



Volume 11 Issue 4

The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club  
"The Rag Chew"  
Editor: K8AQM

December, 2019

## K3Y is Coming! SKCC K3Y Anniversary Event

### 2020US Station Operator's Guide

#### INTRODUCTION "K3Y"

This is a month-long operating event held each January to celebrate the use of hand-formed Morse radiotelegraphy. It commences on Jan. 2nd, immediately following ARRL's Straight Key Night event. January 2020 will mark the 14th Anniversary of the Straight Key Century Club's founding. K3Y provides a unique opportunity for US-based SKCC members to operate using the K3Y special event callsign. Members outside of the US may also participate as official event stations using their own callsigns. Please see additional info in the separate guide for Non-US K3Y operators. The SKCC Anniversary Event web page is located at [www.skccgroup.com/k3y/](http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/)



#### TIME-SLOT SCHEDULING SKCC

Members in the US who wish to operate as K3Y special event stations should contact their Regional Coordinators in order to schedule an operating time slot. Not more than one operator per each US call area can use of the special event callsign at a time. K3Y Area/Regional Coordinators are assigned to each US call-sign district and are responsible for scheduling your operating times and processing your log files. Please contact the Coordinator in the region where you will be operating. The Coordinator email address for each region is shown below:

<a href="mailto:K3Y0@skccgroup.com">K3Y0@skccgroup.com</a>	<a href="mailto:K3Y5@skccgroup.com">K3Y5@skccgroup.com</a>	<a href="mailto:K3YKH6@skccgroup.com">K3YKH6@skccgroup.com</a>
<a href="mailto:K3Y1@skccgroup.com">K3Y1@skccgroup.com</a>	<a href="mailto:K3Y6@skccgroup.com">K3Y6@skccgroup.com</a>	<a href="mailto:K3YKL7@skccgroup.com">K3YKL7@skccgroup.com</a>
<a href="mailto:K3Y2@skccgroup.com">K3Y2@skccgroup.com</a>	<a href="mailto:K3Y7@skccgroup.com">K3Y7@skccgroup.com</a>	<a href="mailto:K3YKP4@skccgroup.com">K3YKP4@skccgroup.com</a>
<a href="mailto:K3Y3@skccgroup.com">K3Y3@skccgroup.com</a>	<a href="mailto:K3Y8@skccgroup.com">K3Y8@skccgroup.com</a>	<a href="mailto:K3Y4@skccgroup.com">K3Y4@skccgroup.com</a>
<a href="mailto:K3Y9@skccgroup.com">K3Y9@skccgroup.com</a>		

The operator schedule is maintained on the SKCC Event Calendar at: [www.skccgroup.com/cgi-bin/calendar.pl?year=2020&month=1](http://www.skccgroup.com/cgi-bin/calendar.pl?year=2020&month=1) All times and dates are in UTC/GMT. (For example, Friday 01:00 UTC would be Thursday evening local time in the US.) The schedule displays time slots that have already been assigned. Pick unassigned times in your call area and notify your area Coordinator that you'd like to have them. The earlier you make a request the better your chances of getting it. If you find that you cannot keep a previously scheduled time please notify your Coordinator as soon as possible so that it can be freed for others. To facilitate scheduling of your time slots please be sure to include the following information in your request so that your Coordinator will not have to look it up:  
Callsign, Name, State, SKCC Nr.

## \*\*\* K3Y 2020 QSL Card Design Contest \*\*\*

CQ SKCC Members!

In anticipation of our upcoming anniversary event we are once again running a QSL card design contest...2020 will mark the 14th anniversary of SKCC's founding. The month-long on-air event will start on January 2nd, directly following Straight Key Night. As usual we are asking members to come up with QSL card designs for this special event, for which we have been granted the K3Y call sign.

If you've ever designed a QSL card please consider making one for K3Y 2020. Or if you've never done so, please give it a try. There is plenty of time to come up with ideas. Designs will be uploaded to the K3Y page where SKCC members can vote for their favorites starting on Dec. 15th. The most popular design will become the official K3Y QSL card of the 14th Anniversary event.

If enough card designs are submitted we will feature twelve of them in the 2020 SKCC print calendar. The calendar will include upcoming events of interest to CW operators, also telegraphy and radio-related historical dates and astronomical data. You can see the current year calendar here:

[https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-docs/SKCC\\_Calendar\\_2019.pdf](https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-docs/SKCC_Calendar_2019.pdf)

Calendars for prior years (since 2014) are archived in the SKCC Group here:

<https://groups.io/g/SKCC/files/SKCC%20Print%20Calendar>

There were many popular entries submitted for past events that did not win the top spot. Designers of these cards are invited to update them and re-submit for 2020.

IMPORTANT! Please follow the design guidelines on the K3Y page at the following link:

<https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-qsl-vote.php>

Have fun!  
Drew - AF2Z



## Happy Holidays

The holiday season is here! Have you been a good “ham” and caused no QRM? If you have been an “A-1 operator” then perhaps you may find some new “goodie(s)” in your shack! Everyone likes



new “toys” and it’s fun to share so if you are one of those who got a new “toy” or two for the

shack send along a picture and note and it’ll be posted here in the next issue of the Rag Chew.

73, Ted K8AQM



## Orlando “Hamcation” 2020 February 7-9

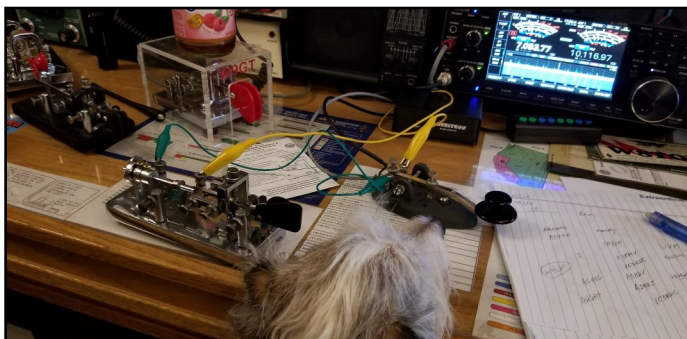
The Orlando Hamcation in February will, for the first time, have an SKCC Booth! Yes ! We will be represented at Orlando this year, Booth # 201 in the main Hall. We will have our booth, just as we do at Xenia, so be sure to stop by, sit a spell, and chat with SKCC members.

We will be asking for volunteers to help man the booth, so please consider signing up for an hour or two of booth tending.

Secondly, is anyone interested in having an SKCC Dinner? Lastly, I would like to hear suggestions of a good place to hold our club dinner, if we do have interest, and is there a member local in Orlando who would be willing to make arrangements for dinner?

Please email your suggestions to me at  
[Rich.w4rq@gmail.com](mailto:Rich.w4rq@gmail.com)

Thank You,  
I hope to see you at the Orlando Hamcation !  
Rich W4RQ



Skipper, the K9 assistant at W9GT is wondering which one of those shiny things on the table he should grab....

*“Choose the black McElroy on the far left....very sweet bug! But then the McElroy ‘tear drop is nice too!”*

## A Christmas Story

By Jaimie Charlton AD0AB

*Of course, it's fiction. But the location, Olathe, Kansas is real. It's a bedroom community to Kansas City. The Ensor farm is also real. It is significant in that the owner, Marshall Ensor, was a ham, W9BSP, who taught radio and CW over the air in the early 20th century. He is credited with teaching about 10,000 students via his nightly on-the-air classes. He used an entirely homemade kilowatt transmitter which is on display in the farm house. The old man, Dom, is actually Don, W0DEW, who's appearance is as described. Don likes to cut wood and build campfires at the Ensor. When he does so, many of us local hams bring food to cook and stories to tell as we sit around the fire. Sometimes we even sing songs! .....de Jim AD0AB*

“Uncle, this sucks! I said we shouldn’t have come out here and I was right. The weather radio says a flash blizzard just dumped nearly three feet of snow in Olathe and all the roads are closed. All for some stupid pictures.” Whined Hambone as he trudged behind his Uncle Elmer through newly fallen snow.

“Yeah, this sucks!” added Dude, Hambone’s younger brother as he trudged behind Hambone.

“Whine, whine, whine! What’s wrong with you guys? Here you are at the Ensor farm, truly a piece of Americana glistening under a pristine coat of new snow. Why, you are standing in the middle of a Hallmark card scene and don’t even realize it. You two guys are too self-absorbed to even see, let alone appreciate, the beauty around you,” said Elmer raising his old Sekonic exposure meter to get a light reading.

“Easy for you to say, Unck. You’re not lugging this big old camera all over the place,” said Hambone as he propped the tripod with his uncle’s Linhof Technika against a tree.”

“Careful, don’t drop that in the snow!”

“How come I got stuck with this bag of – what do you call them? Oh yeah, film holders,” complained Dude. “Guess what Unck? They make cameras that don’t even need film these days.”

“Wow! It’s a fire!” exclaimed Dude as he ran closer. “And it’s nice and warm!”

“I wonder how we missed that?” asked Elmer. “I’m sure it wasn’t here before.”

“How are you boys this fine Christmas Eve?”

Startled at hearing this strong friendly voice where there previously had been only silence, the boys turned to be greeted by a white-bearded man clearly at home in the outdoors.

“Hi, I’m Dom and I’m glad to have some company. I never know who will show up for my campfires. You boys look like you need some thawing out, come closer to the fire.”

“Thanks, Dom,” replied Elmer regaining his composure. “I’m Elmer and these are my two nephews, Hambone and Dude. We’re out here taking some photos of this idyllic place when that flash blizzard closed the road. I thought we might call for a tow truck or something, but even the cell phones are dead.”

“Well, there you go thinking again,” chuckled Dom, “Your bad luck is my good luck. I thought I was going to spend Christmas alone out here.”

“Yeah, bad luck all right,” said Hambone sullenly.

“By the way,” continued Dom, “Help yourselves to some burgers and chips on the picnic table over there. They’re hot off the grill. Oh, and have some hot chocolate while you’re at it. You’ve gotta warm your insides as well as your outsides.”

“It was a number of years ago when Dude was just a little guy. He was already showing a love for mechanical things so we bought him a great big jack-in-the-box. You know, one of those boxes you crank, it plays “Pop Goes the Weasel” and a clown jumps out.

## **“I Came From the Land Downunder!”**

### **A VK Roadtrip**

**De Larry N1FG**

Like many of us, I have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving season, and a big part of that involves SKCC.

I was one of the lucky folks who was able to meet Bert, F6HKA, in person last June on his way to the Dayton Hamvention. Bert may be the best known SKCC DX member as he is always on the air (and sked page) and has both great ears and a very strong signal into the US! Like so many others, I have worked him many times on many bands and it was an honor to meet him and exchange QSL cards in Ohio.

However, on the other side of the globe (from my New Hampshire perspective) are two SKCC DX ops who are also frequently on the radio and the sked page.

John, VK4TJ, located west of Brisbane and Steve, VK7CW, in Tasmania are often active during the very early USA East Coast morning period (~0900Z-1000Z) when I normally turn on the radio. Recent conditions on 40m have been pretty good at that time and it's generally possible to catch a brag unless QRN or QSB is severe. When conditions are prime there are rare opportunities for 80m and sometimes even 160m QSOs.

So, when my wife and I were finalizing plans for a fly-drive anniversary vacation to Australia, I reached out to see if I might be able to meet either of them during our trip. Luckily for me, both agreed, and I was able to log an eyeball QSO with two more SKCC DX members.



*John, VK4TJ, and me, N1FG  
at the VK4TJ QTH in Mur-  
phys Creek, Queensland.*

John, VK4TJ, who lives in the Toowoomba region of Queensland was first. His shack is about 50 feet from the house with the tools of the trade, radio(s), key and laptop for the sked page close at hand. There are also the familiar signs of an old-fashioned homebrew enthusiast, with several projects in view and gear in various stages of the use/repair/modify cycle scattered about the very large shack.

From our previous conversations I knew his wife was involved with animal rescue but wasn't quite prepared for the huge extent of her efforts.

Having lived in Texas deer country (Llano county) for many years prior to moving to New England I have seen a fair amount of road killed wildlife but was totally unprepared for the number of animals which we saw alongside the roads in Australia, both rural and urban.

This is especially significant there as they have a high population of marsupials (kangaroos, wallabies, etc.) whose females often have young (“Joeys”) in their pouch. These joeys may not be killed by the collision trauma but are unable to survive on their own.

John and his wife Catherine operate a large rescue and rehabilitation center (Second Chances Wildlife Sanctuary) in Murphys Creek. Catherine, being a registered “carer”, accepts all types of orphaned native wildlife, especially Eastern Grey Kangaroos and wallabies which are local to their area, including “pinkies” which are joeys so young they haven't grown any fur.



*Nursery for the youngest orphans inside the house.*

It was remarkable to see these little orphans being nursed – by hand – from one- and two-ounce bottles. For the youngest animals at Second Chances, this hand feeding takes place 5 times a day.

As the animals grow, they are moved to different areas or pens of the facility and when fully recovered and able to fend for themselves are released back into the wild.

It was an honor and privilege to meet both John and Catherine and see how many animals they are helping each day.



*Joanna (N1FG XYL) feeding "Bo" in the nursery.*



*Catherine (VK4TJ XYL) hand feeding two slightly older "joeys" which have graduated from the indoor nursery into a sheltered outdoor pen.*

After 4 days in Brisbane area we headed down to Tasmania, VK7-land, where we spent the next 12 days on a driving tour of the island.

While there, we visited Steve, VK7CW, and his wife Elaine at their home southwest of Burnie for a BBQ lunch.

It was a real treat to meet them both and get a chance to see Steve's shack. It's very easy to see that he focuses on CW by the number of keys in the glass-front key cabinet and the CW certificates and awards which adorn the walls.



Steve, VK7CW

As we entered the radio shack it made me smile to see the SKCC sked page up on one of his computer screens in lurker mode; a great reminder that there are almost \*always\* folks watching that page if you want or need a brag or need some new numbers to climb the ladder!

Steve was my very first VK SKCC contact after joining the club during my quest to relearn CW and become proficient using that mode. Watching him operate a cootie (with a Begali HST when I visited) with his left hand and then a bug with his right, both sending machine-quality CW it really clarified my vision of what truly

“proficient” means!

Listening to him describe the keys and watching him send while sitting next to him was a great experience, and in the future, I will be smiling from the memory when we chat on the air.

After we had finished lunch (which took awhile as we were telling stories and laughing so much) we took a walk out to the garage to talk about another common love – motorcycles. On this Thanksgiving Day, I am thankful for having the opportunity to meet another couple SKCC folks who I have chatted with many times, and especially so when it was combined with the fun of an Australian vacation.



Steve and Elaine with their Suzuki V-Strom

Thank you, John, Catherine, Steve and Elaine, for your hospitality!

73, Larry N1FG es Joana



Steve showing me some of the keys that he has restored to like-new condition from the cabinet.

Anyway, Christmas morning arrived and Dude came running down stairs and made a beeline for the big box with the crank. He tore the wrapping off and started cranking. Everything was fine until it went pop and the clown jumped out. It was such an enormous clown that it scared Dude so much he ran and hid in the closet for the rest of the morning. We only got him out by tempting him with ice cream.”

“Ha, ha, ha,” laughed Dude. “You guys put me off clowns forever. But here’s a story Hambone would like to forget.”

“Oh, no, not the Christmas tree story.”

“Yes, the Christmas tree story,” continued Dude with glee.

“It was Christmas Eve and Uncle had waited until the last minute to buy a tree, he said you get the best deals on Christmas Eve. We did get the best deals, but the worst trees. Mom said to be sure to get a tree that is not too tall like last year, so she could put her heirloom star and angel on top.

After tramping from tree lot to tree lot, we finally found a tree Hambone liked and brought it home. Well, bro, you were way off in your judgment of tree size. That tree not only didn’t allow for Mom’s tree-topper, it came nowhere near even fitting in the house!

The smart thing to do would have been to cut enough off the bottom to make a nice inside tree with a nice top. But that’s not what Hambone did. He cut just enough off the top to fit the tree inside the house. When he was done, we had the bottom part of a big fat tree that reached from the floor to the ceiling with no nice pointed top or room for mom’s tree-topper. She was pissed.”

“She wasn’t exactly pissed.”

“Yes she was,” continued Dude.

“To try to save face, Hambone took the remains of the tree upstairs and put it in the hall just above the bottom part. Everybody laughed at the little upstairs tree that looked like it was sticking out of the floor. Mom’s tree-topper sure looked silly on it.”

“But I think Hambone got the last laugh, said Elmer. “When seen from the outside of the house, it looked like we had a really big tree growing up through the second floor.”

“You’re never going to forget that, are you?” asked Hambone trying to stop laughing.

“So Dom,” asked Elmer as he grabbed another burger and hot chocolate, “What’s your favorite Christmas story.”

“That’s easy, the one about the three kings.”

“We all already know and love the Bible story, but what’s your favorite personal story?” asked Hambone.

“This is a personal story. I’m not talking about the three magi, I’m talking about three Christmas travelers who are well educated and, each in his own way, influential.

The first and eldest exerts his influence by virtue of his wisdom. Through education and experience he has a wealth of knowledge that he freely shares with everyone, including the other two travelers, even though they are not always receptive.

The second or middle traveler, is the ‘let’s get it done’ guy. He has a good start on his education and a bit of experience under his belt. He thinks he knows more than he does and he wants to do something – anything to make his mark. He inspires others to take action.

Finally, the third is the youngest traveler. He may be the brightest, only time will tell. Just beginning his life’s adventures but lacking any meaningful experience, he constantly explores new ideas. He occasionally listens to the others, but often prefers to go his own way. He positively influences others through his energy and excitement.”

“Sort of like us,” added Dude.

“Well, there you are, sort of like you guys,” continued Dom.



“The three guys in my story knew each other nearly all of their lives and even shared some family ties. But as the years passed their interests diverged and their feelings for each other diminished. Oh sure, they maintained a façade of congeniality and close friendship, but they were growing increasingly self-absorbed and intolerant of each other. In fact, lately, they seldom spoke to each other unless situations brought them together. Even then, the conversations were cool and abrupt.

Not too long ago – in fact, I think it was a Christmas Eve – just like tonight but warmer, the eldest king convinced the two younger guys to help him go into the woods to find some unusually beautiful night blooming Christmas flowers.

The younger guys wanted no part of the project. Each preferred to stay home immersed in his own wi-fi powered world of texts, Facebook walls, tweets and mythical wars. To do something together with the elder king was a real annoyance but, since it was Christmas, they grudgingly agreed to help.

At first, everything seemed to be going well. The guys found several of the flowers which were even more beautiful than they imagined. But, unknown to them, the weather had turned and rain in the hills was causing flooding in the valley where they were. They were not in any real danger, but when they wanted to leave, they discovered the road was temporarily under water and they couldn't get to their car.”

“How did they get out?” asked Hambone.

“I'll get to that in a minute,” continued Dom.

“When I found them, they were sitting on a log each blaming the others for their predicament. They reminded me of three whipped dogs snarling at each other. I could see that cheering them up would not be easy.

But Christmas is a time for good cheer so I built a campfire. Campfires are always fun.”

“I also had some snacks in my backpack that I passed around. Well, pretty soon the warm fire thawed the frozen attitudes and bits and pieces of conversation were passed around with the snacks. Before I knew it, we were all joking and laughing and telling funny stories.

After all the stories were told and snacks eaten, everyone stretched out on the warm ground near the fire and fell asleep.”

“But Dom, how did they get out?” asked Dude.

“Miraculously, the water receded as quickly as it appeared and they found their car high and dry and the road completely clear.”

“Did they all live happily ever after?” asked Hambone, a cynical note in his voice.

“I don't know. Their story, the story of those travelers, is still going on. I only hope they learned that natural beauty and camaraderie are more important than tweets plucked out of the air. It's really our shared history, told and retold in remembered stories that gives us presence and binds us together.”

Standing up, Dom continued, “Well, I've got to get along. You guys can sleep in that shed, it's called the chicken coop.”

“Eeew,” said Dude.

“Oh, don't worry. It's been nearly a hundred years since the last chicken lived in there. It's actually pretty clean and warm.”

“Thanks, but we tried the door when we first got here and it was locked,” said Elmer.

“Oh, I think it was just stuck,” said Dom. The door swung open under his light touch.

“But I've got to get going so you guys have a good sleep. I'm sure the road will be clear in the morning.”

As soon as Elmer, Hambone and Dude were comfortably situated in the chicken coop, Dom walked away into the crisp, cold night.

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“Wake up, wake up Unck,” said the distant voice as something was shaking his shoulder. “Mom and dad made it home and we are all waiting for you to come down so we can open our presents.”

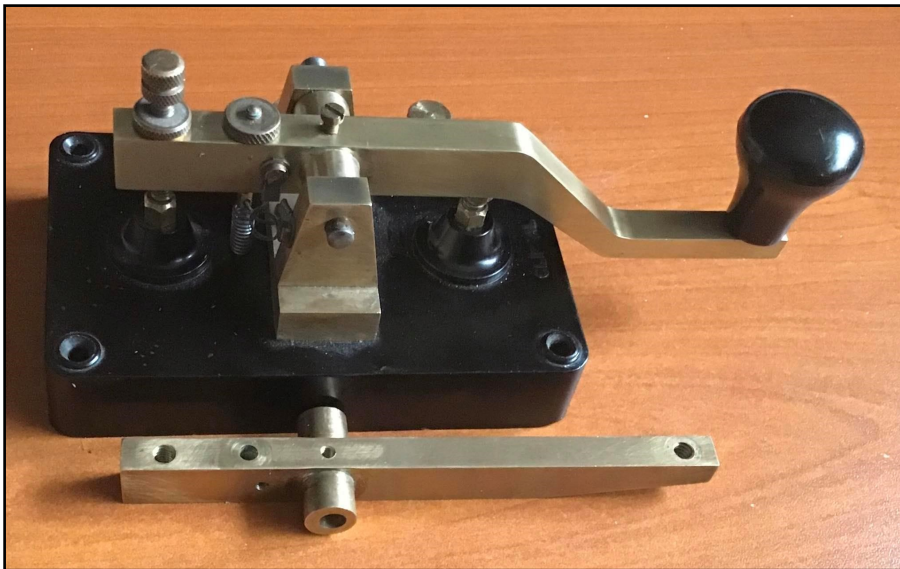
“What the...” muttered Elmer as he began to realize he was in his own bed and both the distant voice and the shaking were coming from Dude.

“Okay, okay, stop shaking me, I’ll be there in a minute as soon as I get my cup of coffee.”

“Morning, Elmer,” said Dude’s dad. “Don’t open anything yet. I’ve got a really nice present that I’ve been hiding in the garage.”

With that, Dude’s dad, still in his PJs and slippers, dashed out in the snow to the garage. “Hey, who left this glove out here?”

## Clipsal Key



A very good friend of mine Simon VK2FK had a Clipsal key and like all Clipsals the high position of the knob makes for an aching wrist when sending for long periods, and discussing the problem I suggested that a new cranked main bar could be machined up to replace the old straight bar. Fortunately the British Standard Whitworth and British

Standard Fine threads weren’t a problem being an old Machinist from way back, had most of the taps in my magic box to allow a complete swap over of the bar.

So here is the completed key, and utilizing the original standard threads, the bar can be fitted to any Clipsal key.

***I haven’t received the key yet, but you can see from the photo the magnificent engineering. The arms are completely interchangeable and, in fact, the cranked arm will fit any other Clipsal key....VK2FK***

## Twas the Nite Before...

Twas the nite before TEN opened and all through the shack  
not a signal was stirring, for outside it was black.  
The dipoles were hung by the tower with care  
in hopes that strong signals soon would be there.

The harmonics were nestled all snug in their beds  
while visions of pileups danced in their heads.  
With me in my PJ's and Mom in her thong  
we wondered about DX and where we went wrong.

