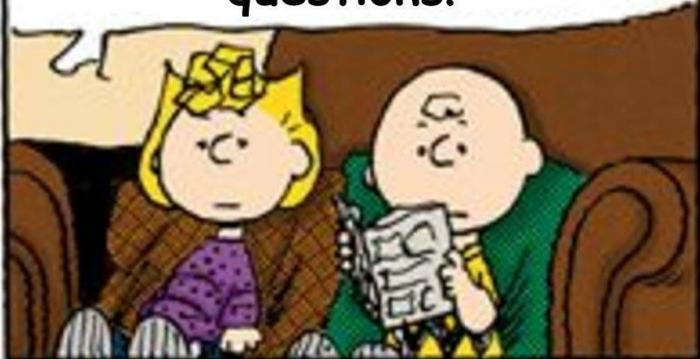
of their service lives, and the charity that does so always welcomes donations.

*Ed...Thanks to Larry K8MU #14823 for this bit of pre-April 1 humor!*

## SKCC Elmers

You do know SKCC has an “Elmer” program for learning and improving CW don’t you? But maybe we need more than CW Elmers! Maybe we need Elmers to help us design and install the best antenna for our location, maybe we need an Elmer to help us think about the best choice of equipment be it transceivers, station accessories, how to work DX, how to refurbish that beat-up key you just bought, what coax to use and even a place to find all the items we need. There are many experienced amateurs in our club who have ideas about all these subjects. You don’t need to be a “newbie” to have questions, in fact, sometimes being a “newbie,” you’re so new you don’t even know what questions to ask!

**"If you learn too much,  
people will call you 'Elmer'  
and ask you tons of  
questions!"**



Sure you can put questions out on the reflector and you can even post them on our Facebook page but sometimes you might feel a bit “dumb” admitting you don’t know the answer and your shy about asking.

Maybe SKCC should think about having more than just a CW Elmer, maybe a place where a question(s) could be asked and perhaps a local in the club could answer...just sayin’ Maybe the SKCC Special Projects Group could think about such an Elmer program...again just sayin’ .....

Editor



What's more fun than attending a hamfest during the cold month of February? The "Fun-In-The-Sun" Orlando Hamcation 3-day hamfest in 83 degree temperatures!! As a first time attender of this event, I wasn't quite sure what to expect and since it was a 3-day event, I chose to attend on Saturday, the most popular and busiest day. The fairgrounds on the north



side on Orlando was easy to access (coming across the state from Bradenton/Sarasota) and to my pleasure, it was BIG! Not to enjoy this event by myself, Ron – KD9FBD drove in with me and Josh – W9HT flew in for the weekend and completed the three-some!

Two large buildings housed the vendors and it did not take long to find the SKCC banners at LNR. Randy was there to greet us and we finalized the "official" SKCC picture time and location. Since it was still morning (before the afternoon heat and hot sun) we decid-

Special "thanks" to AE4LD Larry, #3090t, for allowing the SKCC banners to be put up at the LNR booth!



ed to hit the flea market – tailgate! Expecting to find organized rows of tailgaters in one condensed area proved different. The grassy field had vehicles parked in random style and not all of them were selling. This made the "hunt" a real adventure and off we went through the maze of vehicles looking for goodies and bargains. There was much to see and it took a good hour and a half to see everything. We stopped to visit Mike – K8NS and naturally, he offered a cigar as a part of the visit! By noon we met the SKCC group. It was great to meet hams you work during SKCC operating events. Much time was given to visiting before we took the picture.



Views from the flea market area...rows and rows...pictures by Randy KB4QQJ #3508t



16 SKCCers were present including KB4QQJ, WZ9I, WA3GM, N0JOL, N4NR, W9HT, K9IA, KN1SIX, K8NS, KB4F, W4QO, NZ2Z, N7EDK, AE4LD, W4RQ, and N8KR.



Not available for the group shot are the following...pictures by KB4QQJ



AI4NF Bart 5771 K9IA Chuck 10206t K3SEN Dale11463t N3RSD Frank 4379s WZ9I John 16 N8KR Ken 7959s



AB8KT Ken 4500t at the LNR booth



KB4QQJ 3508t Randy's shack at Ham Con and view from his front porch.