When out on the snow there arose such a mess  
I sprang from the bed and forgot to get dressed.  
Away to the window I flew like a streaker  
Tore open the amp and became suddenly weaker.

The coax was ripped and the new fallen amp  
fell onto the floor and the 'Test was now damped.  
But what do my wondering eyes suddenly see  
but a miniature stack of 10m yagis and deer !

With a little old man, so adept at the key  
this could be our good luck if only it could be....  
More QRQ than Hastifisti and with power to spare.  
Now Dasher, now Dotter, now all deer he yelled proud  
"We doing this right and we're going to be loud!"

On Meteor, Aurora and Backscatter too  
we'll work everyone till the tubes they turn blue.  
To the top of the hill we ran with our tools  
now dash away, dot away, lids and QRM fools.

As dry dummy loads that before the current that flows  
I will rid you of keyclicks, splatter and gosh  
Heavens knows.  
So up to the house-top the signals they flew  
with antennas and amplifiers and St. Nicolas too.

And then in a moment I heard on the stairs  
DX being worked, that was extremely rare.  
As I logged with N1MM (plus version of course)  
St. Nick was working them, SSB and on Morse.

He was dressed all in fur and looking alive  
and his clothes were all sweaty from working a P5.  
A bundle of coax he threw on his back  
and he looked like a Slim, who would never come back.

His eyes how they looked, his cheeks were puffed out  
from a SSB pileup that was tuckering him out!  
His droll little mouth, behind the headset from Heil  
Did not conceal that rare DX smile.

The stump of his pipe he held tight in his face  
as lots of DX was coming and this was a race !  
He had a big smile and a big gut too from sitting too  
much and working DXCC on Two.

He was fast and fat and a right happy old elf  
I looked in the mirror and imagined myself.  
A wink of his eye and a twist of the key  
He said 5NN and worked a P3.

He spoke not a word as he worked the Morse code  
this rate behaviour never gets old.  
He filled all the stockings between contacts he said  
once this is done, Mike, you go back to bed!

Laying a finger up side of his nose  
he started another pileup and the din, it arose.  
This is VE9-Santa and you are Five-by-Nine  
I'll work you all quickly and leave no one behind.  
He sprang to his sled and with a nod of his head  
He worked the last contact (Long path to ZD8Z!)

Away the stats flew to the ARRL  
I'll be back next year people,  
Perhaps from Z2  
He yelled as he faded and went out of sight  
TNX, 73 and to all a GN !

-----  
Merry Christmas from New Brunswick  
dit dit  
Mike VE9AA and family



## September Slow Speed Saunter



A bit short on entries this month, maybe due to the Labor Day holiday and hurricanes down south? Even so, those who submitted all had a great time. Join them next month!



Spent a little more time with this Slow Speed Saunter. Conditions weren't that great, but enjoyed myself nonetheless. Surprised to have IK2FWO answer my "CQS" call. Worked a few new members getting up to speed. Pulled out a tough QSO with K4KBL, suspect he was QRP. Photo shows my basic straight key, cheapest one I could find. 73, Bob AC1GF



TNX to all for QRS & new numbers. I was able to make a few contacts last night but was gone all day today. Farnsworth of 15+ allows me to recognize the rhythm of the letter. But I need an exaggerated space to give my old brain & slowed reaction time to get it. Very slow character speed forces me to count the dits/dahs making for tough copy. TNX to all! 73, Steve NQ8T



In between preparations for Hurricane Dorian, I got on the air and made 9 SSS QSOs. Two were with non-members, and one was with a fellow that has not been on the air using CW for several years. 73, Rich W4RQ



Using an old Kenwood TS-830s and it was a ball!! 73, Al W9TE



## An "Oldie But A Goodie"



Finally got my new VFO-820 shined-up and connected to the TS-520S. I also have a VFO-520 and matching VFO-520S, but I like the look of the VFO-820 better. Works great with the 520S...73, Jonathan WB5KSD

## Findlay, OH Hamfest



Seated: the old guy...Ted K8AQM  
Front row L-R: Max W8KBW, Steve W9SAN, Josh W9HT, Ed WA9BBN, Larry KB9OS  
Back row L-R : Jeremy KD8VSQ, Greg KE8CEW, Jim KD9GDY, Ken N8KR, Gene AA8MI, Tom KU8T

The Findlay, Oh hamfest was held in September with an SKCC presence in the flea market. The hamfest was well attended with SKCC members as the photo shows. Unfortunately there were several SKCC members who missed the photo. Dave KD8AZO, Mike NO8C, Don K8MFO, and “Goose” W8AV were all collecting those valuable “fleas” to be found in the flea market and missed the photo. Josh W9HT and Ken N8KR also had a flea market space and may have seen other SKCCers during the hamfest.

SKCC was very well represented at the hamfest; Steve W9SAN, Josh W9HT, Ed WA9BBN, Larry KB9OS, Jim KD9GDY, Ken N8KR and Tom KU8T are all from the Fort Wayne area and operate with KS9KCC as well as the Fort Wayne Radio Club, W9TE. Except for Gene AA8MI the remainder of those in the photo are members of the Dit Dah CW Gang who operate as KS8KCC....we’re working on Gene AA8MI, who lives very close!

Next year if you’re in the Findlay, OH area on the weekend after Labor Day plan to join us at the hamfest! Now if you’re near the Fort Wayne, IN area, they have a two day hamfest in November each year and there is an SKCC presence there.

Lets hear from other area hamfest with an SKCC presence. Banners and literature are available for all SKCC members to use at a hamfest. Contact the SKCC board to borrow these banners and obtain handout literature.

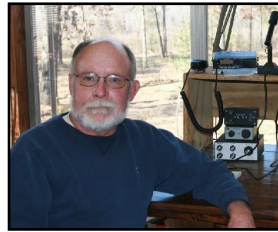
# August Bragg



Not a lot of time to spend this month but always fun to work a few and rag chew when possible. 73, Ted K8AQM



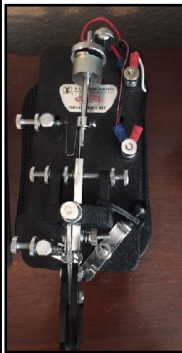
A good count for me considering poor band conditions this month. Worked many stations more than once, like to rag-chew with old friends. Only count each member worked ONCE each month. 73, John K8JD



Well not the best conditions this month for sure. I should try and get on the radio in the afternoons! Mornings are getting rough with current propagation for sure. Hope for better prop in Sept. 73, Allen KA5TJS



I hope to do better in September. 73, Paul N0NBD



Conditions poor most of August. Twenty-one SKCC contacts, many with E.F. Johnson Speed-X Bug. 73, Dick N5KIP



Thanks everyone! See you next month. 73, Dave KB1WOD



It's great to see the new folks getting on the air. Forty meters has still been my go to band. I do enjoy getting on 80 meters and will be getting better as fall rolls around. Used my three friends, my 1919 Vibroplex Original, Begali HST single lever paddle (Cootie), and my Nye Speedx straight key. You can catch me on almost every morning generally see me posted on the SKCC Sked page. 73, Jack, KK0I



August was a very difficult month for brags. Band conditions have been very poor and I hope September is a much better month for my brag score. Mainly used my Begali HST MkII in order to complete the Sideswiper portion of the Triple Key Award. Thanks to all who worked me. 73, Steve VK7CW



Kind of a light month but always enjoyable. 73, Ed W0RJW



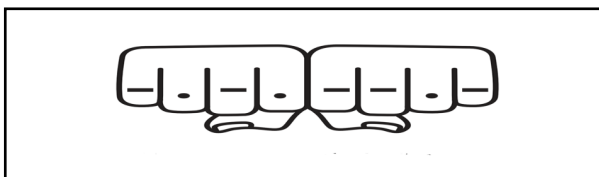
Well my best Month ever my XYL is walking on her own now so had lots of time fer my Hobby I am full time care giver fer her Running my KX3 and K2 into Delta loop ant up 65 feet tnx fer all the qso's had 45 SPC see u next month. 73, Bud W8BUD



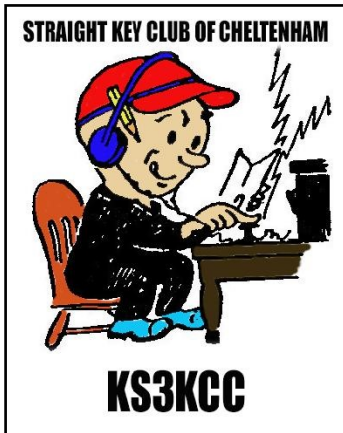
Only 5 contacts in August sure miss the e-layer propagation! 73, Dan K0FD



Thanks for all the Q's. Hope to CU all on the bands and hope the propagation picks up for us all. SKCC, the KEY to Amateur Radio. 73, Rick - N8XI



## August Brag II



Our first brag session with the club call. Thanks to all who worked us. We had a great WES in Sept and hope to be back often for other events. 73, DAH KS3KCC



Pictured below are my weapons of choice. Only 2 Brag QSO's this month. Hopefully next month will be better. Hard to get motivated with such lousy conditions. 73, Bruce WB6IZG

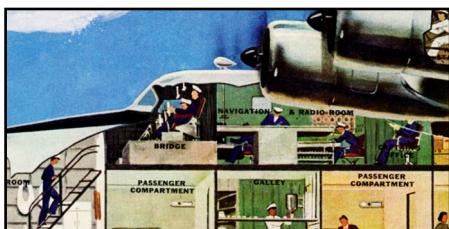
## CW in the Sky



The radio op position on the Pan Am Clipper the Boeing 314 of 1940 notice the bug. 73, Larry K5JYD



Another angle..... As someone that has operated Morse Code while flying I can say when the sky gets bumpy the bug will send without you having a hand on it. We used straight keys mounted on a Formica base or knee key. 73, Jim WIRO



De Gary AE4GS

## CT1BQH Carlos



I have been a ham since March 1981, while I was at college, at the age of 19. Two years later I upgraded to Extra class.

CW has always been my great passion and when I am on the radio 99,9% of the time is spent with the key / paddles

between my fingers.

(Occasional JT-65 / JT-9 / FT-8 operation may also be possible.)

I am a member of several **telegraphy clubs** – CT-CW, GPCW, SKCC, BUG, **Marco-nista**, HSC, VHSC and SHSC just to mention a few.

I enjoy contesting, DXing and ragchewing both QRQ and QRS depending on the operator on the other side.

I have recently (2018) become a "bug" lover and I spend great moments of pure pleasure sending Morse code with one of my Vibroplex keys or with my "coffin" Hi-Mound BK-100 bug.

I am a [SOTA](#) enthusiast and can occasionally be found monitoring the recommended frequencies or operating from a summit.

At home I usually run a most enjoyable Icom IC-7300 at 90 watts into a TH6-DXX antenna, a 17m dipole, a 30m Inverted "V", a 40m Delta Loop, or a 6m 3-element Yagi.

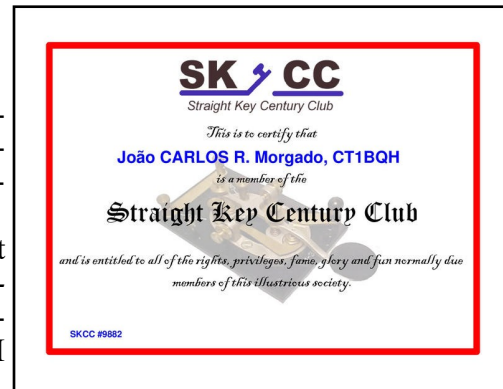
When I'm operating portable the rig is a Ten-Tec Scout at 10 watts, battery powered, and the antenna is a YO-YO-VEE, portable inverted vee dipole, from HamRadio-Fun.com. The key is a Palm Radio mini-paddle which I enjoy very much.

For a living I have been teaching Portuguese at a local High School since 1983 and in spite of the ever growing difficulties I still enjoy what I'm doing.

We have probably met on the radio and I'll be looking forward to meeting you again.

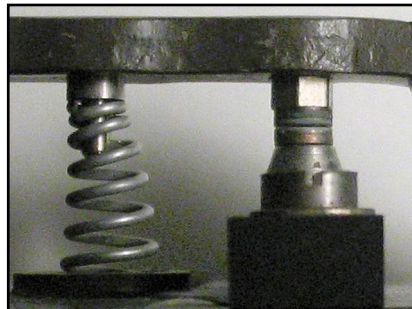
73,

Carlos



K2AAK Andy, owns a Junger

## One Reason Why Ops Like a Junker



Here's a closeup of the spring and contacts. Note the perfect alignment. But how is the spring tension adjusted? The spring rests on a platform that is moved up or down via a thumbscrew that contacts a lever in the base. There are no lock nuts on the tension or gap adjusters-- they stay where you set them. 73, Drew AF2Z



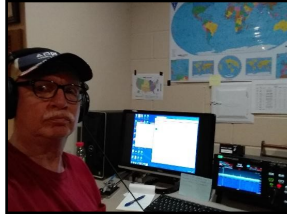
## September WES

*The submission of photos and comments to the WES results for September were awesome! Our creative WES manager allowed for extra bonus points if photos were submitted and "LOTS" photos and bonus were given in the results! Thanks to all who submitted and thanks to Dave NI9M, for the creative idea!*

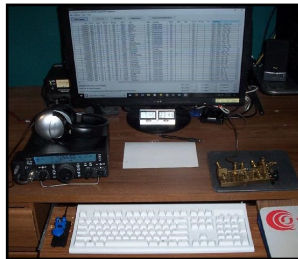


Raised all my dipoles 3 to 4 feet before the contest, not sure if it made any difference.

QSO's were up, but multipliers were down. Long distance propagation to Europe was pretty non-existent on 40m. I usually count on some European stations for multipliers. Managed to work F6EJN and CT1BQH on 20 meters. 15m and 10m were dead. I noticed I received 20m signals better with my 40m dipole than my 20m dipole. Noise was greatly reduced with the 40m dipole and reception of 20m signals was better. I think I learned a valuable lesson on "receive" antennas, definitely worth looking into. Of course, I couldn't use the 40m dipole for transmitting on 20m. I'll look into a receive antenna also for the noisy 80m band. Still having trouble working 7th area call signs, Utah was only 7-land QSO. 40m was dead at midnight here in NH, usually open until 2AM. Thanks for all the QSOs guys. Once I get a good "receive only" antenna I'll be able to pick more of you QRP guys out. 73, Bob AC1GF



This was a rough WES. I was trying out a new antenna, it's a 130' long wire driven at one end by a transformer made by "My Antennas" (no, they don't send a pillow with it). The antenna seemed to perform well at least the transformer didn't burn up. Anyway, thanks for all the QSOs, as always, it was fun. 73, Jim AD0AB



Thanks for the QSO's during the sprint. Bands were OK, but QSB caused me to lose a couple of QSOs. This is my current CW setup using a TenTec Eagle and a right angle VIZ key. The box on the side of the radio contains a couple of voltage dividers that allow me to use the microphone on my computer headset for those rare times that I use phone. When I work phone, I use the micro straight key to left of the keyboard as my PPT button. 73, Charles AI4UN



Another active WES! Things seem to be picking up HF-wise. Saturday evening I parked on 40m; called CQ and worked a steady flow of stations for two hours. Sunday afternoon was mostly on 20m, then 80m to wrap up. Tnx to K8JD for the sole 160m QSO. My rig: Elecraft K3 at 100 watts; endfed wire & indoor cobweb ants; Junker straight key. A big "73" and a tap o' the key to all! 73, Drew AF2Z



Great fun. Bands were better on Saturday than Sunday but still a good WES although not much time as usual. I decided to use as many of my older kit rigs as possible so in addition to the Argonaut V I ran the Small Wonder Labs DSW 40 and 20, the OHR 100A for 80 meters, and an MFj 9200 also on 40. That little blue DSW 40 on the desk got probably 90 percent of my contacts from the beginning to S. It still works great! As you can see my shack is just a little desk in a spare bedroom and not as neat as most of the pics I see. Anyway 72 to all and I hope the attached pic is right side up! 73, Peter AK3X



No time to play this weekend (Bummer!) Thanks to those I did manage to work! 73, Larry AH6AX

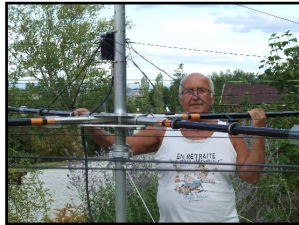


Unusual for me, 20m was working better for me than 40m. Rig is YouKits HB-1B running 4 watts into a 53 ft. long end-fed wire. Key was a K0MBT single paddle wired as a sideswiper. 73, Steve AI9IN



In spite of very poor condx I was very happy to log 45 QSOs, most of them with "old friends". Biggest thrills - to be a new one (DXCC) for Tom, AI6CU, and to complete a QSO with AI, N4OW, who was running 5W! Thank you very much and hope to join all of you guys for the next WES. GL & 73 de Carlos CT1BQH

## September WES II



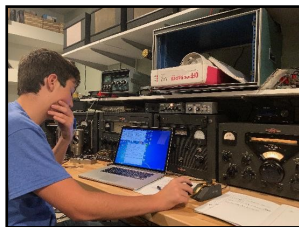
Still a WES without a lot of spread. Sunday was worse than Saturday, many "none" today. No correct antenna yet for the 40 m. In the photo, part of my new installation with the spiderbeam 5 strips of which I have just corrected the central mounting cross fiberglass rods. I think it will be much stronger. Thank you all for the good QSOs and a future edition. 73, Bob F6EJN



Well very few sigs about, and my usual 20m band was pretty quiet. I got 4 QSO's - all on 20m, thanks to F6EJN Bob, IK1YBL Paolo, IK0IXI/0 Fabio, and EA2CAR Kike. Rig = TS440s 100 watts to a 20ft tall fishing pole vertical, ground mounted with a few radials around the yard. Morse key used was the holy grail of straight keys - a Marconi coast station pump key PS No213A. 73, John G0RDO SKCC2133s



My weekend began at The Big Shoal Country Fair at the Atkins-Johnson Farm & Museum with an invitation to operate W0A Special Event station. The Farm history began in 1824 from a Land grant..over the next 100 + yrs the Atkins family built & worked the farm. In 1976 the House was designated a Clay County Historical Landmark. The rich history was a perfect setting for sharing Morse Code with visitors. The SKCC WES was a perfect time. As the 1954 Vibroplex "Presentation" echoed CW sounds near the entrance. As the sun reflected off the "Chrome & Gold" visitors asked questions and shared stories of growing up in a home with "Ham Radio"...what a great day it was to share all the stories. A steady stream of visitors passed our location shown in the pix...K0KEX/W0A 5220S Thanks to WA0TJT for the invitation an KD0FUE, W0JSH, WA0BTM, KC0TFR, & W0OES for sharing in the fun event...73 Rick K0KEX



Had a blast working with my grandpa, WB0SND, using his Collins radios, hope to do it again! 73, Dylan K0SND



I was at my J-38 when the opening bell rang on Saturday but my CQ's on Forty were whistles in the dark for the first 15 minutes or so. Then things opened up and I continued to work 40 until 1350. At that point 20 looked better and I worked it for a few hours during the day. By 2300 it was back to 40. Sunday I got an hour or so in on 40 early in the morning and ended my activity on the Sprint with an hour on 20 in the afternoon. I had fun for a brief interlude helping Mike, KA2FIR log Mississippi for his 30 and 17 meter WAS. On Sunday, I got an eMail from a non-member who heard me calling "CQ PS" and wondered what the PS stood for. I explained that I intended to call "CQ WES" but probably needed to improve my character spacing a bit. I was able to work the corners of the country and 34 other states in between. But I missed Alaska and Hawaii. Europe yielded 7 QSO's and Cuba one. Canadian provinces included QC, ON, MB, and Yukon Territory. We talk a lot about how bad the bands are but even so when we get a bunch of ops on the air, we make a lot of contacts. It sure seems that those two little letters, CQ, improve propagation. . 73, Ralph Bolt



Hello to all, worked two skcc stns on Saturday and one on Sunday. Used my vibroplex bug. 73 to all & GL John AL7JK



I didn't post a picture since I didn't want to scare anyone. I missed all Saturday because of fun family activities. Was able to get just about 5 hours of operating in today. Mostly on 20 meters, but finished the last hour on 80 meters. 20mtrs seemed to be fairly decent today. I posted a picture of my trusty Vizkey right-angled Bug. I used that Key for the entire 5 hours. 73, Steve K2FW



KX2 @ 1watt ant: delta loop and 3 wire g.plane Bands were not very good on Saturday but Sunday seemed to be much better condx. wise. I played WES out in the backyard with my KX2 and tried out a quick 3 wire 20 meter ground plane pulled up into a nearby oak tree...worked out quite well! I had one additional contact but did not include it in my submission as I had to crank up the power to 3 watts to get Tony K6ELQ to hear me! ;-)) best contact of the event was with Fred K0FG, he ended the contact with the old "shave and a haircut" routine and of course I replied with the required "two bits" response...Boy, did that bring memories of my Novice days flooding back! 73, Fred dit dit. 73, Jim K2MIJ

# September WES III



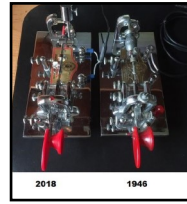
We had a weekend away planned, with friends, on the banks of the lazy Juniata River, in Hopewell, PA. I set up there, used a K1 and a KX1, to a QRPguys tri-band vertical, but mostly a SOTAbears Bandhopper, on a 6m pole. I worked nine QSOs from PA, as K3ESE/3. Sunday, I got back to the home station and used the K2 and the 20m EDZ for a bunch more contacts from MD. Bands seemed to be in reasonably good shape. It's great to see those new members participating! 73, Lloyd K3ESE



Another good event. Worked several participants with numbers over 20k. I only used 40m - did better there Saturday evening than I did on Sunday evening. I used an IC-7300 at 100 watts and a 40m Dipole. Only had a couple hours available each evening, so I passed on my usual QRP mode to make the most of the time that I had available I was using K0MBT's 3D Printed Mini-Mini Straight Key the whole time that I was on. No, Dave did not make it two-tone, I did that. I was trying out a shorter lever arm - experimenting to see how that affected the feel of the key. I got to work Dave during this event - so he got to hear how his key sounded! 73, Jody K3JZD



This WES was the shake down cruise for my WW II Navy Radios. The RBB on the left top shelf covers 80M while the RBC to its right covers 40M and 20M. My transmitter is the B&W 5100 below the RBC and my key was a J-38. Operating posing was a board across my lap! 73, Mark K3MSB



946 V-Deluxe to IC-706 to G5RVjr. Best part of that trio is the trusty V-Deluxe that I've been pounding since 1955. (I was young once also!) Pix shows my 2018 one, but absolutely NO comparison! Watched RBN and saw my whopping 70 watts go from strong to nothing and back throughout the weekend. Guess I need to push harder on the bug? Thanks for good contacts with great ops. 73, Don K3RLL



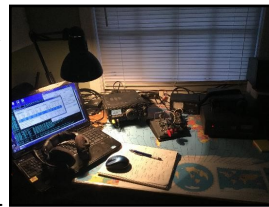
Not much time this weekend. I worked a few between the CWOps CW OPEN sessions Saturday afternoon but was pretty beat so waited for Sunday morning to work some more, 20 was slow early. We had a major family reunion here today so did not get back until the last half hour or so. 80 was jumping at that point. Hard to tell how conditions were, but was nice to work some of the gang. 73, Chas K3WW



I've been QRT for 15yrs. without any station. On 8/20 I put a QRP xcvr on the air with a 53' end-fed wire. The antenna tuner is 7 times larger than the rig! On 9/5 I got my SKCC# and jumped into this sprint. It was a blast! Communicating on CW is like learning to swim or bike as "Once you get it you never forget it!" Thanks to all for the contacts and I hope to meet you soon on 40 or 20 meters. 73, Jim K4ABC



Enjoyed my new (old) Ten Tec Omni 6 with a G0NVT Marconi style key! I worked a lot of new members for the short time I was on the air! 73, Mike K3WAS



Great time with this one, conditions were great in North Carolina and earned T-8. Sure glad Dorian left me with no damage. 73, Richard K4CRD



Only had an hour to operate but enjoyed that hour! Great theme for this WES...love the bonus points! 73, Ted K8AQM



I wasn't intending to be competitive, but just wanted to make some contacts since I got my SKCC number on Friday, and I had not made a straight key contact in over 20 years!! It was TONS of fun although I wish I could have had more seat time on the air. Can't wait for the next one! 73, Brian K5CIS

## September WES IV



This is the first WES in several months where I could operate the whole time without power line noise. I zeroed in on the offending pole and the power company concurred. They replaced the 90 foot pole and the 66KV insulators (porcelain to polymer) on that pole and on 6 or 7 others. Result - no noise!

I got up at 0430 (1130 UTC) on Saturday in order to work 40m, this is a necessity here on the West Coast where the band essentially closes by 1500 UTC. Not many SKCC ops on the left side during daylight hours. Very good signals on 40m but 20m was a different story. Signals started out weak but eventually became stronger as the day went on. Stayed on 20m until I worked Steve, VK7CW, around 0330 UTC then switched back to 40m for the rest of the evening.

Got up early again on Sunday and worked Steve again but this time on 40m. This was definitely a DIFFERENT day! Continuous QSB but without the aforementioned power line noise I was able to copy all the way to the Rx noise floor. I gave a lot of S1 (meter not moving) and S2 (meter starting to move) in my RST reports. I tried to be honest on the "R" part, like 219 (really weak and having a tough time getting the info) and 519 (really weak but still solid copy). 20m petered out late in the afternoon and 40m was just waking up when the WES ended. I heard CO8RRM but needed more time for the evening propagation to cut in. Got my Cuba earlier on 20m from a non-member caller.

Thoroughly enjoyed this WES except for one thing. About a month ago I woke up with sciatic nerve pain in my right side from my butt to my knee and sitting is the worst (for me). I did part of the WES kneeling on the floor. Sometimes sitting on a heat pad with an ice pack on my knee, whatever worked. Lying flat on my back is best but I can't reach the radio and keys from there. Feeling better (or numb) after the WES.

The picture is of my rack-mounted station on wheels. It's a double-wide 24" rack that I roll into what was once a closet. Top left is the SPE Expert 1.5K-FA amplifier that I ran mostly at 1500w. Below that are two Alpha 4510A Power Meters placed on the input and output of the amplifier. Below that is the Icom 7851 transceiver. Below that, on the left is the Green Heron RT-21D rotor controller. To the right of that is a Logikey K-5 keyer and a HB key-combining unit. Top right is an unconnected Palstar AT-4K Tuner (for future proofing). The station computer is a Mac mini, mounted upside down on the right below the Bluetooth keyboard and mouse. It does the logging, rotor control and SKCC Sked Page. Unseen, in the compartment below the desktop on the right is an Alpha 2000 KW dummy load. The three keys shown are all Begali's - Intrepid bug, Sculpture Arrow SK and Sculpture Mono paddle.

Enough for the on-time 275 bonus points? 73, K6ELQ Tony

## September WES V



I always enjoy WES. I didn't think I'd get the opportunity to have anytime in front of the radio, as I was working that day. However, the work ended on time, and I went straight to the radio afterwards. Thanks to everyone I was able to work. 73, Ralph K7RLN



Worked up and down 20-, 40- and 80-meters as deep fading afflicted all three bands. Worked both U.S. coasts, Canada and Europe running 60-75 watts and a fan dipole. J-37 key used throughout. 73, Philip K9PL



Really enjoy these casual contest(?) style contacts. No stress, just fun. Thanks to CT1BQH and KH6ZM especially for pulling out my 'po boy' station. Only AK needed for my WAS-T and down. 20 acted like 40 in the good times and 40 acted like 40, so you never quite knew what to expect, but fun anyway. 73, Hank K5TSK



Good weekend for WES with no family commitments or activities. Spent more time than I usually can. Actually made two WES QSOs on 15M Sunday afternoon. Most of my QSOs were on 40 M, many on 80 and a few on 20 M, and the two on 15 very exciting to hear that band open. If my photo gets onto the soapbox, it is my assistant operator, he is not actually a very good operator but he loves to play with the bug and VFO tuning. 73, John K8JD



This event was my first attempt at portable operating. It was battery powered, IC 706 @ 100 watts and a car mounted ham stick antenna. Made 18 QSOs on 20 meters and 8 on 40 meters in a 2 hour session Sunday afternoon. The site was a local bicycle trail head with a nice shelter and picnic tables. It exceeded my expectations. Thanks to all I was able to work ... great fun. 73, Jerry K9MPV

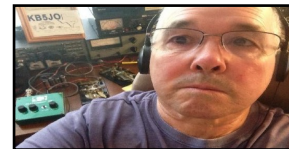
It took a little to get the Hilltopper 20 dialed in to 1W output by adjusting the battery pack voltage. Using depleted cells. 10.5 VDC did the trick. 1W to an 80M doublet up 50'. Tough condx for me, lot of loud stations like K2FW n KS3KCC that never cud hear my calls. Still a fun sprint as always. 73, Curt KB5JO



In and out at the cottage/hamshack at Nevins Lake near Stanton, MI. Managed 56 qsos. One on 15m with KA4UPI with a surprising strong 599 signal. Nice to work new member Jim K4ABC #20988. 599 sig with his qrp. The dx qsos were Carlos CT1BQH and Max KH6ZM. Thanks to all. 73, Randy K8ZAA



This no-theme WES was actually a lot of fun, just working whoever was around. Band conditions were fairly good, so went back to QRP (5w) operations. Which was a lot of fun. Hope everyone had fun and made good progress on their personal goals. Here is a close-up on my GHD model 501A Cootie key. Thanks to all who participated. 73, Ric KA3LOC



My goal was 20 Qs. Made it! This WES was tough for me. The Conditions were not the best. Nothing new in that. But "Never say Never". It's always enjoyable working all my friends in the SKCC Group. In addition, I like to Hunt and Pounce, understandably resulting in lower scores, but helping folks who need me or can help me with my achievement goals. Using the skimmer, I try to find new guys with high numbers and also folks that will help me along a bit. I kind of like to think of SKCC as a Scouting program for old guys. 73, Chuck K9IA



Had loads of fun this WES. Had no weekend chores to do. Well had them but did not do them hihi. With 103F a great weekend to stay cool in the shack. I hope all had as much fun. Enjoy hearing all the keys and fists on the air waves. 73, Mark KA4UPI

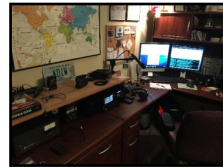
# September WES VI



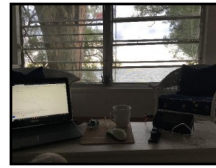
Nice to meet several recent SKCC members. There were some slow going times on 40 and 20. During one of those lulls, I tuned around for a rag chew and met a new technician class operator who was just learning the code and invited him to join the SKCC. 73, Al KC4ZA



Only had about three hours to spend this weekend, but was nice to see more activity on 20 meters. Antenna was a G5RV up 40 feet, running 100 watts from my Icom 7610. Had a number of new ones as I work towards the next Senator level. Thanks everyone! 73, Warren KC9IL



Nice WES! Thanks to W0DCX for a rag-chew QSO during WES. Enjoyed it and see you next month! 73, Tim KD1W



Always a bit tough from the cottage with my portable QRP set-up. But next month will be back home QRO! Always great fun! 73, Pete KD2OMV

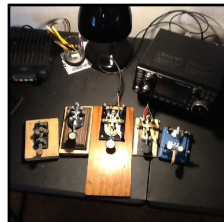


What a great WES. I worked quite a few new to me members. The noise on 40m wasn't as bad as last weekend but I still missed a few callers. SRI. I added more radials to my 160m half square and got a great signal report from k8jld on 160m with 50 watts out. CW 4ever. 73, Scott KD4EE



Greetings: Great WES, as usual. Thank you all for the good time.

Alinco DX-SR8, running 100 Watts. The antenna is attic fan dipole at 25 feet. 73, Sergey KD9EBS



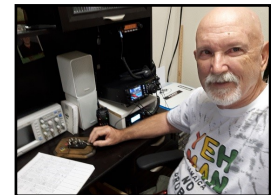
Another good WES! Even worked in a Hamfest in OH. Good to see other SKCC members there. We took a group picture. Lots of Fort Wayne SKCC present. 73,



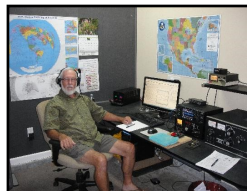
I opted to operate portable (/P) on both 20 and 40 meters from the Maryland coast, just about sitting at sea level. Using only a 5 foot Hamstick mounted on the roof of my 'shack', my old Yaesu did pretty well. Considering my working condx, that explains the numerous 559 signal reports I received, as well as the 329 and 339 (good ears guys!). But enjoying the salt air, the moderate temperature and the cool, light breeze, it was all good. Will try to not make you all work so hard next time. 73, Bill KE3O



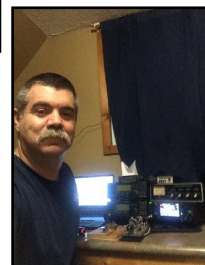
Enjoyed having better signal propagation on 20M this WES. 73, John KG4WNA



I've been working on a DD-WRT hack so I left my rig on in the background. If I heard a CQ WES, on went the headphones with attention focused on copying CW. If I made contact, great. If not, I at least got some good CW practice, so it's all good. Most ops matched my QRS speed for which I'm grateful. Neither 40 or 20 were particularly good here in south Texas with weak signals fading in and out over the weekend. I did manage to snag a few good signals drifting by on the ether. Thanks to all who struggled with my puny 5w and poor fist. These sprints sure are fun! 73, Hardy KG5ZID



Great WES even though prop was kinda shaky. Lots of deep QSB on all bands. Pleased to see so many new SKCC'ers (NR's over 20000). Even the theme was great, got me off the dime and took a picture of me at the rig this AM. 73, Bob KG6MC



It has been a while since I participated and I have forgotten how much fun this is. I think the SKCC does more for the CW mode than anything out there. Thanks for a fun weekend! 73, Brent KI4KZS



Enjoyed the sprint. Conditions were not great, but hey, what's new? All the members I had a qso with had very good fist and perfect speed for me, 10-13 wpm. Especially enjoyed QSO with Jay (VY1JA) up in Canada. We have a lot in common, like him, wished we could have talked longer but I was eager to hunt some new numbers. Next time we will talk longer Jay. 73, Donnie KI4DT

# September WES VII



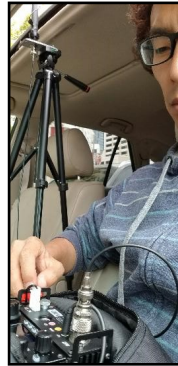
Fun event...band cooperated a bit more since last time. A nice handful of new members too. Great fists out there. Used the old straight key...had to knock the dust off her...but she performed flawlessly...HI HI. Thanks for all the contacts. Until next time...73, Jack KK0I



Fun as always, but conditions were not so good. Good to work Max in HI (KH6ZM) with my 80-10 EFHW. Thanks to all who put up with my poor fist while using my J38. 73, Russ KK4WX



My 1st WES! Wish I could dedicate more time - temporary shack, soccer tournaments and no A/C but still fun. Thanks to everyone who tried to give me some points! 73, Eric KN4IY



Couldn't do much due to other schedules over the weekend, but it was fun to operate my portable rig in the car parked on a street in SF on Saturday, although I made only 2 QSOs there blocked by tall buildings. In the evening I could work 5 more stations on 40M from home and this morning 5 more on 20M with portable again from the small hill near home. Until the next WES, 73, Yoon KM6KJI



Its been a while since I've done a WES, forgot how much fun it really is. Only had a few hours each day to operate, but was so glad I did. Looking forward to next months WES and SKS, will even try to do the SSS.. Thanks to all who put these on for us, the work and dedication is much appreciated. Pic is of me from the back so you dont gave to look at my ugly mug .hi hi. 73, Brian KQ4MM



TNX EVERYONE FOR A GREAT FIRST WES FOR THE KS3KCC CLUB. WE WILL SEE YOU IN MANY MORE EVENTS IN THE FUTURE. CHECK US OUT ON QRZ AND ALSO FACEBOOK - STRAIGHT KEY CLUB OF CHELTENHAM. ALL LOGS WILL BE UP-LOADED TO QRZ. LOTW AND CLUB LOG, NOW HERE IS AN UGLY PICTURE OF DAH....73, DAH KS3KCC



My 3rd WES and best so far. Band conditions weren't great but QRN was very low. The straight key is starting to feel really natural and hopefully my fist is improving. Biggest charge was getting CT1BQH on 20 near the end of the test. 73, Chris N0CC



Didn't have much time to play but had fun. I worked two fellow Outlaws, K2HT and KI0I. 73, Bill N0UMP



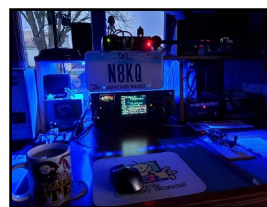
Multi-band contacts with K6ELQ, W5ZR, and KG6MC. Surprised to work KH6ZM during evening on 20 meters. Worked a little 20 and 80 meters, but 40 meters was the best band here. I guess these might be meaningful comments? 73, Brian N4API



I did not get to work as many hours as I had hoped. Seemed most folks I heard calling CQ were too fast for me. When I did get their call and reply, I found myself sending too fast. It made me sloppy. Guess I am more of an SSS kinda guy. All in all, I am glad I took part. 73, Ken N9KJU



Made a few contacts while at the Findlay, OH hamfest so was temporary OH before returning to IN for the last couple of hours. Used a Brown Bros. key that I just picked up . . . very nice and smooth! 73, Ken N8KR

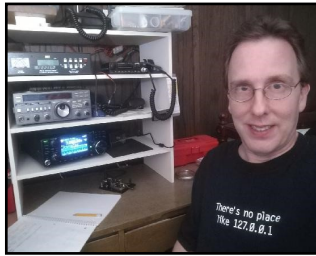


Bands were mostly horrible here, but had a descent run on 80 Saturday evening. Managed to work a few new members and we have now passed 21K members. The bad bands even made the shack feel blue. 73, Randy N8KQ



As always fun - but it sure seemed a very slow start on Saturday in the first few hours. Later it picked up. 73, Gary N5PHT

# September WES VIII



This was my first WES! I got a BRAND NEW (to me) J-38. Actual age of J-38 is unknown to me. I got it polished up in time for the contest. Unbeknownst to me, my YL had me lined up for SOCIALIZING! AAARGH! So I only got about four or five hours of actual time in front of the radio. Dang it all! But, I got enough QSOs to count toward my "C" so I'm a "C" now! Attached is a meaningful picture to go along with meaningful comments that has my meaningful station and meaningful face in it, converted to a meaningful jpeg so the form would take it. 73, Tom N4LSJ



Very rough conditions this weekend. I missed daytime Saturday. Working QRP @ 4.5watts was a big challenge. Along with poor conditions I faced very bad Plasma RFI on 80 and Growlight RFI on all bands. My MFJ 1886 RX loop mitigated much of the noise but not all of the plasma TV rfi. I set my FTdx3000 at 5 watts. Antenna a Butternut HF6v elevated 8 feet with 4 radials. Quite happy to work Max KH6ZM on 20and40 with QRP; same for Carlos CT1BQH late Sunday. Thanks to all the FB SKCC OPs that dug my weak sig out of the QSB and band noise. 73, AL N4ow



K2 ten wts g5rv n/s inv vee at 35 ft.. worked 80 40 20 mtrs.. WOW, 109 new mbrs.. skcc has a lot of QRM makers.. ha ha. C U in October. . Tnx to SKCC board officials.. winter project will be a nr 006 DUB-BUG... both contacts will be on same side of it.. not like original style.. I have a single one and it is all together different... ha,, it still creates QRM.. ha. Ha.. So, c u in OCTOBER. . 73 dave larsEn. .En.. n9zxlqrp@gmail.com



I heard some very good signals on both 20m and 40m. I had very limited time to participate and made the best of it. 73 and see you all next month. Jerry NF5U



Another fun WES and nice to see the 40m band open on my Sunday evening. I also made a couple of QSOs on Sunday afternoon on 20m. I managed to get some new QSOs with the Cootie for the Triple Key Award but still need 69 more on the Cootie to finish off the award. Thanks again to all who worked me. 73, Steve VK7CW



Could not be there for a long time and with poor propagation could work only 10 stations,5 from NA K6ELQ-K0RO-K2FW-WA8OJR-KD1W and 5 European. 73, Leon OS0S



This was my first weekend sprint and I really enjoyed it despite some tough condx on 40m. I appreciate how much more relaxed and fun this event was compared to some other cw tests. I'm hooked! 73, Dave VE3KIU



Busy weekend so only a few hours to play radio on Saturday. I used the one bug I got from the VE5SDH estate, a 1922 Martin Junior. I'll be on Pitcairn Island with the VP6R team for next month's WES, but I don't think we are taking any straight keys with us. 73, Mike W0VTT



Rig: IC-703 @ 5W, Antenna: "GU7TR" (<https://thewakesileave.wordpress.com/2019/05/>). Downspout of the rain gutter outside the house operating like a vertical likely with a horizontal top (the gutter itself) making it more akin to a Marconi antenna (i.e., the "T" antenna in the "Titanic") operated via an LDG RT-100 with a single set of counterpoise wires set in an "L" shape along the inside of the yard fence abt. one meter from ground. 73, Jose VE3DTI



# September WES IX



Nice WES! Conditions were similar both days, and much better than earlier in the week. Had a number of U.S. west coast and EU QSOs, which is an improvement over the last few WES events. All of the regulars plus a number of very new folks, which is always nice. Wish the RTTY and digi guys would actually LISTEN before transmitting! The photo was taken with an iPhone (and its timer), a stepladder, a piece of plywood and a short 2x4. You figure it out 73, John W1TAG



Good propagation this month. As a church pastor, I usually have a busy weekend schedule, but with WES I can jump in for a half-hour here and there and still have a good time. Thanks, everyone. 73, Roger W6LAX



Spent the weekend with a cold and working in the basement grinding some crystals and making a few WES contacts using some of my vintage low power gear. My 30 QSO's were made using a combination of the DX-60, Drake 2NT, and HT-40 xmtrs (about 50 watts) along with the 2B and 2C receivers. Most contacts were using crystal control but a few were with the HA-5 VFO/HT-40 setup. Keys: Junker SK, Bunnell sideswiper, and J-36 Bug. Ant: 160 meter horizontal loop. Condx were so-so on 80 and 40. Didn't even try 20. 73, Dave W3NP



Only 40M and 20M were usable here. My 80M dipole was down, and the higher bands were quite dead and empty. I never could find anyone on 160M, so it was only 40 and 20. These two bands were well populated, there was no where else to go. Each time I got on I kept busy, and had a great time making Q's. Thanks to all who worked me. 73, Bert W5ZR



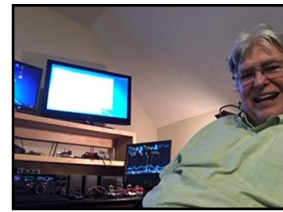
I want to thank Jim-SV8ANW, Carlos-CT1BQH, and Dave-VE3KIU for our first time WES QSO's this month. The Bands are not being kindly at the moment! I had a fun time as usual in the WES! 73, Rich W4RQ



Worked a couple hrs each day, tnx to all who worked me, more new nrs toward my first "C". 20M seemed to be where all the magic was for me, both east to west, HI to NJ. 73, Stan W6SMF



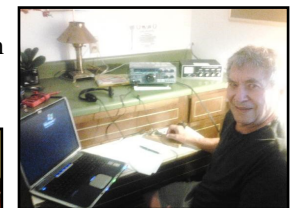
Some in the neighborhood must have had a grow light.s7 noise all weekend, but I still had a lot of fun. 73, Al W9TE



Had fun as always, but the bands were tough. 40M was best, but noisy. 20m was almost dead each time I tried it. No DX QSOs this sprint. 73, Dan W5BM



Challenging sprint--- coming off an antenna issue that had kept me off 20 meters, my lowest band, for awhile. Thought I had it fixed, and Saturday was as good as I'd come to hope, but then it was back, like a bad penny, Sunday. Sigh! 73, Gary W6IRA



Got here in SC from the left coast just in time for hurricanes, heat, humidity and WES..in that order. Surviving all. Shown is my meager SC station that does fine in this easy QSO East. You Easterners got it made..little city noise and lots of signals. Thanks to all..great fun and I think I did OK. 73, Phil W6UG/4



Nice sprint, nice time as always. Here 75 watts to a Butternut Vertical using my TS-590SG & Kent SK. See you all next month. 73, Curt WA2JSG

## September WES X



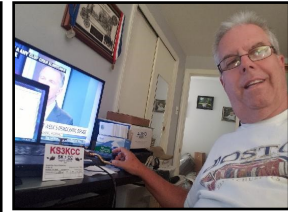
Noontime on Saturday, K6ELQ was the only station I heard on 20M! Says a lot for Tony's station. Good conditions Sunday. I even heard Max KH6ZM on 20M. 100W into a doublet at 25 feet wasn't going to make it to HI, and if it did, my local noise was too high. Plenty of other strong stations though. Used my Kent KT-1 straight key and was tempted to go with the WISFR Cootie but didn't want to add to the confusion Hihi. 73, Jay W8ES



Wow! I joined the SKCC in 2008. I guess time really does fly when having fun. It's been interesting watching the club grow and great to be a part of it. I remember when I was just getting started the WES was a big help as I was cutting my CW chops. Naturally nervous as a beginner now it just seems like getting together for a party with old friends. I've never been into massing a big score in WES or any tests for that matter I just enjoy contributing my number to the mix and seeing who can copy my peanut whistle station. Conditions appeared a little less dismal than usual this weekend. The highlight for me was working KH6ZM in Hawaii on 40 meters Saturday night- Thanks Max! Been a few years since I've worked HI. Bounced between 40m & 80m on Saturday night then got chased inside Sunday afternoon by rain and made a few contacts on 20 meters. Thanks all for the QSO's. Rig is Knwd TS590 and 130' end fed wire sloper. For keys I used Vibroplex original bug. Probably a 2009 or 10 model year as it is one of the last with the stamped brass serial plate. Straight key was Navy Flameproof. I really like the Navy key. It's been at the operating position since I got it. 73, Mike W8MDE



I am attaching a screen shot of the spectrum scope from my 7300 transceiver. This shot is from 4 PM on Sunday and is how "WES" looks on the 40 M band. Looks like one of our friendly digital stations is set up just above 7.055. When I bought this transceiver I knew I wanted the Spectrum Scope, but thought the waterfall was a bit of a gimmick, but I was wrong the waterfall is great. Many times a station is too weak to generate much of a graph, but you can see the waterfall, and it persists for a few seconds after the transmission ceases making it easier to "tune in". So, I am a believer in the spectrum scope integrated with the transceiver. 73, Gene W9KMK



Tnx everyone for a great WES. As most of you probably figured out i had double duty this weekend as WA3GM and KS3KCC. The Clubs maiden voyage in the WES was great and we look forward to many more events and hope that maybe some of you in the PA area will want to be a team member during one of the upcoming sprints. shoot me an email and we will work it out.73, Greg/DAH WA3GM/KS3KCC