From there we were off to the 3<sup>rd</sup> building where the indoor flea market was held . . . in air-conditioning!!!! It was getting hot with little shade so the cool building offered relief from the heat and more stuff to see and people to visit with. The end of the day was close so we spent time filling our shopping lists and talking with the vendors. Ron, Josh, and I had a great time and decided this, too, should be an annual event. If you have never attended this event, consider doing so. While not as big as Dayton/Xenia, you don't need a sweatshirt or coat or rain jacket or rubber boots to traverse the mud . . . shorts and T-shirts are perfect attire!

One final note, I had the opportunity to pre-read this edition of the Ragchew and enjoyed seeing the variety of keys. I picked up a unique key at Orlando handcrafted by G3YUH. I know he's responsible for many designs. This one came out in 2007. It's very smooth!



## The Loren D Hayes Memorial Amateur Radio Club

The Club House of The Loren D Hayes Memorial Amateur Radio Club, (LDHARC) is located just north of Lisbon, OH on State Route 45. Our club was formed in December, 2017, by Loren's son, Randy, N8KQ #8934S and Loren's nephew, Bob, W8ARC #8734.

We decided to form the club in memory of my Dad, who was an avid Ham and CW Operator and what better way to do that than to sign the club up with the SKCC Group. We want to keep his memory alive with keeping his call sign and name on the air waves. We also use 2 of Loren's old J-38 straight keys here at the operating desk.

Loren was born on the Ohio River in the small community of Port Homer, OH in 1935. I can remember some of the stories he use to tell of his brothers and himself and their adventures on the river. Loren was first licensed as a novice in the fall of 1961 with the call sign of, KN8CGE. By the spring of 1962, Loren had upgraded to General and the call changed to K8CGE, which he held for his entire life.



In the early years, Loren did a lot of home brewing and I can remember some of the home brewed amplifiers and power supplies. I can remember, sitting in the living room in the evenings watching black and white TV in the 60's and the house lights would start blinking to Loren's CQ, CQ, CQ de K8CGE K8CGE. He spent most of his adult life as an over the road truck driver with Peerless Clay out of Stratton, OH, hauling clay pipe all around the country. They later became Superior Clay out of Dennison, OH.

The clubs priority is to help in the advancement of amateur radio, promote the use of Morse Code, working around the community with any communications help we can provide, looking to get involved with the Scouts in teaching the fundamentals of ham radio and good operating practices. CW classes. We are also looking forward to conducting license courses, giving license and upgrade exams. Some of us are already Volunteer Examiners. Perhaps getting involved with ARES, FEMA and The National Weather Service. We are in the process of setting up an operating position here at the club and that should be ready shortly.

If you would, have a look at the clubs web site: <https://www.k8cge.com>, become a member and help us keep Loren's memory alive by using his call and name for special events, SKCC Sprints, or whatever. Loren would had loved the SKCC Group.

Loren sadly passed away in October, 2008 due to complications from heart problems. His hamming advice and conversations are surely missed.

So if you hear K8CGE on the air, give us a call and we will exchange SKCC Numbers and have a little chat.

We want to thank all the members of SKCC and especially to the members of the SKCC organization that keeps things running so smooth. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

The club will also be looking for any ideas, advice or just your 2 cents worth to help us keep building into what we hope will be a help for the Amateur Radio Community. Anyone with

spare equipment you may not need anymore and would like to donate to the club to help in our efforts to keep the hobby moving, would be so, so appreciated.

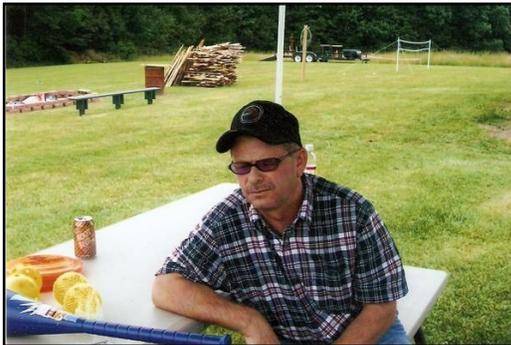
Thanks for having a look at our short story and look forward to working you on the air with Loren's call sign and SKCC Number. Please consider joining the club, we would be blessed to have you and your very important input into the Club.