Thanks for the q's. I thought the bands were very open and I had quite a few states. I didn't work WI and I just missed AK and New Zealand was on. Hope to work more for my S quest. See you soon. 73, Donna WB9TFF



I really enjoyed helping my 14 yo grandson, Dylan K0SND 20577 with his first WES. He made more than 30 QSO's. Look to hear more from him! 73, Mike WB0SND



Great to hear many stations especially since band conditions have not recently been in our favor. 20 meters had late openings on both days so was able to work Max, KG6MC who was 599 from Hawaii and several 599 stations on the west coast Saturday evening. Then was surprised with Carlos, CT1BQH on Sunday pm. I only had about 2 hours for myself at the end of Sunday to make a few. Enjoyed them all as usual. Thanks everyone! Thanks to all from Mustang, Oklahoma 73, Gerald WA5AFD



I operated on and off over the weekend while camping at Frances Slocum State Park (POTA K-1354 & WWFF KFF-1354) in northeastern Pennsylvania. The picture below was taken during some early morning operating inside my little "QRP" camper. As always, I had a lot of fun. Thanks to everyone who was able to hear me. 73, Craig WB3GCK

## September WES XI



Great WES. Saturday evening 40 meters was wild - QSOs everywhere. Sunday I actually got 3 QSO on 15 meters. Considering the Solar condix it was amazing. I hope everyone had a great time. 73, Les WB5JWI



REsubmitted soapbox so I could add BONUS Points! CONDX from the West Coast are still poorish. 1 QSO on 40m and 17 QSOs on 20m. Couldn't find a pix of me at the rig so missed those bonus points. BUT... I like airplanes and found a pix of this unusual home built job at our local town fly-in. Neat, eh? Is it a bi-plane? Back to radio speak... 100w from the ICOM-751 rig, 2el beam on 20m, dipole on 40m. Expect to be in the next WES. 73, Jerry (aka k6iii & KZ50M)



Casually spent some time on the radio (the IC-7300 this time), in between WES QSOs, I turned on other radios and joined a local 432MHz net and made a 6m QSO. 73, Bill AA4Q

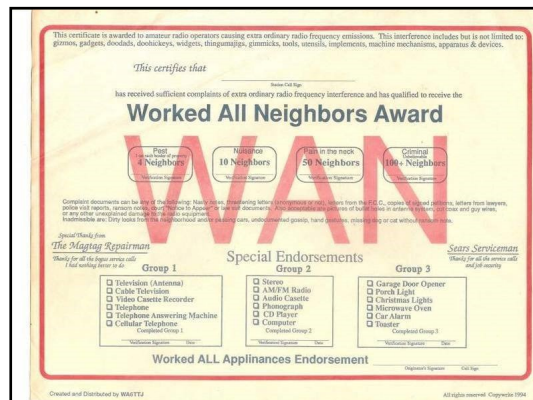


"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men Gang aft a-gley" - Burns

I planned to work much more - but I had a little league game to coach between 10:30am - 2:00pm (we won!). It was about 90 Degs so it was a hot one - so we took a dip in the pool when we got back. Then the neighbors came over... and a couple of my son's friends. Now it's a party complete with some boat drinks. Now it's about 5pm - who wants to cook so we went out for dinner. Now it's late which is when I usually operate - but between the sun, pool, steak, and wine, I'm much too tired. Son had friends sleep over so I had to make breakfast for a few 10 year olds. Then brunch for me and XYL. Another beautiful day so it turned into another pool day :) WES are my favorite operating events but sometimes life, family, and friends intercedes and takes precedence. 'Til next month, 73, RJ WF4W



Tks to Steve VK7CW for my whopping 1 Q during this WES! The QTH was Sumay Cove Park where the China Clippers used to land and take off many years ago on their Trans Pacific flights. 73, Jim KH2/ND9M



## Welcome!

Thanks for the add! New member here in Stanwood, Wa. Licensed since '64 and getting back into the hobby. CW is a little rusty but I'm working on it. TS-950SD and an FT-101E are my gear. Using a 1951 Vibroplex bug that I just finished restoring. Member number is 21014. 73, Jim KC7JM

## OS0S, Leon, SKCC 10888s

*Have you worked Leon, OS0S (10888s) yet? Most likely you have worked Leon on 20m if the band has been open at all. OS0S is Leon who is also ON4ZD and of course lives in Belgium. The following is Leon's bio as posted on QRZ.com.*



Leon in his well equipped station

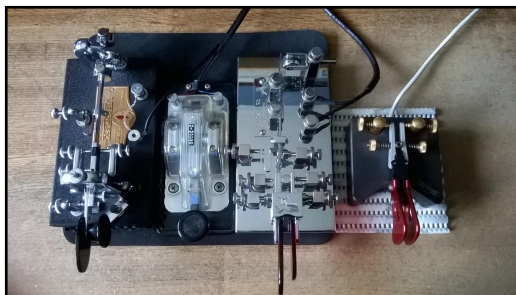
Leon has a very fine station and his equipment includes the following:

**Yaesu FTDX 5000 MP (master) -  
Yaesu FT450D ( Back-up - Porta-  
ble or Expeditions) - Yaesu FT857D  
(VHF -UHF)**

**Amplifier ACOM 2100 - Ameritron  
AL811H (Back-up and Expeditions  
for those take a look at ON4ZD  
QRZ.com page)**

**Microham Micro Keyer II - Kent  
Twin Paddle - Begali simplex mono -  
Heathkit electronic keyer HD-1410**

**Bug Vibroplex Blue Racer - [I1QOD prestige chrome bug magnetic return](#)  
- Straigh key Himound HK 706 - German WW II Straigh Key**



This is the I1QOD prestige chrome bug with magnetic returns and the picture Leon often submits with his SKCC events.



Leon's antennas are quite impressive and include the following:

**From top to bottom :**  
**PKW 30m dipole - 3 elements**  
**HB9CV 6m - Mosley TA53M with  
40m kit**  
**Kelemen Dipole DP-16080-SH  
(for 80-160m and 60m via tun-  
er).**

## Recap of the 45th Annual Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show Sept 22, 2019

By Larry K8TEZ

Sunday Sept 22 turned out to be an absolutely beautiful day with temps topping out in the upper 80's which is unusual for this late in September here on the shores of Lake Erie. Bob W8BTD SKCC #8972C and I decided to go over to the Cuyahoga Co Fairgrounds in Berea OH for one of the last Hamfests of the year in our area. Berea is also home of the Cleveland Browns training facility as well as the Cuyahoga County Fair.

The first thing we saw was a Jeep that looked just like my XYL's but had a very large antenna on the back of it. I showed her the picture of it when we got home thinking we could do something like that with the Jeep. I was amused but she was not, so looks like no antenna is in the future for that car.



Next we ran into an old friend Mike (WB8EVI) an old friend. Bob bought a nice Kent straight Key from Mike last year so we headed that direction first

Next we ran into NQ8T Steve (SKCC 5919T) - W8BTD Left & NQ8T Right...Steve usually goes along with me to Ted's K8AQM for K3Y/8 and other

SKCC events at the KS8KCC & K8XXX Multi-Multi events in Adrian Mi. Steve and I both have connections to the Adrian area.



We also ran into John WA8CAE who lives near us & is retired from the two way radio business.

What's up with the sign? Are we limited now to 25 WPM? This is not going to set well with our new SKCC saunter events. I usually work Chas

K3WW at about this speed but he and I have been doing this for a very long time...



As I look down the rows it looks like all of us are getting older ...I hope we can keep getting kids 14 & 15 interested in what we are doing or we may be in trouble down the road. The hamfest also had a nice forum with Radio Nostalgia presented by Ted Alexander W8IXY (I used to listen to Ted on am 850 and a few other Cleveland Radio stations back in the day)...and they also had ARRL card checking, a DMR forum & a digital trunked monitoring forum as well as "walk in" exams. What a

wonderful way to spend a fantastic fall day.

73, Larry K8TEZ SKCC# 8426t

# September SKS



SFI 66, SN 0, condx didn't look good, but SKCC members still made it happen! :) Started on 40m, 3 contacts and another 3 contacts on 80m. Fast variation on the propagation, from no contact to 599 in 2 minutes. Worked KK0I on 40m and I was able to hear him on 80m as well. Bonus station heard, but no luck, even after hear him calling and having no takers. Oh, well, next time! Thank you so much everyone, see you on the next SKCC event. 73, Ruben AC2RJ



lots of activity tonight on both 40 & 80 nothing heard on 160 . We are planning to be one of the op's at KS8KCC on Oct 5-6 for the SKCC QSO party and hope to work some of you then. Thanks all for an enjoyable evening of CW. 73, Larry K8TEZ



First SKS with my Kx3. 20 was open the first 30 mins. 40 was jumping. 5 watts is a challenge. 73, Al N4OW



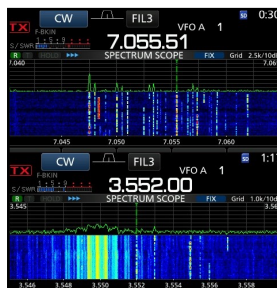
Returning to the SKS after several months, working tonight only in 40 meters, a few contacts with much fun, thanks to all. 73, Ric HP1RIS



Had to find my friend and bonus station Randy N8KQ. No luck on 40 but easy on 80m. Working on the next issue of the Rag Chew but always time for friends. Photo is my "in house" station. Small but works well. 73, Ted K8AQM



Nice ... laid back 80 mtrs ops tonight. Tnx all, especially Randy, N8KQ. 73, Bill KE3O



Pictured is lots of activity on 40 meters, but Plasma TV RFI on 80 meters. 73, Brian N4API



40m was up and down here in PA with all my best RBN spots coming from Europe! I guess we could say "skip was long"? Thanks for skilled and patient ops, esp. WF4W who hung in there to make it a go. 73, Don K3RLL



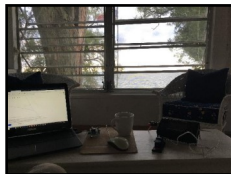
My first SKCC Sprint. Only operated 45 mins. 73, Daryl K9QEW



Tnx everyone for the contacts. Tried 40M in the beginning but was very noisy es slow. Went to 80M, was a little less noisy but not great there either. 73, Randy N8KQ



Hello to all, carefully monitored the bands, did not hear any stations during the sprint. Called CQ quite a bit, hoping the bands might suddenly open up. Tried to get a "action photo" of my vibroplex bug. 73 to all, hope to hear ya'll soon. Cul, John AK7JK



Another fun portable QRP operation from the cottage on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario! Thank you to the two who had the patience to work my faint signal! 73, Pete KD2OMV

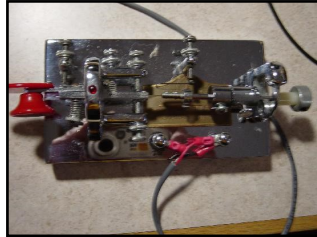


Fun sprint, only had one hour to operate but was a able to make contacts on 20/40 and 80 plus the bonus station .. Ran the cootie and my lightning bug just for fun... See ya down the log.. VRY 73 DE Brian KQ4MM

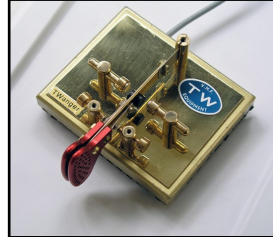
## September SKS II



17 foot whip on the back of my car works . . . but only when parked! Even a week at the lake wont keep me away from SKS! Was surprised to make many 80 meter contacts with it! Good to work N9LI, W9TE, and KD9DGY from back home! 73, Ken N8KR



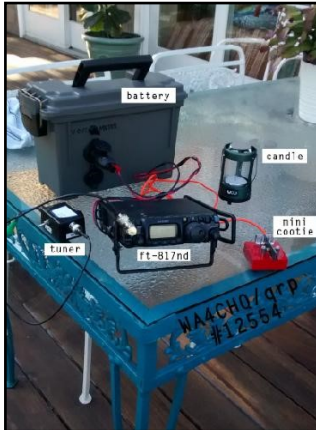
Really struggled with my fist this evening. TNX for all who suffered through it and for the 3 new numbers! The 20KT baffled me for a bit! Head scratcher but added to the enjoyment of CW! TNX to all. 73, Steve NQ8T



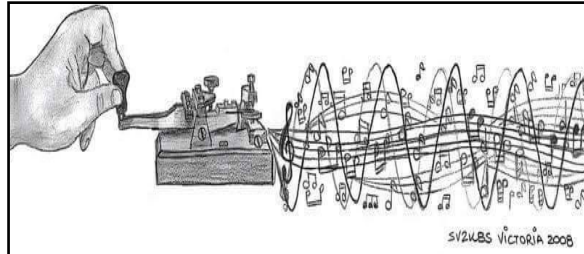
Made 4 on 20 before band went quiet. Had one on 160 and all the rest on 40 which was in good shape (long towards the end) as well as on 80. Propagation not bad but QRN was high. Wrked N8KQ on 80 where he was 599 +45. Elecraft K3 line @ 500w to 160 horizontal loop. Key was the Twanger cootie. 73 from WV Dave W3NP



Ran my old IC-7000 at 75 watts into a portable G5RV/jr using a Kent sk. Made a quick 5 easy contacts in the beginning on 20 meters then went to 40 meters and could only make another 3. Seems no one was copying this 'lil G5RV at 16 feet up on 40 meters so I gave up. Better luck next month. Still a fun event. 73, Curt WA2JSG



I'm embarrassed to submit this! I got a late start. I am house sitting for a friend and had the rig set up portable outside. Had my camp candle for light. Anyway, it's been a long time since my last sprint and I'm really looking forward to the next one. 73, Neil WA4CHQ



KB1WOD... Officially open for business diti dit



I had a problem once & had to call in Bob W8BTD who found this thing chewing on my coax. ...de Larry K8TEZ

**Get the Raid!**



Coax entry at contest station K9CT. This is serious!

## We've Come a Long Way Baby

By Bill, KE3O, SKCC # 9282T

While sitting in the shack one evening, scanning some of the meager collection of wall-paper I have posted, I stopped for a moment at my SKCC 1000 Miles Per Watt Award. This award gave me pause to reflect upon just how far we, as a society, have come in advancing both the art and science of radio communications technology.

But not to be misunderstood, I recognize and profess that this award is not about me but about the apparatus used to accomplish the feat.

I earned this award using a homebrew Michigan Mighty Mite QRPP transmitter, comprised of a single 2N2222a transistor, 2 capacitors, 2 resistors, a crystal and a hand wound coil. Powered by a simple 12 volt DC source, the little transmitter pushed out a nearly 500 milliwatt CW signal.

Well, given the unlikelihood of a successful QRPP transcontinental QSO, on 29 January 2015, the unthinkable happened. I worked Dick, AH6EZ/W7, between his shack in Nordland, WA and my shack in Stevensville, MD, an approximate distance of 2,368 miles. I was at the time truly astonished by what had just taken place.

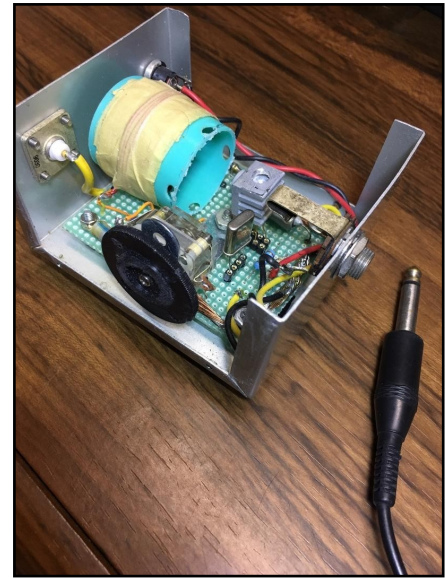
Think about it, using a small assemblage of electronic components, 12dc volts, and a modest antenna system, I was able to send a telegraph code message practically across the entire North American continent. And so, through our collective vision, imagination, knowledge, experimentation, development and testing, we certainly have, so the saying goes, 'come a long way baby.'

In light of that proclamation and with a quiet personal chuckle, I recalled some words I read long ago in a book authored by Chapman (1922), titled The Radio Boys Trailing a Voice or, Solving a Wireless Mystery. From that book, the following passage was extracted from the Forward, written by a well-known radio expert of that era, Jack Binns (1922). And while the passage, and the entire book for that matter are both fiction, the words represent a look back at the technological vision of that era. He wrote ...

**“Since this book was written there has been produced in this country the most powerful vacuum tube in the world. In size it is small, but in output it is capable of producing 100 kilowatts of electrical power. Three such tubes will cast the human voice across the Atlantic Ocean under any conditions, and transmit across the same vast space the world’s grandest music. Ten of these tubes joined in parallel at any of the giant transmitting wireless telegraph stations would send telegraph code messages practically around the world.”**

Excerpt from the Forward of the book ‘TheRadio Boys Trailing a Voice or, Solving a Wireless Mystery’, Binns, 1922.

While my QSO wasn’t completed “practically around the world,” it was accomplished over a distance far beyond my expectations. But more importantly, the technological contrast between my puny QRPP hardware and Binn’s vision of a powerful wireless telegraph station was startling. What is our vision of the future? What will the hardware suite of fifty years from now look like? Someone, way down the log, will surely have the answer and get a quiet personal chuckle at what we use today as state of the art.





## A "Two-fer" Antenna

In the last Issue of the *Rag Chew* Dan K0FD, told you about building a dual band vertical using 450 ohm ladder line and extra wire to make a two band inverted L antenna. I decided to take up this idea and build a 450 ohm ladder line ground plane covering 20m and 17m that I could use in my house shack so I wouldn't have to go out to the shack and use the big antennas to operate on those bands. The concept is simple and the antenna is very simply and easy to build.



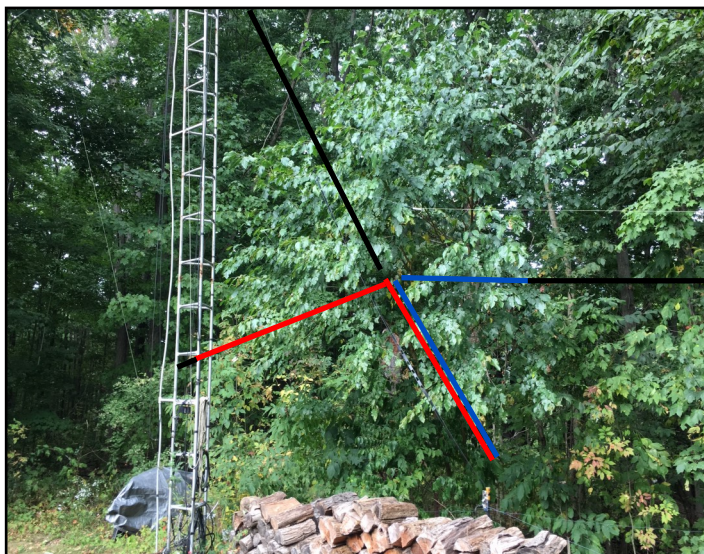
I mounted an SO-239 to a piece of Plexiglas with other hardware for the radial system. Several holes were drilled so I could both take the stress off the ladder line and to mount the Plexiglas. I ran tie-wraps to secure the ladder line and others to secure the Plexiglas to a fiberglass pole (half a quad spreader I had hanging around). The fiberglass pole was strapped to a short small T pole pounded into the ground.

Experience has shown me that tuned elevated radials are better than ground radials so I cut two for 17m and two for 20m. The 450 ohm ladder line was ten feet long and I determined the needed extra wire for top horizontal element. The pole is mounted behind my woodpile which is on the edge of the woods.

The radials do not go in four distinct directions, they just "wander off" to whatever tie point is convenient, as are the top of the inverted L wires. The 20m wire top is only 6'8" while the 17m wire top is only 3' long. These top wires "slant" to whatever is a convenient tie point. The 450 ohm ladder line is sus-



pended from the tower by a rope (black) and the 20m antenna also goes to that tower (red). The blue line is the 17m antenna.



So how does this antenna work...the swr at 14.050 MHz is 1:1.4

and the 18.072 MHz swr is 1:1.5! Dan K0FD had a good idea and this is just a slight variation of his original article. Give it a try; anytime you can do two antennas from one feed line and not suffer loss in traps is a good deal...fortunately RF takes the path of least resistance!

73, Ted K8AQM

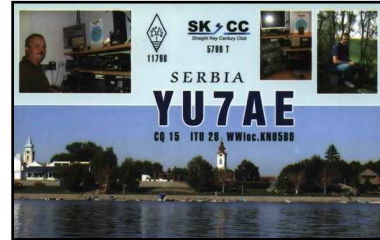
## Meet YU7AE, SKCC 5790t



Kare, YU7AE SKCC 5790t

*This bio of YU7AE, Kare, SKCC #5790t was taken from QRZ.com.*

One of the active EU operators in several SKCC events has been Kare YU7AE. Kare has been a ham since 1980 and operated as YU7AE since 1984.



Belonging to several amateur radio groups including: Savez Radio-amatera Vojvodine, Savez Radio-amatera Srbije, G-QRP club #11798 QRP Master

#151, SKCC # 5790T and GRT #1087 (Gruppo Radio-telegrafisti Italia).

Kare's main interests are HF, QRP, CW and keys , simple RIG constructions, HF antennas, old military and valve (tube) RIG operation.

His antennas are impressive and include a 2el. 3 band QUAD at 10m (10, 15 and 20m bands), Inv.Vee at 12m (30 and 80m bands), ZS6BKW doublet (40, 20, 17 and 12m bands) and a Maldol MV-2000 VHF/UHF vertical at 8m for the 6, 2 and 0.7m bands.



If you find Kare operating in an SKCC event you can QSL either direct or via bureau.



Two element triband quad at 32 ft

As you can see, Kare's shack includes a very fine Vibroplex bug along with his Kenwood TS590.



Kare and his favorite PRC-320L (Clansman) somewhere nr. N.Becej

## October Slow Speed Saunter

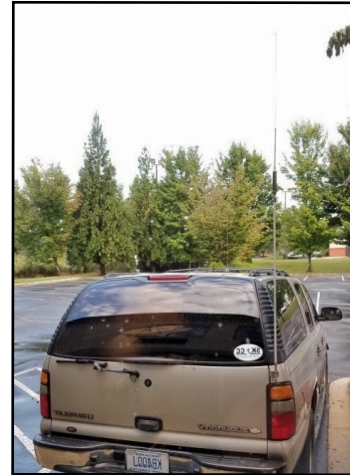
The Slow Speed Saunter is a fun event that is basically like a non event only a bit slower so that those who are trying to improve their copying can get so extra practice.



Only had 30 minutes in the beginning and 30 minutes at the end but it was great! 73, Ted K8AQM



I was able to participate a little bit...I used my fun new QRP rig, a SW-3B, on 20 and 40m only. 73, Lloyd K3ESE



I'll be there but you'll have to put on your best ears. I'm still in Hendersonville NC so attached is my only set up. Put on your listening ears.....heh heh. 73, Randy KB4QQJ

This month's SSS saw a bigger turnout than last month. Just check out the participation shown in the chart below and you'll see by QSO numbers it is a very relaxed event. For some of us it's a chance to use a different cw style than we are use to. Whether you're a bug learner or cootie learner, the SSS is a chance to gain some practice.

*Addendum: Regarding KB4QQJ, I searched for Randy but I guess my "listening ears" just weren't up to snuff. In support of my "listening ears" Randy did not submit a score so maybe my "listening ears" were good enough and Randy just couldn't make the event...darn! De Ted K8AQM*

### Slow Speed Saunter Results

Results for Slow Speed Saunter: 1-2 Oct 2019

Overall | Soapbox

#### Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	Score
1	W9TE	Al	20000T	IN	50	50
2	W5ZR	Bert	2931S	LA	35	35
3	WA9BBN	Ed	17763S	IN	15	15
3	K3ESE	Lloyd	19100S	MD	15	15
5	K8AQM	Ted	1629S	MI	12	12
6	WA2JSG	Curt	3018S	NJ	11	11
7	N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	10	10
7	WB5JWI	Les	5013S	TX	10	10
9	W15H	Mike	11770S	TX	9	9
10	KD9GDY	Jim	18156T	IN	7	7
10	AF2Z	Drew	2082S	NJ	7	7
10	KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	7	7
13	VE2KZW	Robert	16248	QC	6	6
14	K8UDH	Bruce	10532S	NE	5	5
15	AK3X	Peter	7217S	MD	4	4
15	AC2C	Ron	2748S	MD	4	4
17	K5KHK	Karl	20224	NY	3	3
17	W4KAC	Ken	20760	NC	3	3
17	WB9TFF	Donna	7057T	WI	3	3
20	N4API	Brian	11673	GA	2	2
21	K5ZOL	Bob	3945S	TX	1	1
21	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	1	1
23	AA6AC	BOB	6276S	CA	0	0



## Meet DL9YCS, SKCC 7190s

*One of the more active DL stations you might have worked is DL9YCS Joerg Schroeder, what follows is the German biography supplied by Jorg and an excellent translation by Reiner Dieg, N2PEZ. A great big "thank you" to Reiner who has been supplying the translations of German and French for the Rag Chew. As an international club it's great to have articles submitted by all members everywhere. Hopefully we'll get other articles from members in their own language and be able to publish them here.*



Angefangen hat alles mit 15 Jahren als Pirat auf den Frequenzen 102 – 104 Mhz. Nachdem die Deutsche Post immer öfter mit Peilwagen unterwegs war, um um die Sender stillzulegen habe ich dann mit 16 Jahren die Amateurfunkprüfung der Klasse C abgelegt. Das war 1975 und ging damals nur mit einem Empfehlungsschreiben des Physiklehrers. Mit den Jahren habe ich dann erst einmal das Interesse verloren. Die „2 m Welt“ war ausgereizt und für Spielarten wie EME fehlte das Geld. Irgendwie hat mich der Amateurfunk dann aber doch nicht losgelassen. Die UKW Bänder waren nicht mehr reizvoll und ich entschied mich CW zu lernen. 1983 bestand ich dann die Amateurfunkprüfung der Klasse B. Das war die höchste Klasse und die Welt stand mir offen. Ich erwarb einen Sommerkamp Röhrentransceiver und durfte, da wir zur Miete wohnten, eine Draht Antenne aufhängen. Es war eine Fritzel FD 3 für die Bänder 10 – 40 m. Erste erschwingliche Rechner kamen auf und ich erwarb einen Sinclair ZX81. Damit gelangen mir dann die ersten RTTY QSOs. 1985 Umzug ins eigene Haus. Sofort wurde ein 18 m Versatower aufgestellt. (Steht noch immer) Als Antenne wurde ein 3 Element Beam aufgebaut. Das DXCC war kein Problem.

It all started when I was a 15-year old "pirate" on the 102-104 MHz band segment. After the German Post started cruising neighborhoods with direction finding equipment in an effort to silence those stations, I got my amateur Class C license when I was 16. That was in 1975, and then it could only be done with a recommendation from my physics teacher. As the years went by, I started to lose interest. The 2 meter world had lost its charm, and for fun modes like EME the money was just not there. But somehow amateur radio kept its grip on me. The FM bands were no longer attractive and I decided to learn CW. In 1983 I passed the test for a Class B amateur license. That was the highest class and the world was opened up to me. I acquired a Sommerkamp tube transceiver, and since we were then living in an apartment, I was allowed to put up a wire antenna. It was a Fritzel FD 3 for the 10-40 meter bands. The first affordable computers were just coming out and I obtained a Sinclair ZX81. And so I managed my first RTTY QSOs. 1985 brought a move to our own house. An 18-meter high Versatower went up immediately (and it's still there). DXCC was not a problem.

Der Amateurfunk Satellit Oscar 13 wurde in All gebracht.

Schnelle waren eine Lang Yagi für 2 m und 70 cm und ein Vertikal Rotor auf dem Mast. Da ich mit kleiner Leistung funkte kam CW wieder ins Spiel.

Es gelang mir dann im Jahr 1989 ein CW QSO mit unserer Partnerstadt in Finnland. Die Zeitung berichtete und der Amateurfunk wurde wieder etwas bekannter.



Die PCs wurden langsam immer preiswerter und die digitalen Betriebsarten entwickelten sich. Als Vorläufer der E-Mail gab es bei uns Amateuren die Betriebsart PSK. Ich war dabei und konnte die Presse 1990 mit einer „Mail“ zu meinem Freund Rolf, OH6BU, in Finnland begeistern. (War damals noch was Besonderes HI HI)

Nach einer Weile reizte mich Neues : ich hatte über SSTV gelesen. Fleißig gespart und ich legte mir von der Firma Wraase den SC-2 zu. So kamen auch viele SSTV QSOs ins Logbuch. CW QSOs standen zu der Zeit wenige im Logbuch. Ich hörte von /mm Runden und war begeistert. Ich wurde Mitglied bei Intermar und war ein bis zwei mal die Woche Netcontrol und gab das Wetter an die Segler die auf den Weltmeeren unterwegs waren. Hat viel Spass gemacht sich mit gleichgesinnten auszutauschen. Darüber lernte ich PA0R , Rein, kennen. Er war segelte ebenfalls und entwickelte eine Software um seine Positionen ins Internet zu übermitteln und E-Mails auf dem Wasser zu erhalten. PSKMail war entstanden. Ich war begeistert von dem System und stellte bei mir

The Oscar 13 amateur radio satellite was launched into space.

Soon a Lang yagi for 2 m and 70 cm and a vertical rotor were on the mast.

Since operating was now easy, I decided to give CW another try. I succeeded in 1989 with a CW QSO with our partner city in Finland. The newspaper wrote an article and amateur radio PCs gradually became cheaper and the digital modes started to develop. The



precursor of email for us amateurs was the PSK mode.

I took part in this effort and was able to wow the media with an "email" to my friend Rolf, OH6BU, in Finland. (In those days, we were something special HI HI.)

After a while, something new again appealed to me: I had read about SSTV.

I saved earnestly and bought the SC-2 from the Wraase company.

Then there were plenty of SSTV QSOs in the log. And not so many CW QSOs anymore.

As time passed, I also became active as Maritime Mobile on our sailboat.

I heard about /MM nets and was amazed. I joined Intermar and served as Net Control operator twice a week, giving weather reports to mariners on the oceans. It was a lot of fun to chat with people with the same interest. That's how I got to know Rein, PA0R. He was a sailor as well, and developed software to transmit his location to the internet and to receive emails at sea.

PSKmail had been invented. I was thrilled by the system and made my own PSKMail server available and it became somewhat better known.



Nachdem ich nun alle Betriebsarten ausprobiert hatte kam ich zurück zum Ursprung : CW  
Ich wollte perfekt in CW werden !  
Ich schaute im Internet nach einem Club Gleichgesinnter und stieß auf den SKCC.  
2010 wurde ich dann Mitglied im SKCC und erhielt die Nummer 7150.  
Bis zum Senator war es ein langer Weg :  
2018 erreichte ich dann das lang ersehnte „S“  
Im SKCC habe ich viele neue Freunde gefunden !  
Viel Spass machen Events wie WES und das jährliche K3Y.  
Als DX Operator dabei zu sein ist immer etwas Besonderes !  
Mittlerweile habe ich die 3 Element Yagi gegen ein 2 Element Quad ausgetauscht.  
Die UKW Antennen sind komplett abgebaut.  
73 und bis demnächst auf den Bändern  
Joerg DL9YCS # 7150S



After I had tried all the different modes, I came back to the beginning: CW.  
I decided to become perfect in CW!  
I looked around the internet for a club of like-minded people and hit upon SKCC.  
And so in 2010 I became a member of SKCC and was given Number 7150.  
It was a long road to Senator: finally in 2018 I made it to the long awaited "S."  
I have found a lot of friends in SKCC!  
I get a lot of fun out of events like WES and the annual K3Y.  
It's super to be a DX station for these events.  
Meanwhile I have replaced my 3-element yagi with a 2-element quad.  
The FM antennas have been completely taken down.  
73, and see you soon on the bands!  
Joerg DL9YCS # 7150S

*Thanks Joerg for the great article and I hope to have many more from you. Thank you Reiner for the translation work, it is greatly appreciated.*

## SKCC QSO Party 2019

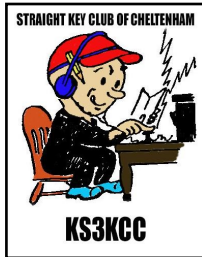
*This year's QSO Party had stiff competition between great weather, very poor propagation and crowded band conditions on 20m with the California QSO Party and bullet speed CW. Despite those difficulties, it was a good time with many stations showing up to exchange the usual SKCC QSO exchange plus a four digit grid square exchange.*



Conditions on average were fair. Did better than usual on 20 meters, hope it's because I raised my 20m dipole higher and reorientated it. Europe seems to come in better. Highlight was working W7AMI/Idaho on 40m, need towards my 5BWAS. I have to say that I'm not a fan of the grid square format. It is not well known among a considerable number of hams. I had 17 busted QSOs because I could not get the 4 digit grid number. Many of the QSOs took way to long because I had to explain the grid system. I would much prefer the SPC method for multiplier calculation. Just my two cents. The photo shows me on the lift I rented for antenna work. 73, Bob AC1GF



Most of my contacts came during two hours on Sunday afternoon when 20m suddenly began to work for me. K2, Juma PA100D, 1945 Vibroplex Champion, 100W to wire dipoles. Always fun... bugtastic! 73, Peter GM0EUL



Thanks to all who worked KS3KCC. Will look for you in the upcoming W.E.S. Thanks to all those participating! Switched between the str key, bug and cootie! 73, DAH KS3KCC



Very different format, had trouble adjusting to the new format. 73, Al K9FW



Fun event as always! Great to hear some new members! Always enjoy the inclusion of the grid. 73, Jack KK0I



Just finished antenna repairs this week. It was nice to hear so many EU stations. Highlight of the QSO party was working VK4SSN via long path. Rig used: TenTec Omni VI+, Alpha 78. Antennas: Tenadyne T12.10-30HD @70 ft, rotatable 40m dipole @80 ft. Started with the Begali bug, but switched back to my favorite, a 1963 Vibroplex Original. See you all next time! 73, Marty N9SE



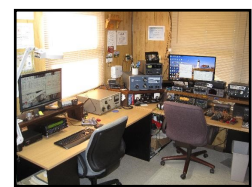
Got 20550 and 20777 this weekend. Great to see a few of the new members working the contest. Saturday afternoon was a bust here. Poor conditions and the 2 QSO parties made it ruff to pick out our ops. Sunday morning was better on 80 and 40. Fun anyway, 73, Allen KA5TJS



That was fun! The QSO Party didn't seem to attract that many participants. But it's still new. Maybe it will grow next year. 20m was the pits! I worked France, and that's it. Nothing in North America. 40m was pretty good though. Rig was my Heathkit HW-101, fan dipole, and Speed-X straight key. 73, Steve KE4OH



Ugh! CQP owned 20m! Short on ops, couldn't generate any 15 or 10m activity. Had a great time, lots of food, good friends and great wx. KD8YQX Jim and K9JP fighting for 20m space with the CQP guys. 73, Dit KS8KCC



Josh-W9HT and I (N8KR) spent a little time operating the two stations in the shack. Lots going on, especially with CAqP dominating the bands! Nice to work new Fort Wayne SKCC member, Jack - W9GT on Saturday. WES and regular exchange next weekend! 73, SKIN KS9KCC



I am only a casual contester but I was able to put in about 8 hours on this party. I had a good time and I was happy with the way my newly rebuilt station performed. 73, Frank N3NMP

## SKCC QSO Party 2019 II



Fun event. Lots of CA QSO Party stations took up large portions of the band. Still fun when you get an SKCC QSO Party contact. Few contacts due to extensive Honey Do list.....that won't keep me from coming back again. HI HI. 73, Jim W1RO



Limited time both Sat & Sun. Condx about what I expected. Wrked Carlos CT1BGH and Bert F6HKA on 40 and Bob F6EJN on 20. All the rest were mid-west to eastern US on 40 with a few on 80.. K3 @ 100 watts to the 160 meter horizontal loop at 50'. Key for this event: Begali HST II sideswiper. 73, Dave W3NP



Not a very high score this time around as I spent most of my time working as DAH KS3KCC. Thanks to all I worked. C U All in the W.E.S. next weekend. 73, Greg WA3GM

## High-speed Call Copying

*Got this from Wes AC8JF, 10511. Years ago in my cw contest days I used this program and it really made a difference...check it out and "thanks" Wes...73, Ted K8AQM*

Recommended by Rick K5FNI, here's a training and online contest application for the BFRA World High Speed Telegraphy Contest. It's called "RufzXP," which comes from the German words "Rufzeichen-Hören" or "callsign hearing." This software lets you practice copying callsigns and 5-character groups at 8 to 803 WPM. No, that's not a typo. This year's version was also used to qualify ops for the WHST contest held in Bulgaria in September.

I tried out RufzXP QRS and liked it. It really forces you to "get" callsigns without thinking about individual letters. Seems to me it would make good training for us slower guys before tackling contest simulators like Morse Runner. Despite the "XP" name, it worked right away on my Windows 10 computer.

RufzXP homepage (look for download in left-hand column):

<http://rufzxp.net/>

HST World Championship page, with contest rules and results:

<https://www.hst2019.com/introduction/>





## Doing Things the Hard Way...or Why Can't I Learn!

I am guilty of "thinking" I know how to use the SKCC Logger. What me read the latest upgrades and additions...NEVER! And I paid for that foolishness in the last SKCC QSO Party where grids count as multipliers. With 181 contacts in the log I started to list all the grids on paper and then check for doubles. Needless to say I got quite frustrated after 100 QSOs listing the grids; Time for some serious help! There are "computer nerds and then there are "computers turds"...I definitely fall into the latter category! I contacted Ron AC2C the author of the SKCC Logger and asked if there might be an easier way to determine the number of unique grids! BOING...magic! Ron informed me that several new features were mentioned in the last few logger upgrades and one was a feature to determine unique number of grids... DUH! The solution was really simple and although ashamed, I'll share it with you along with another feature Ron pointed out to me.

*Glad to hear that you got the info, but you still did it the hard way.*

*With the SKQ log loaded in the logger, click "Start Logging" to open the Add Log Entry window. See attached - click the underlined "GridSquare" field label and it will launch a GridSquare details listing the number of unique 4-character GridSquares logged and will list them alphabetically. You can even change the number of columns displayed. Try it so you'll know how to use it next time.*

*The SPC list goes back a long ways - not sure when it was added. The Grid Square list was added in August 2018 with version v01.00.19. Each new version comes with a list of revisions in the revision history section of the User Guide.*

*I try for consistency and an underlines field label always does something special related to the field.*

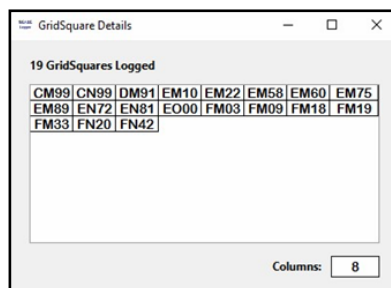
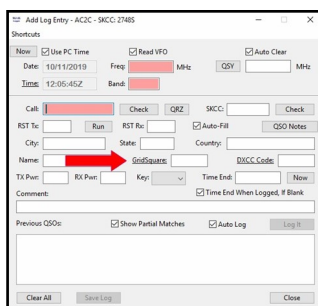
Ron AC2C

Here is what Ron said to do:

*If you want to get a count of distinct GridSquares logged, then I recommend the following:*

- 1. With the SKQ log loaded in the logger, press "Start Logging" to open the Add Log Entry window, Then click on the underlined "GridSquare" field label.*

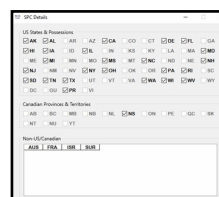
And the same "trick" will tell you exactly what SPC you have worked! Geez, talk about easy and useful! So, the lesson here is, "save yourself a lot of work and read those "new additions" when you update the SKCC logger!"



559	131Z	Stockto...	ME	United States	50	SKCC: 131Z - Ted - ME [QRP
579	8203C	League ...	TX	United States	50	SKCC: 8203C - Dave - TX
589	10535C	Newman	GA	United States	5	5 SKCC: 10535C - Bobby - GA
449	10820C	Yolla	DX	Australia	50	SKCC: 10820C - Steve - Aust

QSO Count:	173	C's Logged:	13	Sprint Bonus:	0
SPC Count:	53	T's Logged:	85	C,T,S Bonus:	915
Raw Score:	9,169	S's Logged:	0	Sprint Score:	10,084



"Oh why can't I ever learn!"

73,

Ted K8AQM 1629s

# HOA Restricted Antenna - Not!

After moving into our new condo this past January which has HOA restrictions which include no outside antennas and orders from my wife that I can not climb in the attic. I thought, I would have to operate portable to continue in this hobby. So, I tried the next best thing and it worked very well! I purchased a Buddipole antenna and set it up on its tripod for 40 meters with the elements near the floor joists in the basement of our condo. To my surprise it worked very well as I was able to contact many of the K3Y stations and even Bert, F6HKA on 40m at gray line here in Michigan.



Buddipole in basement worked Bert F6HKA on 40m!



Front of house

As always, I wanted a little more antenna and something that could work on 80 meters as well. I found a solution of having a handyman inspect our new roof and asked if he would set out 13 gauge Poly Stealth wire along the ridge vents starting up from the ground at the back corner of our house and over to the opposite corner on the front of the house down to the ground again. He was happy to help me! After the wire was placed on the roof, tucked under the ridge vents, and drip edge of the roof. I had about 135 feet of wire in a "Z" shape on my roof. The next day I drilled a 1/4" hole through the mortar line into the basement of the house, and was able to pass the wire into the basement. The antenna wire was then attached to a LDG remote antenna tuner as a long wire antenna without the use of a Balun or Unun. I did run about 65 feet of number 14 ga. wire attached to the ceiling floor joists as a counterpoise or ground connect to the remote tuner. I also used 1/4" heliax coax from my station location to the remote tuner. After a few low power tunings at the known SKCC frequencies I was able to run 100 watts output with no know interference found in our house or to any of our neighbors. First contact using this new antenna was on 20 meters having a CW QSO with a non-skcc operator in Germany at 2 PM on a weekday afternoon. Next few QSO's that same day were also located through-out Europe and South



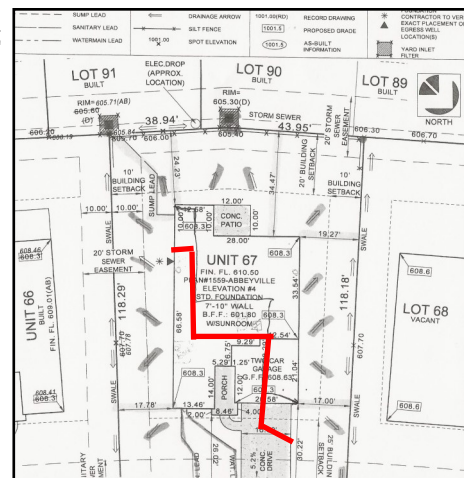
Back of house

America. At 4PM on that day I switched to 3.976 MHz where some of the Michigan blind amateurs meet daily to talk radio or whatever. I could hear most of the folks, but the closest ham of the group which is 19 miles from me was still very weak. Ted, K8AQM feels the roof "Z" antenna will be very good for DX, but may not work as a cloud warmer! HI! Now I have an antenna for 75/80 meter band as well.



Coax feed through wall

The LDG did not have any



Overall shape of antenna

any problems matching across from 3.550 MHz to 3.976 MHz.

It will be interesting to see how this antenna works during the winter months. I have heard that a wire antenna laying on a roof will not work well when there is ice and snow on the roof. But then, they said my vertical (at our old home) in the stand of trees on our corner lot would not work either. That antenna was my best antenna all year round at that QTH.

So, experiment with whatever you think might work for an antenna. I have been lucky enough to work WAS and DXCC so far on CW since moving here to the new condo this January using the Buddipole antenna set-up in the basement just below ground. I just wanted a little larger antenna to be able to use 80/75 meters as well.

73, Jeff K9JP - SKCC #3008S

#### Parts List

1. Polyethylene to provide you with one of the strongest and longest lasting antenna wires on the market today. Resistant Polyethylene to provide you with one of the strongest and longest lasting antenna wires on the market today. Ideal balance of strength and flexibility, Low-Gloss finish and small size makes wire disappear into the background Superior abrasion resistance for running through trees or on roofs! UV and weather resistant for use on the seacoast or in other harsh environments subjected to acid rain, high wind, or high snow and ice loads.
2. LDG remote antenna tuner model RT-100 is a remote antenna matching tuner that uses a bias-T to power the unit. The RT-100 is rated at 125 watts max. and has up to 2000 memories for quick band/frequency changes once it has be used with your antenna. LDG also sells the RT-600 a 600 watt remote matcher/tuner.

#### New data from Jeff K9JP:

60 meter channels tune just fine with 1.1 SWR match on each channel  
6 meters tunes great at the FT-8 frequency 52.313 MHz - SWR 1.5  
50.125 SBB calling frequency SWR is 1.8, not too bad  
50.090 CW frequency SWR is 1.5 or lower.



## KC9ECI

After 20+ years in our home, just under a month ago we moved to a new place. Today I finally had time to start reassembling the shack. Primary operating position is almost done. Monitor on the 101 is temporary until I can wall mount the big screen. Secondary is on the opposite wall and is in progress. Hoping to get coax run next weekend and some wire in the air. 73, Tom KC9ECI

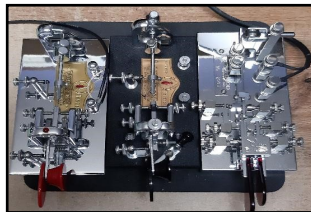
## October SKS E



I was poking around 20m and heard F6EJN. Gave him a quick call. I soon realized he was in the middle of the SKSE contest. My apologies Bob for not recognizing that right away. I decided to join in the SKSE and made some nice QSOs. Only able to operate for 1 hour. I worked F5UQE twice on 40m and 20m. Worked newbie G0DJF on 40m. Photo shows me on the lift I rented yesterday to untangle some antenna wires. All dipoles at 30' or higher now, some close to 40'. Still have room for height improvements. Goal is to get all dipoles close to 40' high. 73, Bob AC1GF



Incredible propagation on 40 m, unable to have a contact with G0RDO during our try ! Same problem with some other stations. However, without antenna for 160 m, I had a contact with F5UQE on 1.820 MHz ! A nice opening occurred on 20 m with USA about 40 minutes before the end. Anyway, it was a nice moment to say hello to participants and I got 6 new SKCC numbers ! 73 to all and see you next time. On the photo are my seven different bug keys, all of them working well. Bernard F5DE



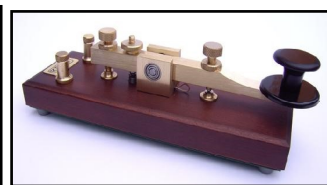
Excellent SKSe with good spread over 20m. Beam antenna 3 elements at 50 feet from the ground and 400 watts. On the photo : new antenna Spiderbeam modified. 73 and thanks for all the qsos. Bob F6EJN



Conditions best described as "Interesting" HI, with 20m dead, and weak sigs on 40m & 80m. Just the one QSO with Duc F5UQE on 80m. A dozen or so stations called but no QSOs. Good fun though. 73, John G0RDO



My first SKSE, only few QSOs, but a great fun. I'm waiting for my number. 73, Sal IK7UKF



May be my best SKS-E to date. All 20m 75w to a vertical. Thanks to my 5 contacts: CT1DGH, F6EJN, ON6NA, F5UQE, OS0S. 73, Curt WA2JSG

My bugs. 73, Leon OS00



## A Real Problem!

Too many radios. So little time! 73, Victor WA7BNI

*I'm sure amateurs will help by offering to take the gear off your hands!*

## Chasing States with SKCC

Closing in on your “S”? Do not abandon SKCC when you reach your goal, find other SKCC goals to keep you going.