Best 73 es hope to see you soon.

Loren D Hayes Memorial Amateur Radio Club, K8CGE, SKCC#18000T

Randy, N8KQ, SKCC#8934S

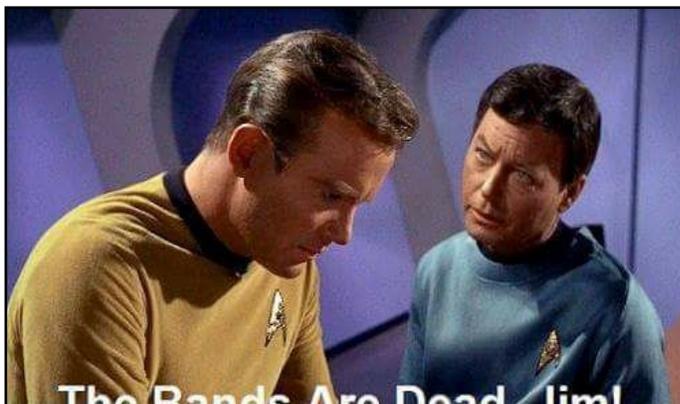
Bob, W8ARC, SKCC#8734



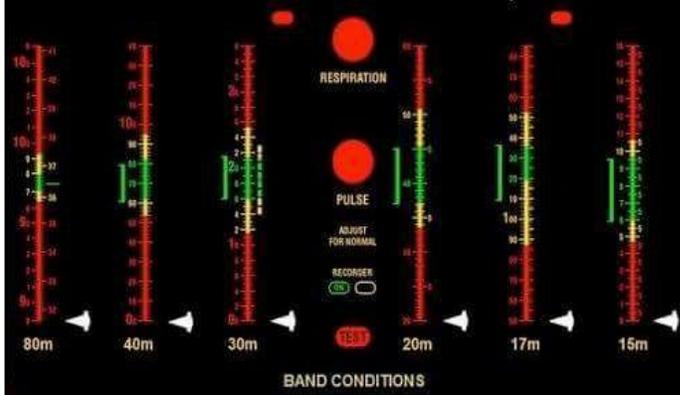
Randy N8KQ



Bob, W8ARC's Shack



The Bands Are Dead, Jim!



## Dead Bands

*“God gave us two ears and one mouth, therefore we are to listen twice as much as we talk!”*

My mother used this a lot on me and in “most” cases she was correct, but is it true in amateur radio? Well, sorta’. Yes, we should always listen on a band/frequency before we transmit BUT many a QSO is missed because after listening on a band we declare it dead when in reality it was open and everyone was just listening to hear others! With propagation programs and web sites we can check those as well as just listen. After listening and checking, a few good CQs may give surprising results.

*My friend VE9CB David #12520, responded to this with:*

*Damn it Jim! I'm just a country doctor, not an ionospheric magician."*

## VIZ Key, Curt KU8L #5380s

*Ed...Much has be written on the reflector and in Facebook regarding VIZ Keys. Members ask what owners think of these keys and their overall opinion of the product. Everything has been positive regarding VIZ Keys! Here are just some of the keys made by VIZ Key and a word from Kurt, the maker and owner of VIZ Key.*



Curt KU8L

“I am extremely pleased to be able to carry on the manufacture and sales of the VIZKEY line of handcrafted telegraph keys previously offered by Tom, K4VIZ. As it turns out, Tom and I share many similar experiences over our careers—specifically, a passion for machines and building things by hand, and a long-time engagement with Amateur Radio. I am especially proud of the trust that Tom has placed in my abilities to re-offer his designs with the workmanship, quality, and pride that he built into the product for many years. Thanks for your interest in VIZKEY--I am confident you will be pleased with any of the products you may choose. As they always have been, each key is built from scratch, from the finest materials available, with handcrafted care. They are intended to give each owner a lifetime of operating enjoyment and pride of ownership.

Thanks, and I look forward to building you a key. “  
73,  
Curt  
KU8L

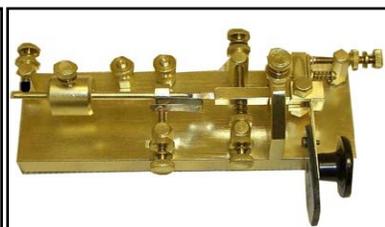
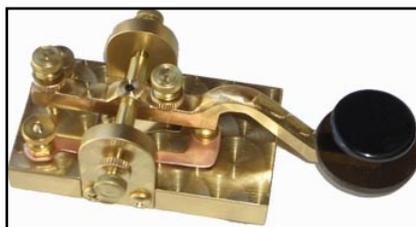
Curt at the Livonia, MI ham-fest showing even more keys and talking “shop” with a potential buyer



Here by popular request, the VIZ-Cootie key. All brass construction as all other VizKeys. Your choice of 1/8" or 1/4" connector on 3 foot cord. Silver contacts. Base is 1/2" brass, 2" X 3-1/2". Center insulator is Micarta insulating board. Clear rubber feet. Black plastic finger pieces.

The VIZKEY Camel-Back Straight Key. All brass and stainless steel with silver contacts. Same quality construction as all VIZKEY products. Weighs in at over a pound. Very smooth operation and delicate feel.

This amazing VIZBUG features all brass and stainless steel construction with silver contacts. The VIZBUG weighs in at about 3 pounds. It is 2" wide x 6" long and 2-3/4" high at the top of the screw. The base is 1/2" x 2" x 6" solid brass. Includes complete adjust-



## KOKEX # 5220s



Hustler antenna, several coils adjusted for bands & frequencies...performs good...ready for next WES..

A great day to work on the mobile setup, thanks to Phil WA9FZP & Steve NN0SS for the signal reports. It was a cool afternoon but the sun helped...Rick k0kex

de...Facebook



Replica of Titanic's radio room on display at the recent Orlando hamfest.



EA2EFI Nol's #14603 fine station



1950s era Polish military key

## SKCC at Mansfield 2018 Hamfest

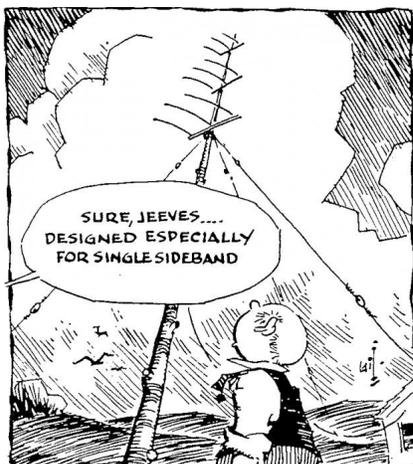
Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup> was the Mansfield Hamfest in Mansfield, Ohio. Tony, KD8BBK #2443T, and myself Scott, N3JJT 255T took the laptop and our table top banner to check in members.

We checked in a total of 9 members to include one with a member number over 18,000.

The following folks checked in: KD8BBK 2443T, N3JJT 255T, N8YOA 12338, K8PRC 14046T, KC8ZWP 2423, W8DOH 18023, KC8EVM 11765, KD8RUQ 10343, and AA8CS 11342.

We had a great time at the hamfest visiting with the members who stopped by, and chatting with a few possible new members.

73 de N3JJT and KD8BBK



April, 1961

## How About a Digital Antenna?

So if this is SSB is it upper or lower? Must be upper because yagis are usually used on 20, 15 and 10 and you use on those bands. "Regular" antennas are used for cw because you use both "sides" of the signal but I wonder what a "specialized" JT65 and FT8 antenna might look like?

If you have an idea on these digital antennas send your drawing and they'll be published next month so they may be "critically" analyzed by our technical staff here!