One of the really fun aspects of SKCC is the award program and the ease of tracking and applying for awards if your contacts are in SKCC Logger. While you will find individual members chasing a variety of personal goals, for me it is about worked all states. You can chase WAS, WAS-C, WAS-T and the ultimate and most difficult goal WAS-S. You can also chase band endorsements for each of the WAS awards.

WAS-S is a long term commitment since there are a number states with either no resident Senators, or with very limited S activity. Fortunately, some of those states are occasionally activated by traveling Senators.

The key to chasing states is knowing the best time to work them and having a good tracking system so you know what you still need.

The more SKCC contacts you make the more states you will accumulate. Peak SKCC activity occurs during the contests and during K3Y. While many operators use the S&P (search and pounce) approach for WES and SKS, after a while you will notice that you are mainly working the same stations. At that point it is time to step out of your comfort zone, find a clear frequency and start calling cq. Now you have a chance to work the S&P operators. If you are operating WES, by all means post your frequency on the Sked Page, during SKS that is a no-no.

The best time to find states is in January during the K3Y event, not only is almost every state represented by K3Y operators, but there are many other members on the air. Use the sked page, use the K3Y operator schedule, and use the reverse beacon network to find states that you need. You should also seriously consider working as a K3Y operator, the contacts you make as K3Y/ count for your SKCC awards. If you are concerned about your operating speed or skills do not be! Everyone is welcome, you may just want to avoid the first few days of the event when activity is at its peak.

January is a great time to work states on 160 through 20 meters and some 17 meters. But unless there happens to be a good sporadic-e opening the higher bands, 15 through 6, are not good then. The best time to work stations on the high bands is during the late spring and early summer when sporadic-e layer propagation appears and you can work states with the short skip.

The SKCC Logger makes identifying the states you have or need for an award or for a band endorsement very simple. Just click the “Create Award Applications” button and after processing the log click an award button like “WAS / WAS-C”. You will then see a list of the number of states you have worked by award and band. You can get a list of the states that shows which ones you have worked and which you have not by checking the box and selecting “Create Applications”. This will produce text files that you can open and review. If you need less than 20 states for an award you may want to keep a printed list handy to refer to and to cross off as you work the needed states.

When you get deeper into chasing the awards and band endorsements using a spreadsheet can be a big help. The main point is to create something that works for you and do not be afraid to keep morphing the spreadsheet to better meet you needs. What you want is to present the information in a manner that makes it easy for you to use to identify needed states quickly.

The photo of my spreadsheet illustrates several different approaches to keeping lists. When appropriate I prefer a short list or table to a larger one. I prefer to list states by call area as it imparts some geographic information that may be useful. For example I would look for eastern states on 160 earlier in the evening and western states much later. I have 17 through 10 in one table since I like to do band hopping with stations when there are sporadic openings.

Canada	WAS	160 Meters	6 Meters
VY2 PE	0 North Dakota (ND) S X S S X	0 ND	0 CO
VO NL	3 Delaware (DE) S S T T T	1 CT	1 IA
VE8 NT	4 South Carolina (SC) S S T S S	3 DE	3 KS
VY0 NU	6 Arkansas (AR) S S S X T	4 TN	4 MN
40 VE9	6 New Mexico (NM) S S T S S	4 FL	0 MO
20 nil	7 Alaska (AK) S S	7 AK	5 ND
	7 Idaho (ID) T T T T T	6 MS	6 NE
	7 Montana (MT) S S S S T	7 KY	6 SD
	7 Washington (WA) S S S S T	4 ID	6 TX
		7 MT	6 CA
		7 NV	1 MA
		7 OR	1 ME
		7 UT	1 NH
		7 WA	1 RI
		7 WY	2 VT
			2 NJ
			2 NY
			3 DE
			3 MD
			3 PA
			4 AL
			4 GA
			4 KY
			4 NC
			9 IN
			9 SC
			9 WI

SKCC#	Date	All	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6
CENTURION #	1565 2/13/18	Centurian	x9	x1	x3	x5	x2	x2	x1			
TRIBUNE#	1280 2/19/18	Tribune	x10	x1	x4	x6	x2	x3	x1	x1	x1	
TxB	8/13/18	Senator	x2		x1							
SENATOR#	310 10/15/18	PFX	x7	x1	x3	x5	x2	x2	x1			
		DXQ	x10							x10		
		DXC	x10									
		WAC										
		WAS				X						
		WAS-C				X						
		WAS-T				X						
		WAS-S										

There is also some color coded and cell highlight information that alerts me if I need the state for my mixed WAS or if I need it confirmed in LOTW. You may glean some ideas from my spreadsheet, but the key is presenting the information in a manner that works for you.

As you get close to completing an award or endorsement you can try reaching out to members by email for a schedule. I have had mixed success with this approach.

In summary, establish your goals, track your progress, and go for it! See you on the bands.

73, Dan K0FD 15034S

## SKCC Activities



Just a collection of picture on hand that show groups of SKCCers gathered at Dayton through past years and various other hamfests.

# October WES 2019



In general conditions were very good. 80m was much better than usual, 20m better than usual, and 40m about the same or a little worse. Worked lots of DX this time around, lots of Europeans: F6HKA, F6EJN, G3ZRJ, F5UQE, DL9YCS, F5DE, VE7HI, ON7LG, CT1BQH, EA1BOT, ON7DQ, and EA1AOQ. Worked many on 2 bands. QSO breakdown as follows: 80m: 74 QSOs, 40m: 147 QSOs, and 20m: 57 QSOs. QSO numbers on 80m and 20m were personal bests for me. I'm always amazed how well K3ESE does with only 5w. I go to show how important a good antenna system. PS Please use the SKCC QSL bureau if you want a QSL card, I have envelopes on file. Bureau preferred, but not necessary. That's me on the lift. 73, Bob AC1GF



Great WES! Bands were open and I was able to get an 80m QSO with F6HKA (Bert)...made my day (merci mon ami, Bert!) Hope all did well... 73, Larry AH6AX



Another fun WES in the books. Operated Saturday and Sunday, at several different times through the day. Lots of activity! The high bands were not collaborating, except when Bert, F6HKA called, then they did collaborate, hihi. 80m was booming during the dark hours and sunrise/sunset. It's surprising how we can get used to the musicality of the CW notes from some operators, and identify them before they send their callsign! Managed to make 3 contacts with +20K stations. Thank you so much to all the participants and the organizers. What an extraordinary club! See you in the next SKCC event. 73, Ru-



All QSOs on 40 meters this month. Rig is a YouKits HB-1B running 4 watts to an end-fed wire. Key is a homebrew sideswiper made from the contacts of a double pole relay. Gold plated! (Just the contacts, not the whole thing.) 73, Steve AI9IN



That was a fun wes! I tried two new things: a new end fed long wire (130') antenna from "My Antenna" and SO2R. The antenna seems to be fine. I'm still trying to decide if it's better than single band dipoles, or not. I thought this wes was going to be all Europe for me. I worked Bert, F6HKA, Bob F6EJN, Duc F5UQE and Geert ON7LG. That was fun! Maybe that antenna has a lobe towards Europe? I am not sure about SO2R. It is a lot harder than it looks. So, I'm sorry if I sent confusing messages to anyone. I was confused as to which band I was transmitting/ listening on. I'm old, you know. That's my story and I'm stickin' to it. 73, Jim Ad0AB



Fun WES. Used a QCX-40 and a bug that I picked up at a recent hamfest. Worked many on 40 including F6HKA, Bert and VK7CW, Steve with it. 80 meter QSOs were with my OHR 100A. I did squeeze in one contact on 20 with W6LAX, Roger who must have a great station to copy my 3 Watt DSW 20. 73, Peter AK3X



Lots of contest opportunity this weekend. Glad I spent time Sunday late morning and then the afternoon on this one. Completing a QSO with F6HKA made my day/week/month. Appreciated the pace and also the patience of the operators. Thanks all! 73, Mike AD0YM



I recently re-purchased the Argosy II that I sold 6 years ago. It still works well and is almost as good as the TenTec Eagle that I normally use. It was nice to use the Argosy II for this month's WES, although I did use my right-angled VIZ key instead of the straight key. The radio felt very comfortable, like an old pair of jeans. 73, Charles AI4UN



My first time back to WES in a while. I didn't want to be the Senator Who got my S and run I wanted to give it out And have a little fun

Nice to get the TAC CP500 and SKCC straight key a workout. Thanks for the QSO's 73, Mike



I was able to spend more time on the bands this time around. I was very surprised that my 70 watts and 41' LW allowed me to work Bert, F6HKA on 40M. Already looking forward to the next WES. 73, Kent AE4Y

## October WES II



It is always a pleasure to be active for a few hours during the monthly WES. Not many contacts for me but it is a nice moment to meet some old SKCC friends and new members. Several bugs were used during this event as you can see on the attached photo. 73 and see you all soon with a great pleasure Bernard, F5DE



Dusted the cobwebs off of my rig and my 1938 era Martin Flash Key bug and made some WES contacts, great to be back on after a couple slow months. Even though the propagation was short on 160 enjoyed making a half dozen contacts on the top band. Especially enjoyed getting a call from Scott, KD4EE, he is in my log on 160 more than any other SKCC member, a dozen times. 73, Dan K0FD



Enjoyed working the Sprintathon again after a period of inactivity. Most contacts on 40m with a handful on 20m in limited operating time. Looking forward to next month's event. 73, Doug K4NYI



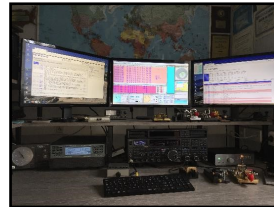
Very interesting WES! Good propagation on 20M and 40M. A lot of new number for me. Thanks all for qsos. 73, Duc F5UQE



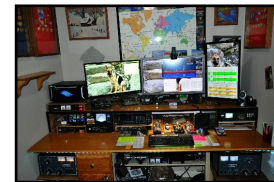
Early morning both days were good on 40 and 20 picked up nicely during both days. Once again I was able to work the four corners of the US but AK and HI eluded me. Only ON and QC are in my log for Canada and just Germany and France for Europe. The theme was fun-looking for high-numbered newer members. I got a good bunch of them but since I call CQ, I had to take what came my way. 73, Ralph KØRO



Band conditions were not particularly good here this time around. It was great to hear and work many SKCC members with 19000+ numbers. I joined SKCC on September 5 which already seems like a long time ago! 73, Jim K4ABC



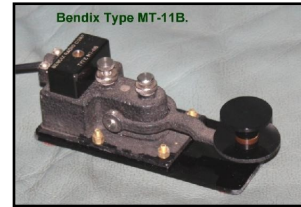
It has been a long time since conditions have been so good. The 40 and 20m were in great shape. I contacted a lot of new members. Thanks to everyone for the nice contacts. 73 and see you maybe next month. 73, Bert F6HKA



Nice to see many new members in the WES! 73, Ed K1EDG



Activity sounded pretty good at times, I spent most of the weekend in our PA QSO, but was in WES at the beginning and end and a little bit Saturday evening when I felt the need for exercising my fist. 73, Chas



Good fun and a few DX for me, Sunday not so good as Saturday, and all 9 QSO's were on 20m. Thanks to EA1AOQ, F6EJN, IK2DJV, K3EW, K3WW, DL9YCS, K2FW, W5ZR & WC2K. My 60 bonus points were thanks to K2FW Steve 20151s and WC2K Rick 20580. Rig TS440s 100 watts fishing pole vertical. 73, John GØRDO



Conditions were mixed but not terrible. Was very happy to work lots of our EU SKCC members. Working John, ZS6BJJ was a big thrill. Also, picking up Arnold, KL7IH in Alaska on 20mtrs from the East Coast was another highlight during this WES. 73, Steve K2FW



This was my first WES in VA with a 40 - 10 M vertical I had a balst as always even with less antenna. Nice to work so many new SKCC members . 73, Mike K1EEE



# October WES III



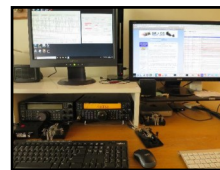
FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME I SET ASIDE WEEKEND FOR THE WES. HAD LOADS OF FUN. 4 SHORT FOR WAS . RTTY CONTEST FORCED OUR 40 METER OPERATION SATURDAY EVENING BEFORE 0000 SUNDAY TO 7120 ENVIRONS. CONDITIONS TO EU BETTER ON SATURDAY BUT 20 OPENED UP TO WESTERN STATES INCLUDING ALASKA ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON. 15% OF QSO'S WERE WITH NEWCOMERS - GREAT SHOW AND SOME DARN GOOD OPERATORS IN THE GROUP. ONLY POINTS TO MUCH MORE PARTICPATION IN FUTURE WES'S. THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO DUG ME OUT OF THE MUD. I DID MY FAIR SHARE OF DIGGING MYSELF. LOTS OF 339'S. 73, PHIL K3EW



Great time this weekend, bands were not too bad except for other originations and digital. Just have to work with what you have. 73, Richard



Nice to hear the newer members participating. Got up a new doublet wire this last week that even loaded on 160m and made 3 contacts there. Thanks to all for the fun and comradery. 73, Hank K5TSK



Could have used some sunspots, but enjoyed the challenge. Working KL7IH, who was QRP from Alaska, was the highlight. 73, Peter K6PB



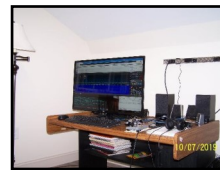
Had about an hour or so free Saturday night & both 80 & 160 were in good shape (40 unusable do to RTTY contest) thanks all for the contacts 73Larry K8TEZ from



The rig this month was a Kenwood TS-520 that I just finished refurbishing. Got to check it out and now off the bench and on to the next project. Not much time to operate, but signals didn't seem too bad. See everyone next month. 73, Noel K8NB



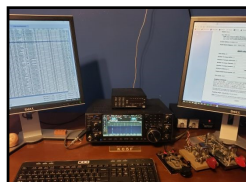
A good WES for me! Think this is the first time I got 3 ops from FRA in one weekend! Thanks to Bert, Bob and Duc for pulling my wire antenna out of the noise. 80 meters was poor Saturday morning but much better Sunday morning. 40 was good as usual and 20 heated up about 14:00 both days. Used my IC 7410 at 70 watts and an 80 meter inverted vee for all. 73, Allen KA5TJS



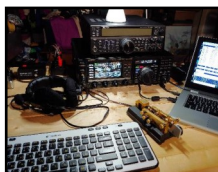
Did much better this month. However, my wired smoke/CO detectors started going off on 20M so I had to reduce my 20M power to 50 Watts. Pictures is my new shack. 73, Dave KB1WOD



Thanks to all who participated in WES and made my weekend an enjoyable one! By the way, microphones are dirty!! Throw them away hi hi. 73, Eric KB3NSK



First SKCC event and I had a ball, although I couldn't be on the whole period. I've been a CW op for about 53 years, but never had time, a decent rig or antenna until now. I retired 2 months ago, bought an IC-7610 and put up an Inverted L. Having lots of fun, now! (And the "WES" on the keyboard isn't from the Sprint, it's the nickname of my college!) 73, Steve KC5F



What a great way to bring in fall! I worked 26 extraordinary members and for a while it felt like every senator in the group.... The bands were in great shape. I had Qs on 20, 40, 80, and 160m. The most memorable was with Angel, N4SNI from MD on 40m. He was just above the noise floor with a blistering 2.5 watts of RF power. I ran with the filter a little wider (600 Hz). It helped me snag a few folks who were 250Hz+ below my xmit frequency. All in all a great WES. 73, Scott kd4ee

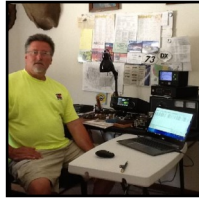


Had a great time! Bands were a bit rough over the weekend, but we made it work! 73, Kris KC2EP

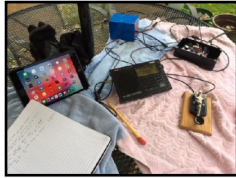


Had a few hours this weekend to participate in between activities around the house. Conditions just OK on 20 but lots of runs on 40 meters. Thanks everyone for joining in the fun. 73, Warren KC9IL

# October WES IV



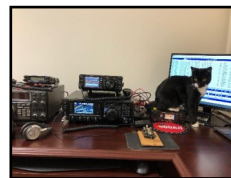
Fun! Very busy weekend. I missed the first six hours. Short on sleep, the sending suffered a bit. Seemed like good activity. Enjoyed working the newer ops. Especially the locals. 73, Jim KD9GDY



Decided to go full QRP in WES using a battery and outside in MN in the rain and snow. Was very cold and finger numbing. Part of my goal was to demonstrate to a coworker that you don't need much other than a portable SW with SSB, QRP transmitter, and a speaker wire dipole antenna to get involved. Was really a challenge but a lot of fun! 73, Don KE0NXV



Lots of QRN AND QSB at this QTH. 73, John KG4WNA



As a new CW operator, I am slowly gaining confidence in the WES. Really enjoy these weekends. And it was fun to know I was a 30 pt bonus station! Inspecting the log is Princess Leia. Most WES QSOs were made with her in my lap. 73, Randal KG5IEE



For the first time in a while, 20m was pretty good for me. Also, 40m was on fire for a couple of hours near the end on Sunday. I worked France and Portugal with no problems at all on 100w and a low dipole. As always, I was using a boatanchor rig. This time was my trusty Heathkit HW-101 with a Navy Flameproof key. I like the theme, which give bonuses for working newcomers and near-newcomers to SKCC. Interesting that I worked a bunch more very new members (SKCC # >= 20,000) but just a handful of near-new members (SKCC # >= 19,000). 73, Steve KE4OH



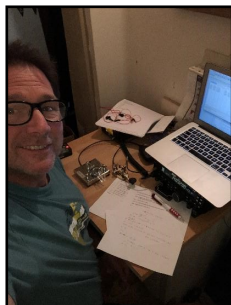
Not a lot of time to spend on the bands this time, but did enjoy the few stations I worked. 73 to all and look forward to the next time! 73, Russ KK4WX



Being distracted by weekend schedules and also many state QSO parties going on at the same time, I could work WES only for the last couple of hours this time. I ran 20 watts using my Xiegu G90 again from my car parked on the street next to a small park in town. The band condition was good on 20M and 40M and I heard many strong CQ's. It was shortened but very fun WES! 73, Yoon KM6KJI



Great fun event with the bands (especially 40 and 80) cooperating nicely. Managed to get a couple Top Band QSOs and was great to work some of our DX members out there (F6HKA, Bert, VK7CW, Steve, CT1BQH, Carlos and 8 of our Canadian neighbors). The new members were well represented also. Used the IC7300, inverted vee "Droopy Dipole" along with the Vizbug/HST Cootie team to catch the QRQ and QRS ops. Thanks folks for all the contacts and hoping the upcoming events to prove even more fruitful as the sunspot cycle makes its way back up again. 73, Jack KK0I 2370S



My 2nd WES!!! I'm getting better and at least I didn't sweat through my shirt too much! 73, Eric KN4IYY



It was another fun WES. Band conditions were better than last month but the RTTY QRM on 40 was brutal. One of these months I'll be able to get the whole 24 hours. This month I worked around the XYL's plans on Saturday and Sunday and almost made last month's total. The pic is my VizKey Camelback which is really a pleasure to use. I think my fist is actually improving. Hi. 73, Chris NOCC



Spent as much time as we could but a lot of things going on this weekend.....skcc sprint, pa qso party and sadly a funeral that took up most of the day on Sunday. All in all a great event. 73, DAH KS3KCC

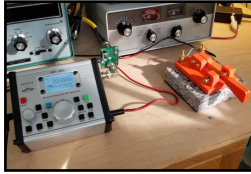


Really enjoyed my first WES. Everyone was very patient and friendly. It was nice to get my feet wet in CW without too much pressure :) 73, Carolyn KX4QF



Worked 20, 40 and 80. Had fun, heard a lot of stations. Hope to see everyone on the next sprint. 73, Bill N0UMP

# October WES V



Really enjoyed this WES as there wasn't a lot going on to compete for time this weekend. Used the event as a proving ground for my latest homebrew cootic key, which performed quite well. Got some air time on the SKY-SDR as well, really a pleasure to use. Thanks to all the operators that make this such a great event, 73, Mike N2HTT



40 and 80 meters seemed to be best this weekend. Got to work some portable at Pine Mnt. (1400 ft) also this weekend. Wx is finally cooling off in GA for portable ops. Thanks for multi-band QSOs with AF2Z, NZ0T, KM4FO, and K8MP. Equipment was IC-7300/FT-450D and 6BTV vertical/40M End-Fedz dipole. 73, Brian N4API



This was a great WES. I finally figured out how to use the SKCC Logger much more "efficiently" than before. This helped out a great deal! I got over 100 (hopefully good) QSOs! 73, Tom N4LSJ



Saturday attended Melbourne Hamfest. 40 and 80 in the evening were very active here. Sunday only a few hours in the AM and PM due to extreme RFI blocking my RX. If I did not hear you I am very sorry. Photo showing off my recently acquired, like new KX3 which I will be taking to POTA and IOTA locations in the near future. Hope to work many SKCC from skeeter country. 73, AL N4ow PS: Thanks to Rich W4RQ for FL spc which I rarely work in a WES or SKS!



Another great WES! Got 10 new "letters" towards my Tx5! My new 80m efhw inverted L antenna working fb. 73, Ceil N5DR



This was my first WES and it was great! I have a pretty packed schedule since we have young kids (gymnastics, dance, piano lessons, cub scouts, etc.) but it was very nice to have a big window for an operating event. I was able to spend a few minutes here and there and make quick contacts before running off to our next engagement. When we were back I could jump on and snag another quick one. I'm a bit new to CW and, honestly, most of the time when I remember a sprint or other contest it's too late because I already missed the hour or two-hour event! I ran 100 watts from my IC-7300 and used my J-38 for all exchanges. I'm looking forward to next month! 73, Mike N6MST



Played on 80M, 40M & 20M. Bands in good shape. I was In and Out of the Shack doing Grandpa duties and other things. Nice theme and I tried searching for the newer SKCC members. Found 11 :~) Thanks for the QSO's. SKCC, the KEY to Amateur Radio. 73, Rick N8XI



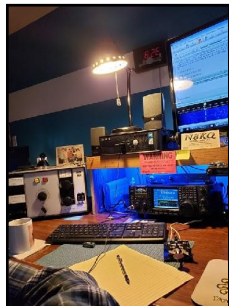
Lots of fun! Used the same key I had as a Novice in 1968! 73, David N9FGP



I was able to get on for a while on Sunday. I used my favorite bug, a 1965 Vibroplex Standard Original. Conditions seemed fairly decent, despite being at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. It is always great to work SKCC members in Europe. I worked one non-member in Germany who was sending with a very rusty fist using a straight key. Maybe another future member! 73, Marty N9SE



Back after missing last month's WES! Used my new Icom IC-7300 at 100 watts to see how it does in crowded conditions. It does pretty well though nothing like my K3 and I would never use it in a serious contest. But for the money it's a nice rig and more than adequate for the WES. Used my old J38 key and, depending on band and condx, an OCF dipole, 43' vertical with remote tuner or a 160M horizontal loop fed with window line. 73, Bill NZ0T



Not a lot of time this weekend, had quite a few new contacts. Ran all dipoles on 20,40 & 80. Down-sizing here and my beam has been sold, so I wanted to see how much I will miss it. lol Worked F6HKA, F6EJN, F5UQE & IZ2QXG on 20M with the 160M dipole & 500W. Guess I will get by. Many Tnx to all. 73, Randy N8KQ

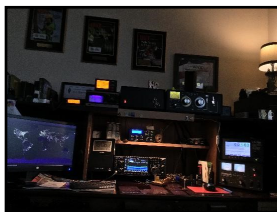


This was my first WES and I had a great time, despite weak band conditions and limited time to operate. 73, David ND1J

# October WES VI



WES, UBA 80m CW and 6m SSB/CW contest ... all in one weekend ... so I was quite busy here! Picture from my very small shack (the space under the stairs is all I have), but a compact setup with IC-7300 (right, HF/6m/4m) and IC-9700 (left, 2m/70cm/23cm) makes it all possible. Keys in view: paddle (on top my Nintendo-Arduino switchbox), Vibroplex bug, Junker sk. Behind my back for left hand use, a homebrew Cootie key. I'm just over halfway for TKA now. CU in next WES! 73 de Luc ON7DQ/KF0CR



Sunday 20 meters was pretty good and worked some on 40 which was very noisy, even got a couple on 80 meters late in the afternoon. My Thanks to everyone for making this another FUN WES! See you next month. 73, Rich W4RQ



Great fun, this month! Difficult condx but still active. Very nice to see lots of newer members active and to see everyone making such an effort to get through the weak props. CU next month! 73, Roger VE3RDE



Good propagation and low noise made for a good weekend. WES is fun: I was on the air for a half hour here, and a half hour there and always found better than average activity. Thanks to everyone who participated. 73, Roger W6LAX



Can't believe I worked Steve in Tazzi on 40, as did others on the E coast, with just a G5RV Jr. That made my WES! Are we sure it wasn't some guy in Kansas masquerading as VK7CW? 73, Phil W6UG/4



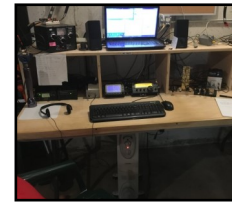
Not much time to operate over the weekend but did manage to get operate on Sunday evening and had a lot of fun on 40m. Once again using my Begali HST Mk II Cootie. Thanks to all who worked me. 73, de Steve VK7CW



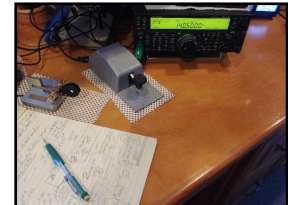
Missed a lot during the day on Saturday and Saturday night and Sunday morning and mid-day. Pretty good activity most of the time on 40 and on 20 when it was open. Good activity on 80 in the evenings. Worked 2 stations without SKCC numbers and I invited them to join SKCC. I have an assortment of non-electronic keys. Used the IC-7610 for the entire contest. Had to open-up the filters since some stations were off more than 100 hertz. Don't sound like much, but today's filters will nip you right out if you are off that far. Had several pileups and my apologies to those that I did not get a chance to work. See you next WES! 73, Joe W4JF



Ran 75 watts from my TS-590SG and my Kent SK into a vertical antenna, using 80m, 40m, and 20m. Always fun event. 73, Curt WA2JSG



Good weekend! Conditions were better than in some of the recent WES events. Nice to work the newer guys, some of which were quite adept at this contest stuff. On the down-side, spending hours in the fairly cool cellar was not inspiring. Note the space heater under the table, which provided ample heat to my nether regions. It was warmer outside on Sunday, and I had my end-of-the-year swim in the lake at mid-afternoon. Brrr... 73, John W1TAG



Had fun but couldn't find those higher Nrs above 19000 for bonus pts. Pretty good condx on 40M & 20M at my QTH. 73, Stan W6SMF



What a joy. Lots of operators on the air. No noise on 40 and 20 was low noise also. Was really fun to be in this month. 73, Al W9TE

## October WES VII



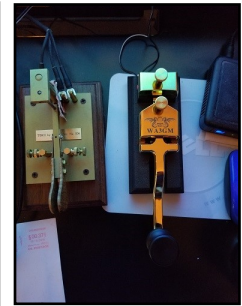
France folks were booming in today. Lots of good QSO's with some QRP guys as the bands were in pretty good shape. Most hams were polite and considerate waiting for me to finish a QSO. Very good WES and lots of great fists today. I was using my 1448 Lightning for a QRS bug and the 1964 Original Standard for QRQ bug. Except when I'd slap the wrong Bug! 73, Gary W7EE



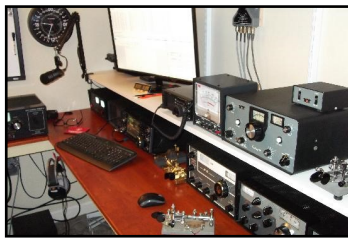
Wow! This was my best WES ever. Bands were reasonable, I even got an 80 meter contact which almost never happens from my QTH. Really enjoyed this WES. Tnx to all who participated. 73, Les WB5JWI



Transmitters were down, but Sunday AM Bert F6HKA had a great signal into Oregon on 20m. I only enjoyed 20 minutes of SWLing using my ICOM IC-R75 Communications Receiver and Wellbrook ALA-330S Receiving Loop which shares the Rotator in my garage overhead with an ELK 2M/440L5 five Element beam 30 feet above ground. 73, Herb AA7XP



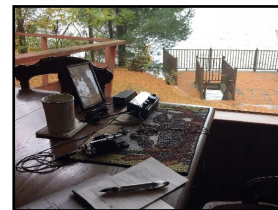
Operated most of the time as DAH KS3KCC hence the low score here. Saturday was the better of the two-days ....Funeral on Sunday put a damper on operating most of the day. Also worked PA QSO party so had to switch back and forth between contests. 73, Greg wa3gm



Used my Vizkey rt ang bug for the first time and it is really a smooth quiet key to operate. The bands on Saturday for me were terrible but late Sunday afternoon 20 and 40 came alive. 20 had a nice opening to the west and I managed a few contacts from out there. All in all, a very enjoyable WES. 73, from GA Dan AI4RJ



I only had about an hour to devote to this month's WES, but it was, as always, an hour of total Zen, with only the soft clacking of the Vizkey vertical bug, and the gentle amber glow of KX3 #6346 filling my circle of awareness. IMHO, as a stress reliever, an hour of CW is better than any therapist's couch. 73, Frank K8FAC



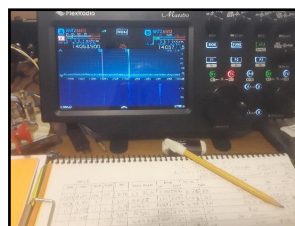
I was closing up my cottage in Canada on Thanksgiving weekend, and I always bring a radio. Since it was October WES weekend, I left the radio running on 40M, and made a few QSOs between jobs, as my Canadian alter-ego (VA3NIA, ON). 73, David KM6CPF



20M was wild on Saturday. The signals from F6EJN and F6HKA almost took the pain off my walls, then my next QSO was with K2MIJ, about 40 miles south of my QTH! I had a great time and appreciate all the patience shown from other SKCC'ers with some of my "newbie" missteps. 73, Frank W1ZAH



Condx seem to be favorable but I didn't get a chance to spend a lot of time operating. This month, I used my Flex Maestro from the couch and relaxed as I binged watched Netflix hi hi. 73, Chris N3MLB



Bands were in better shape than they have been lately. I used 20M and 40M exclusively for the September WES. Ran my Flex 6500 and Maestro Console hardwired together on a Gigabit Ethernet link. Vibroplex Presentation Bug Key or Cootie depending on circumstance. Big WES score for me because I was having fun and was also able to dedicate more time than usual. Thanks for all the nice QSOs and all the 19000+ and 20000+ numbers participating. 73, Mike W15H

## October WES VIII



Gorgeous day out on the east end of L.I. NY this Sunday, I got a chance to get out and enjoy it for a little over an hour this afternoon. I grabbed the KX2, a 7.2ah SLAB and a 20 meter Hamstick and headed for the Smith Point Beach parking lot...I guess a few more people decided to get in a day at the beach on what felt like a nice Indian Summer day as the parking lot was unusually "crowded" for this time of year! I decided to park on the Bay side by the fishing pier, it was a nice view and the water was as calm as the temps! I wasn't expecting much as band condx. go but was soon pleasantly surprised...This was the SKCC Weekend Sprint for this month so I hoped to maybe catch one or two for the log and make it a non "skunked" outing...I ran the KX2 at 5 watts for this sprint, first station I heard calling was F6EJN I called Bob as he finished his working QSO and he came back on the first call, he was a solid 599 and gave me a 559. I was satisfied and would have called it a day right then and there except I heard my good friend Bert F6HKA calling two kc's above Bob...Bert also was his usual 599 and he too gave me a 559 report. Next up was Roger VE3RDE who was a bit weaker than the EU guys and I was also back to him, he was 569/579 and he gave me a 339 a few moments later I worked EA1AOQ Chus in Spain, 1st time SKCC DX contact with him for me, Chus was 599 and he gave me a 439 in return...To keep this from being an all DX day I next worked Frank W1ZAH just over the sound in CT, He was pounding in 599+ and he gave me a 579 report, nice to work CT on 20 meters! Thinking that might break the spell of DX only contacts was shot when the next station heard and worked was Carlos CT1BQH in Portugal, Carlos was another 1st time SKCC DX contact and a solid 599 and I got a 559 return report...taking a break from the WES, I spun the dial towards the lower end of 20 and found W7A, K7GA, KE2VB/7 and N7QQ all working the AZ QSO Party and worked em all...Back to DX, I worked HK6MZL in Colombia and finished the hour and half of operating with a final WES contact with Bill N0UMP in Mo, Bill was a solid 599 and he gave me a 569 report...It was a fun and very surprising hour and a half of Sunday afternoon 5 watt QRP operating, I was glad I took the chance to get in a quick outing and enjoy not only the gorgeous WX but some great QRP conditions too! - Pictured is the view outside my "Shack's" window for this month's WES. 73, Jim K2MIJ



I had worked the early part of this WES as N3A/2, one of the NAQCC 15th anniversary special event stations (See N3A/2 Soapbox). Before the WES started, I had decided that although I could operate the remainder of the WES as KF6C, I probably would not. At 00:00Z when the N3A time was up I had been on 160 meters, the temptation to see what difference another 20 dB of TX power would make was too great. I only managed three stations on 160, a quick look at 80 would not hurt, I switched to 80 and ran 29 QSO, in an hour and a half, that was fun. Bedtime. As I had only ever operated WES events QRO, after the N3A/2 session I was convinced that QRP was much harder, but, switching to 500 watts in a short time definitely bought out the differences in the skills needed in each case. Hooked! I was up at 6:00 AM local time and back on the air. Running QRO was much easier on the bands with so many other events on. One just looked for a quiet space, listened for a while, called QRL? and CQ'd, no way to hold the frequency or even be heard beneath the QRM with QRP. With the QSB that existed on some bands I had some real problems with weak stations, Murphy seemed to be in great form, with one UT station that I really needed, the signal faded over the same part of the call every time and I lost the QSO. In the end I have concluded that QRP and QRO are different games, each with their own challenges and I will play both, but preferring to only operate QRP in QRP only events. Having seen some of the results I have to congratulate K3ESE for his outstanding QRP score and thank him or the 160 QSO. 73, Brian KF6C



As an NAQCC anniversary operator I thought it would be fun to operate the part of WES that overlapped the anniversary period. All that was needed for the N3A logs was RST and QTH so the WES log would work well. I have operated a few NAQCC sprints but never QRP in an HF contest with higher powers competing. With my limited skills I thought I would still be able to call CQ with some success, but this did not work too well. I did make some QSO's calling CQ but not many. I started looking for the biggest signals on the pan-adaptor working S&P. This worked well, then an enormous signal appeared, I was ready for this one, clicking on the signal, F6HKA! I almost fell off the chair, after listing for a while and a then giving it a few tries, I resorted to sending Bert a message on the sked page and made the QSO. Continuing I made 5 more EU contacts without using the sked page. Towards the end of the period I was on 80 meters, making good progress even with CQs, when time ran out. I have not operated much on 80 meters and always believed you needed high power for the band, 5 watts worked very well! My antenna for 80 meters is a dipole at 50 ft, it is however; sat on small mountain top clear, in all directions about 300 ft above the surrounding area, modeling this is a little difficult, but it seems to work very well. 73 Brian N3AQC

## October WES IX



Thanks to all I had a chance to work. Had Sophie went to sleep some place other than my lap I believe I could have worked more. 73, Bob W8BTD



Very limited time both days. Spent an enjoyable hour or so spread out over the weekend. K3 @ 100 watts to 160 meter horizontal loop at 50'. Used my Begali HST II side-swiper for all contacts. Condx seemed to be a tad better this time. 73, Dave W3NP



I have been inactive with SKCC for almost 2 years. When I saw there was going to be a WES this weekend, I decided I should get on the air and make a few contacts. It was great to hear some familiar calls and have some substantial QSOs (rather than the usual "599 TU" kind). I've always enjoyed the SKCC - there is usually someone around to rag chew with! I greatly enjoyed the WES and made a little progress toward my 'S'. My antenna was just a 20/40 inverted V fan dipole that I put up on a 30' fiberglass pole in my back yard. Worked well enough for a quick deployment, although I wish I had 80 meters. I made a few contacts on the old Ten-Tec Century 21, but with a couple of QSO parties going on I retreated to my FT-857D so I could make use of the CW filter! 73, Josh WU7H



Well, the bands were in good shape for a change but only got to operate Saturday afternoon and evening due to other commitments. Had contacts on 20, 40 and 80 meters using my KX3 into the 160 meter doublet for 40 and 80 and the Hex Beam for 20 meters. My noise level on 80 meters was S-7 but everyone I worked was at least a S-9. It was a lot of fun as usual and am looking forward to next month and hope I can work all day Saturday. Thanks to all who were able to copy me and to the event organizers. Best 72/73 from Wild and Wonderful West Virginia. 73, Dave WV8DH

## Sad News!

### Attention Elecraft Newsletter Readers!



Elecraft has a limited number of K3S transceivers in stock...when the last one is sold, the K3S will be discontinued. Like any of our discontinued products, Elecraft will continue to provide support to K3S owners.

## NEAR-Fest October 2019

Well, another warm weather radio season has come and gone in New Hampshire. Seems like just yesterday when the trees were showing spring leaves and left-over snow was melting rapidly, but we're already back into the colorful fall when the temps are cool and growing colder.

For hams in New England and Eastern Canada, the New England Amateur Radio – Fest (NEAR-Fest) events in May and October bracket the outdoor season and are well attended. In general, you can find just about anything that has *anything* to do with amateur radio and a ton of other stuff!

The N1FG QTH is only 4 miles from the NEAR-Fest, which allows me to easily drop by to say hi to old friends and wander the event. This session I was lucky to catch SKCC members Barry, NF1O, his XYL Mary, NE1F and Dave KB1WOD as they wandered the event looking for that special piece of gear or hard-to-find component.



*Hamming in the Fall*



*Lots of exhibitors with everything that you (think) you need!*



*Mary, NE1F, 13408 and her husband Barry, NF1O, 164T!*



*Dave, KB1WOD 10530S and Larry, N1FG, 16270S*

**73, Larry N1FG  
Join next spring for “NEAR Fest”**



## Food For Thought

*Not sure if there are any SKCC members that are designers, but maybe add this concept to the RagChew Newsletter will spark a SKCC transceiver that could be used for the same concept.*

*73, Jeff K9JP*

Someone recently told me that he'd benefitted throughout his life from learning Morse code as a teen. Ham radio helped him cope. He's gone on to promote Morse because it can help kids with certain cognitive or social issues. Such problems are exacerbated by social media, these days. We all know of teens who've ended up ostracized or worse.

He was wondering what the ham community may be able to do for them. I proposed a simple (\$5-\$10), unlicensed CW transceiver (kit or assembled or both) that would put out maybe 1 milliwatt. It would serve as a code-practice oscillator for solo use. But with a short wire hanging from the PCB, kids could work "DX" -- like across a room, or better yet, outdoors. This got his attention. I went on to describe a scenario that he found very plausible, based on his experience with Morse advocacy: You hand kids the little modules (just a PCB with a built-in 4x AAA battery pack, code key, antenna wire, and cheap earbuds), and ask them to try sending/receiving a few letters. The complete code would be silkscreened onto the PCB. After they try this, you say, "Now see how far apart you can get and still copy you friend's signal." This is where the magic happens, at least for those of us who have been leveraging action-at-a-distance ourselves for many years :) It takes things a step beyond ordinary code practice. Connects kids to other kids. At best it could serve as a bridge to a world outside themselves. I'm picturing the little rig as SA602 based, with one crystal for TX and one for RX, running so little power that licensing is a non-issue. Frequency? TBD. Something available in cheap fundamental crystals from Digikey. Each one would have its crystals offset slightly from the others, so the effect of having a number of them in one room might be a bit like being on a crowded CW band. Picking out the pitch of a signal of interest and copying it is a skill many of us have learned. I'm sure kids who are motivated would be able to do it as well.

It should not have debilitating clicks or thumps when keyed. The only control should be for volume. It should be full break-in, which at this power level is easily obtained.

This is a project I would gladly take on myself if not for my greater-than-full-time commitments to Elecraft products. I'm hoping there's a tinkerer out there with more free time who could start from a minimal description and design the little rig. The gentleman I spoke to has been frustrated over the years in trying to get his message out, and in trying to find ways to take Morse code to a wider range of kids. He felt that this idea had a lot of merit.

If you're interested in this project, or know of something that matches this description that's already available, please contact me directly.

73,

Wayne N6KR Wayne Burdick <[n6kr@elecraft.com](mailto:n6kr@elecraft.com)>



## New Key

My new Kent Key... Bill WB4DBO

## A Day of Operating Along the Shore

Gorgeous day out on the east end of L.I. NY this Sunday, I got a chance to get out and enjoy it for a little over an hour this afternoon. I grabbed the KX2 a SLAB and a 20 meter Hamstick and headed for the Smith Point Beach parking lot...I guess a few more people decided to



get in a day at the beach on what felt like a nice Indian Summer day as the parking lot was unusually "crowded" for this time of year! I decided to park on the Bay side by the fishing pier, it was a nice view and the water was as calm as the temps! I wasn't expecting much as band condx go but was soon pleasantly surprised...This was the SKCC Weekend Sprint for this month so I hoped to maybe catch a few for the log and make it a non "skunked" outing...I ran the KX2 at 5 watts for this sprint, 1st station I heard calling was F6EJN I called Bob as he finished his working QSO and he came back on the first call, he was a solid 599 and gave me a 559. I was

satisfied and would have called it a day right then and there except I heard my good friend Bert F6HKA calling two kc's above Bob...Bert also was his usual 599 and he too gave me a 559 re-

port. Next up was Roger VE3RDE who was much weaker than the EU guys and I was also back to him, he was 569/579 and he gave me a 339 a few moments later I worked EA1AOQ Chus in Spain, 1st time SKCC DX contact with him for me, Chus was 599 and he gave me a 439 in return...To keep this from being an all DX day I next worked Frank W1ZAH just over the sound in CT, He was pounding in 599+ and he gave me a 579 report, nice to work CT on 20 meters! Thinking that might break the spell of DX only contacts was shot when the next station heard and worked was Carlos CT1BQH in Portugal, Carlos was another 1st time SKCC DX contact and a solid 599 and I got a 559



return report...I spun the dial towards the lower end of 20 and found W7A, K7GA, KE2VB/7 and N7QQ all working the AZ QSO Party and worked em all...Back to DX, I worked HK6MZL in Colombia and finished the hour and half of operating with Bill N0UMP in Mo, Bill was a solid 599 and he gave me a 569 report...Was a fun and very surprising hour and a half of Sunday afternoon 5 watt QRP operating, I was glad I took the chance to get in a quick outing and enjoy not only the gorgeous WX but some great QRP conditions too! - Feeling a bit guilty that I



played radio instead of getting in my diet/exercise walk today I decided it was so nice out I would throw the KX2 in my shoulder sling and get a quick two mile walk in before going home, as I walked through the parking lot I met up with a few of the other "parking lot walkers" the others kept their distance but this one pictured decided he would come up and see if I had something besides the KX2 in the backpack!

73, Jim K2MIJ

# October SKS



Oh boy, the bands were so bad and the QRM so high at my location that I went to get the FT-817 from the hiking backpack to check if the shack main radio (FT-450) was broken, hi. It wasn't, conditions were really bad. Two stations managed to dig my signal out of the noise, yay! One in 40m and the other on 80m. Well, it could be worse. Still had a lot of fun and I learned to use more options from the radio. Thank you everyone, see you on the next event! 73, AC2RJ, Ruben.



Parked on 40 most of the night but did pull in a few Qs on 80. Started out slow and never really caught on fire. But several were participating and lots of fun. Thanks to all that worked me during the SKS. 73, Joe W4JF



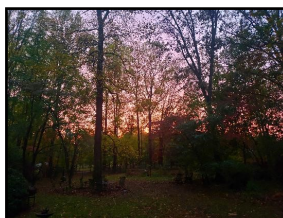
I planned to work the first hour of the sprint on 40 with my QCX40 that I found at a recent hamfest for \$40. I got Bob AC1GF in NH and then the QRN came way up. Took a long break and returned on 80 meters with my OHR 100A and the Vibroplex bug I got at the same hamfest for \$60. 80 was much better. Fittingly as the sprint ended I worked AC1GF again, this time on 80 meters. A fun sprint. 73, Peter AK3X  
P.S. The pic is my latest hamfest find bug. It is probably upside down. No matter what I do they are always inverted.



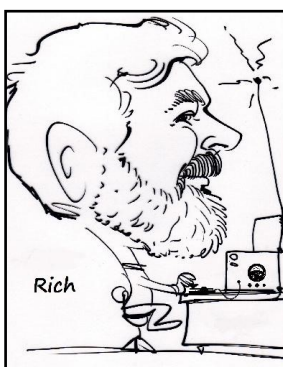
Started on 40m=slow but picked up, then slow again. Went to 20m=nothing. Then on 80m=was so many calling at times, it was mini pileups. Really enjoyed this SKS. 73, Al W9TE



Just a dozen for me. 7 on 40m with my TS-590SG and 5 on 80m with my IC-7200. 75w from both into a Butternut vertical. Heard nothing on 20m. Fun event as always. 73, Curt WA2JSG



Conditions were not great, but I had a good time, and stayed out of trouble. K2@5W, EDZ or dipole, W1SFR TBFB cootie. There was a lovely sunset tonight! 73, Lloyd K3ESE



WOW! Bands were not kind tonight here. On 20 meters I heard ONLY K6ELQ, Tony always has a great signal and a great fist! 40 meters not much better. Slim pickings tonight, but fun as always! November will be better! 73, Rich W4RQ



40 & 80 both in great shape up here on Lake Erie tonight. Was great to work Tony K6ELQ on 40 as well as John N0TA on both 40 & 80. I took the picture of the scare crow display at Brookgreen Gardens near Pawleys Island, SC a couple of years ago so I did enjoy working Joe W4JF in Pawleys Island on 80 tonight. Thanks to all for a fun evening..73 Larry K8TEZ



First sprint! Haven't mastered the new W1SFR TBSP as a cootie yet...so used it as a SK in the sprint. Heard but did not work Tony K6ELQ in CA on 40M, very strong this way into MD. 40M seemed a bit strange, stayed on 80M mostly. Enjoyed the event. 73, Steve W6WU



Just a dozen for me. 7 on 40m with my TS-590SG and 5 on 80m with my IC-7200. 75w from both into a Butternut vertical. Heard nothing on 20m. Fun event as always. 73, Curt WA2JSG

## 70 Years a Ham

By Urb LeJeune, W1UL  
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It was 7:00 AM on November 25, 1949, the day after Thanksgiving, and I had been planning my trip to the FCC field office in lower Manhattan for many months. My ever-vigilant mother was using her best efforts to convince me not to go that day because it was drizzling, and snow was forecast for the afternoon. When she saw how important the trip was for me, she relented. What helped convinced her was the school was closed and the FCC was open.

I had been studying for the test for a few years, with a year or so taken off when the hormones kicked in and girls seemed more important than ham radio, thank goodness that phase passed quickly.

My Elmer, Jim McGinty, SK W2YYJ, would not let me take the test until I could copy Morse code at 18 words per minute (WPM) on W1AW. I disliked him at the time, but I will be forever grateful because not only did I copy the 13 WPM license test solid, but I was comfortable enough with my code to get on the air, with a home-brew rig on 40 meters. To this day over 80% of my High-Frequency (HF) QSOs are on CW. Three of my buddies took their FCC test when they could copy Morse at 13 WPM on W1AW, all three failed the code test, 2 of them never got a license.

If there were vanity calls back in those days, I would probably be W2YYJ today. At one point I had been given a copy of an ARRL handbook, I had read it cover-to-cover, including ads. My CW test was not a problem, thanks to W2YYJ, and reading the handbook, plus an ARRL license manual put me in a state of mind where I was totally convinced, I would pass the test, I also passed the 2<sup>nd</sup> class Radio-Telephone license. In due course W2DEC arrived in the mail.

Back in 1949 there were only three classes of license, Class A, B, and C. Class C was a conditional license. If you lived too far from an FCC field office, you could arrange to have the test proctored, if you passed you received a Class C license. The entry level license was a class B which roughly equates to today's General, however you could not operate phone below 10 meters. You must be a class B for a year before you could take the class A test, then you could operate phone on 75 and 20 meters, there was no phone on 40 meters.

An interesting side bar was that most hams did not know that W calls were being re-issued in the second call area. It was not unusual when people would say, "hi old timer" when I worked them on the air.

At the end of my licensing year I went back to NY and took my Class A license. I was so excited that I went to Harrison Radio and purchase a microphone even though I didn't have a rig with a modulator.

The day after I received my driver's license, I enlisted in the Army Signal Corps reserves, not out of any sense of patriotism but you could occasionally get free radio gear. When it came time to go into active duty service, during the Korean war, every person in my basic training battalion went to advance basic training, I went to 6 months of school at Fort Monmouth, NJ which was only about 40 miles from my home.

Ham radio has really been good to me, it might well have saved my life by keeping me out of combat during the Korean War and into best radio and electronic school the army had to offer.



Significant changes over the past 70 years.

1. VE Sessions eliminating the need to travel to an FCC field office for a license or upgrade
2. Code requirement eliminated for FCC issued ham radio licenses
3. Transition from AM phone to SSB
4. Vanity calls
5. Satellite and moon bounce
6. Operating a rig remotely
7. Digital free software from Joe Taylor, K2JT, making QSOs with stations that are 20 DB below the noise level possible,
8. Joe Taylor's FT8 produced more on-air QSOs than all other modes combined
9. Discountenance of Novice and Advanced class license although present holders can renew them forever.
10. The demise of Heath Kit signaling the shift of hams being technology based to appliance operators. Hams rarely build anything anymore.
11. One of the best sunspot cycles and one of the worse.
12. DXCC listing in QST transitioned from a half page monthly containing the mixed and phone honor rolls, new member and endorsements to an annual yearbook.
13. FCC does almost no rule enforcement.
14. You can no longer ascertain the location of person with an FCC issued call. When WIUL (my initials) became available I jumped on it with no problem with the FCC despite the fact I have live in New Jersey my entire life, except for military, and even them took basic training signal corps school at Fort Dix and Fort Monmouth respectively.

I'll leave it to the reader to decide if these things are god or bad for ham radio.

When not writing articles for newsletters or working DX or FT8, Urb is usually enhancing his Ham license preparation website, ham-cram.com. His system has 4 distinguishing characteristics:

We only study correct answers.

We only study the pool questions most likely to be on the test.

The goal is to work smarter, not harder.

It's free.

73 Urb WIUL, [Urb@ham-cram.com](mailto:Urb@ham-cram.com) 609-937-5487

I'd love to hear from you.

## **KS\_KCC Calls Update**

As of this publishing the KS\_KCC calls include the following:

**KS1KCC**

**KS2KCC**

**KS3KCC**

**KS4KCC**

**KS8KCC**

**KS9KCC**

**We need only a few more clubs to help fill out 0-9 KS\_KCC calls. When complete the basic call areas there will be an award for working all KS\_KCC call areas.**

## Meet ON4LDL

Translation by Reiner Dieg N2PEZ #20196

Biographie de ON4LDL

Biography of ON4LDL



Je suis né en 1951 et j'ai toujours été passionné par l'électronique , les antennes et tout ce qui touche au monde des Communications et des télécommunications Pour ma part , l'aventure radioamateur à commencé en 1972 , cette année la j'ai rencontré Mr Michel Lombard lors d'une visite dans la société ou il travaillait celui-ci ma expliqué brièvement ce qu'était la passion de radio ( radioamateur ) un peu plus tard je me suis rendu a son domicile et la j'ai obtenu toutes les informations que je désirais obtenir .

Bien entendu cette activité m'intéressait très fort , c'est à ce moment-là que j'ai pris la décision qu'un jour je serai radioamateur .

Après avoir économisé je fis l'acquisition de mon premier récepteur de trafic ( Hermes-Radio ) qui était un récepteur à tubes , ensuite j'ai fait l'acquisition d'un Icom ICR71E Je fis donc plusieurs années d'écoute , écoute des bandes amateurs et commerciales.

Pour ce faire je me suis équipé de récepteurs tel : R2000 – R5000 – ICR71E  
Tous ces récepteurs sont d'excellentes qualités et fonctionnent admirablement bien, j'ai pu écouter tous les pays du monde entier que ce soit dans les bandes amateur ou commerciales quelle satisfaction.

I was born in 1951, and I've always been passionate about electronics, antennas and everything having to do with communications and telecommunications. My ham radio adventure began in 1972, the year I met Mr. Michel Lombard at the company where he was then working, where he briefly explained his passion for ham radio. A little while later, I went to his home, where I got all my questions answers.

As you can imagine, I found all of this activity very exciting, and right then and there I decided that I wanted to become an amateur radio operator.

After saving for a while, I was able to obtain my first amateur receiver (Hermes Radio), a tube receiver, and later I was able to acquire an Icom ICR71E. Then I spent several years listening to both the amateur bands and commercial broadcast stations.

I used several receivers for listening, such as the R2000, R5000, and ICR71E.  
All of these receivers are of excellent quality and they work really well. I was able to hear all the countries of the world, whether on the amateur or the broadcast bands. It was great!



C'est en 1983 que je me suis affilié en qualité de SWL officiel à l'union belge des radioamateur ( UBA ). Par manque de temps, pour raison professionnelle, je n'ai pas pu préparer mes examens pour obtenir ma licence radioamateur ,ce n'est qu'en 1993 que j'ai pu disposer d'un peu plus de temps , temps destiné à la préparation de la licence.

Après cette période préparatoire, je me suis décidé à passer les examens a L'IBPT en 1995. 1er licence ON2 (Aspirant Radiotéléphoniste privé )

C'est le 9 Juin 1995, que j'ai obtenu le certificat Aspirant Radiotéléphoniste privé , ensuite cela va se succéder.

Le 18 octobre 1995, je réussis l'examen de radiotéléphoniste privé ( ON1 ) après cela je prends un peu de temps pour préparer la classe C qui était l'examen de Télégraphie .

22 Octobre 1997

A cette date, je participe à l'examen de Télégraphie. Après réussite de cette examen de Télégraphie, j'obtiens le Call ON4LDL.

Je ne vous dit pas après l'acquisition de mon 1er TRX qui était une ligne Kenwood TS830s complète j'ai été très actif en SSB et les qso n'on fait que s'accumuler de plus en plus .



In 1983 I became affiliated with the Belgian Amateur Radio Union (UBA) as an official SWL. Because of a lack of time, given my job, I was unable to study for my amateur radio license right away; it wasn't until 1993 that I had enough free time to begin studying for the license.

When I had finished studying, I decided to take the exams at the Belgian PTT in 1995. My first license was the ON2 (private radiotelephone candidate). It was on June 9, 1995 that I got my private radiotelephone candidate certification; then I just kept on going. On October 18, 1995, I passed the ON1 exam (private radiotelephone operator), and after that I took a bit of time to study for Class C, the code exam.

October 22, 1997

This is the day that I took the code exam. After passing this, I received the call sign ON4LDL.

As you can probably imagine, after getting my first transceiver, a complete Kenwood TS830s system, I became very active on SSB, and the number of QSOs went up and up.



### Historique

#### Activités CW

Parallèlement à toutes ses activités , Marc ON4LEX et moi même ON4LDL nous nous étions fixé un skeed en CW QRG de 3520 Khz dire de se retrouver en CW , c'est un peu comme cela que le CFT à pris naissance .

Naissance du CFT ( Club Francophone des Télégraphistes )

Après une période de réflexion , je me suis remis au travail et j'ai créer et mis sur pied leClub Francophone Télégraphiste celui-ci vit le jour officiellement le 13 Décembre 2002 avec l'obtention du Call ON5CFT.

J'ai réaliser un premier site internet , avec comme 1er adresse <http://www.cwcf.be.tf> , c'était un début et comme je voulais arrivé à quelque chose de parfait ce qui n'était pas le cas pour le 1er site ,je me suis mis à la réalisation d'un second site plus élaboré et plus proche des amateurs de CW .

Avec une nouvelle adresse URL : <http://www.on5cft.be> je vous invite à le visiter , actuellement cette URL internet est connue dans le monde entier

Etant donné que j'ai deux Licences Radio Amateur : ON4LDL qui est mon indicatif personnel ou je suis en SSB de temps en temps pour différents skeeds ON5CFT est le call du Club Francophone des Télégraphistes qui est connu dans le monde entier et nous avons actuellement plus de 200 Membres qui font partie du Club Francophone des Télégraphistes .

### History

#### CW Activity

While all this was going on, Marc, ON4LEX and I, ON4LDL set up a QRG CW schedule on 3520 kHz. It was at about this time that the CFT was born.

Birth of the CFT (Francophone Telegraphy Club)

After giving it some thought, I got back to work and organized the CFT (Francophone Telegraphy Club). This saw the light of day on December 13, 2002 and was awarded the call sign ON5CFT.

I built a first website, with the URL <http://www.cwcf.be.tf>. This was a start, but I wanted something perfect, which wasn't the case for this first site. So I set to work on a more elaborate second site, more in tune with the needs of CW operators and with a new URL:

<http://www.on5cft.be>. Please pay a visit to that site. The address has now become well-known all over the world.

Given that I have two amateur radio licenses, I use ON4LDL as my personal call, where I spend most of my time on various SSB skeds. ON5CFT is the call of the Francophone Telegraphy Club, known throughout the world, and with more than 200 members.



La station est composée de différents  
Transceiver  
Tentec Orion II qui est le top du top en CW  
Yaesu FT 2000 D excellent également  
Un Icom IC775DSP que j'ai récupéré et remis  
en parfait état de fonctionnement  
Un Icom IC737 que j'utilise en portable lors  
d'activités diverses du CFT  
Boite d'accord Palstar que j'utilise sur les  
bandes Basses  
Concernant les antennes je dispose de plu-  
sieurs type d'antenne pour le trafic CW  
Les voici

Antenne levy de 2 x 20 Metres  
Antenne Vertical home made de 12m 50 + 10  
radiant au sol que j'utilise pour le DX ( angle  
très bas  
sur l'horizon 4 °) idéal pour longue distance  
Antenne GAP-Titan pour DX  
Beam MA5B de chez Cushcraft ideal pour  
DXà la CW



En 2005 j'ai repris la présidence du Radio  
club de Thuin ON6TN jusque septembre 2013  
ou j'ai céder ma place à ON4YI pour raison de  
santé  
De 2008 à septembre 2013 j'ai assurer la ré-  
daction et la diffusion des émissions de  
ON4UB tous les Dimanche matin de 10 h 30 à  
11 h 30 actuellement j'ai laisser ma place à un  
nouveau staff pour raison de santé  
Mes amitiés à tous  
73 de ON4LDL /ECM /CFT  
ON5CFT – Member UFT -1206 – Member  
CWJF – 690 – Member Essex CW – 112 –  
ON5CFT – Member SKCC – 5865 –  
ON4LDL – Member- SKCC-19858 – Membre

The station consists of several transceivers:  
a Tentec Orion II which is the ultimate CW rig  
an equally superb Yaesu FT 2000 D  
an Icom IC775DSP that I rebuilt and that is  
now in great shape  
an Icom IC737 that I use as a portable for vari-  
ous CFT events  
a Palstar tuner that I use on the low bands  
As antennas go, I have several that I use for  
CW. Here they are:  
A Levy antenna for 2 x 20 meters  
A homemade ground-radiating vertical anten-  
na for 12, 10 and 6 meters that I use for DX (a  
very low 4-degree takeoff angle ideal for long  
distance  
GAP-Titan antenna for DX  
A Cushcraft MA5B beam, ideal for CW



In 2005, I again was elected president of the  
Thuin Radio Club, call ON6TN, and served  
until September 2013, when I was forced to  
resign for health reasons.  
From 2008 to September 2013, I was responsi-  
ble for writing and transmitting the bulletins of  
ON4UB, now held every Sunday morning  
from 10:30 to 11:30. I ceded this position o  
another staff member for health reasons.  
Best regards to all!  
73 de ON4LDL /ECM /CFT  
ON5CFT – Member UFT -1206 – Member  
CWJF – 690 – Member Essex CW – 112 –  
ON5CFT – Member SKCC – 5865 – ON4LDL  
– Member- SKCC-19858 – Membre EUCW  
TNX my friends, 73 Bob

## A Hamfest is a Hamfest, is a Hamfest!

Here are some pretty cool pictures from a hamfest, can you guess where it is?



Gotta have lots of parking!



I'm looking for correct value capacitors



Good turnout, lots of good "junk!"



Nice paddles/cooties



Ah, now we're talking...straight keys!



Sweet, clean gear for sale.

Thanks to Bob, ON4LDL for these pictures from the "hamfest la louviere Belgium."

# October Brag Results



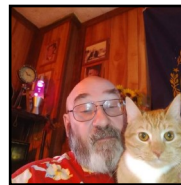
Good month for me. Picked up a new to me bug, the matching power supply for the Argonaut V (now I can crank it up to 20 watts, and a QCX 40 (fun rig). Used them all in the brags. If the picture is inverted I give up! 73, Peter AK3X



A few more contacts this month, as the days get shorter and colder bring on the SKCC activity. 73, Dan K0FD



October was a fun month on the SKCC Frequencies. Tks to all of the stations I had the pleasure to work. 73, Steve K2FW



Still a lot of fun. 73, Tom KB3CVO



Had a lot of fun in October! Worked a bunch of members and got to T! 73 and CUA in November! 73, Kris



Conditions were very spotty in October very happy to get 74 brags. I did find 17m open on occasion. I hope November isn't another Turkey :-)) 73 de AL N4ow 11375s



A very poor month and I am not sure if it was the poor conditions or just no one around? I only managed to achieve 3 more Cootie QSOs towards my Triple Key Award, bringing my total to the half way mark of 50. After almost a year of trying it is still a long way to go to work another 50 unique stations on my Cootie to finally complete the award. Thanks to all who worked me and I hope conditions are better for November. 73 de Steve VK7CW



Best month ever! Thanks to everyone who worked me. Between thunderstorms and solar storms the bands could be weird. My apologies to the QRP ops that I couldn't work. I had S9 noise much of the month. 73, Les WB5JWI



Decent month for me but not as well as I had hoped. Hoping more for November. Thanks to all that gave me a Brag contact. 73, Curt WA2JSG



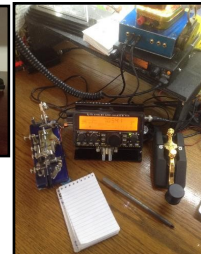
This was a multi-multi operation, thanks to all who worked us. 73, Dit KS8KCC



A fun first month! And if the group ever institutes a "Best QSL Package", can I nominate Vito, WA2PJF? If you've gotten one, you know why! A QSL, a few postcards from his area and many pages of photos and information. In 53 years as a ham I've never gotten anything like it! 73, Steve KC5F



Thanks for the QSOs out there...as always, great to see some "new blood" pounding brass. Was able to take a break from the cootie and bug and put some straight key time in. CU next month! 73, jack, KK0I - #2370S



My wife had surgery this month so my radio time was shorted. Maybe next month. 73, Paul N0NBD



A good month, I was able to have QSOs with Steve VK7CW, Avi 4X1WQ, Walt LW3EX and bonus brag Les WB5JWI. Not bad DX for Sun spot minimum. Picture is of me in my new shack. See you next month! Thanks for all the QSOs!! 73, Dave KB1WOD



Not contacting Les for the bonus was not due to a lack of trying. He and I tried 4 times. (TU Les). My month at work was very hectic so I did not get a lot of Radio time this month. My excitement this month was a QSO with Steve W1SFR, maker of my wonderful TBFB Cootie key. 73, Ken N9KJU

## October Brag II



The bands were hit and miss, I usually missed but I did score AK and SD QSO's this month, now just need 5 more for the WAS. Running an IC-7300 at 100W to my "Flag-tenna", a Hustler 6BTV with 500' of ground radials painstakingly stapled into my front lawn, and using a W1SFR "Fat Boy" cootie that is really a nice key. 73, Frank W1ZAH



Trying to be more active outside of events. I DO LIKE TO CHAT a bit. I usually send my full QTH ie: City and State, kind of an invite for more than a basic exchange. It seems to work pretty well, so far. 73, Rich W4RQ



Thanks for the q's and the bonus brag station. I had fun and so did Chewy the Chihuahua. 73, Donna WB9TFF



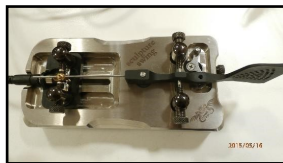
## October SSS



Operated here and there. Managed a handful of QSOs on 80m and 20m, rest on 40m. Conditions not bad. Photo shows my golden retriever. In his head he's thinking: "Get off that darn radio and take me for a walk!" 73, Bob AC1GF



Only had a short time to operate...too many leaves! 73 Ted K8AQM



Only time for it after dinner Friday, but very much enjoyed my chat with Jack-VE6CCM in Calgary, Alberta and meeting David-ND1J in Senoia, GA for the first time. On my favorite Cootie key, but of course.



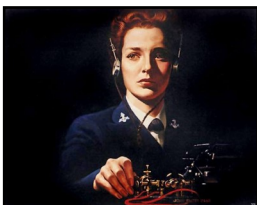
Very nice event. Had some nice little rag-chews. Many fellow Fort Wayne area hams represented. Took a break from the K3 and used the TS-590S and the Brown Bros. straight key. 73, Ken N8KR



Had a great time with this month's CQS. Very relaxing pace and a joy to operate. 73, Al W9TE



Got my old IC-7000 out of storage and ran 50 watts from it to make my 6 QSOs. Kent SK and Vertical. 73, Curt WA2JSG



## Making the Most of Available Space

*Rich K8UV 2250t, lives in a modular home park with his wife. Space is very limited both inside and outside however, Rich has used space wisely and has a very creditable station and antenna system. Here is Rich's story and may provide ideas for others living in a similar situation.*



Here is a photo of my shack in our mobile home small walk-in closet. The TS-830-S is on the upper left shelf, next to it is the Drake R-4 teamed up with the "rock bound" Globe Chief Deluxe (pair 807's) above the Globe is the Ten Tec 2 kw roller inductor "L" match tuner. Middle shelf shows the Drake TR-7 and RV-7 remote VFO. To the left of the TR-7 is an Alfa Delta Path Finder auto tuner (works great).

The bench shows the Kenwood TW-4000A dual band VHF and the three keys are left to right a Lionel WWII J-38 Middle key is a 1918 Navy International radio and telegraph 1 kw Spark hand key. The bug is a Vibroplex J-36 which has a brass Vibroplex badge stating "May 23, 1943 Army Signal Corp." This bug was given to me by Roger WA2HNQ, who used it during the war in Europe.

The attachment of RG-8X to rain gutter antenna is shown here. A common inexpensive dipole center connector. With SO-230 center conductor goes to the aluminum down-spout. I sanded off the paint and used a self-tapping sheet metal screw which I covered with silicone. The braid side of coax goes to a ground rod and if needed, 33 feet of wire radial can be attached to braid side as a counter poise. I used silver coated copper braid for this attachment. Make sure the downspout does not touch the earth and the down spout is well attached to (as in this case 55 feet) othe aluminum rain gutter. Does it work? I just got the 5K9K DXpedition on 30 and 40 (CW of course) on this set-up with the TR-7 barefoot.



This photo of how the antenna wires enter the shack. The rain gutter antenna, the Comet VHF/UHF antenna (RG-213, the Hamstick antenna, the Force 12 clone (covering 10, 12, 15, 17, 20 meters) 9 foot vertical and "on the roof" the driven element off of a tri-band Mosley Jr. Also shown is the copper braid from the ground rod used to ground the station.

*There are many ways to have a good antenna and a post to the SKCC reflector will get you many good ideas for a well-working stealth antenna. Stories posted here with photos will help others to have a good antenna system whether QRO or QRP because if you can't hear them, you can't work them! Thanks Rich for the ideas!*

## Where Have All the Sunspots Gone...

By Dan K0FD

Dan K0FD got creative and sent this little song along. Although familiar music as "*Where have all the Flowers Gone*," Dan neglected to send along an mp3 with his recorded version. Perhaps some of you might give the tune a try? *Thanks Dan!*

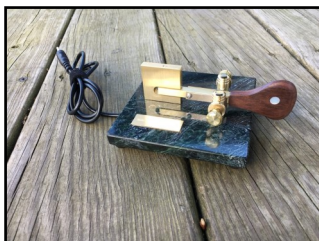
Where have all the sunspots gone?  
Long time passing  
Where have all the sunspots gone?  
Long time ago  
Where have all the sunspots gone?  
DXer's have used them every one  
When will they ever learn?  
When will they ever learn?  
Where have all the DXer's gone?  
Long time passing  
Where have all the DXer's gone?  
Long time ago

Where have all the DXer's gone?  
Gone to FT8 every one  
When will they ever learn?  
When will they ever learn?  
Where has all the FT8 gone?  
Long time passing  
Where has all the FT8 gone?  
Long time ago  
Where has all the FT8 gone?  
Gone to sunspots every one  
When will they ever learn?  
When will they ever learn?

## A New Cootie Idea Comes to Life

By Steve W1SFR 9103s

I have lived in Vermont for close to 40 years now and have always had a thing for the wonderful green marble that is quarried near my home. It's a deep green marble called "Verde" and it's fantastic. I've been wanting to develop a key using this marble as a base and I finally got around to it. I saw a coaster at a local gift shop and thought it would make a perfect base. It's actually quite a bit lighter than my TBCP key but it's 4" x 4" so it has a low center of gravity and really stays put on the desk. I used it for the first time last night and love it. Rather than making it a cootie/paddle, I wired it as a cootie only. It also features a single finger piece made of Bolivian Rosewood with a hand rubbed oil finish.



*No word yet whether Steve will offer this as an option to his TBCP line of keys. If you like this look might be a good idea to check his web site for more information.....<http://w1sfr.com>*

## A Visit to KP4 By Andy K200

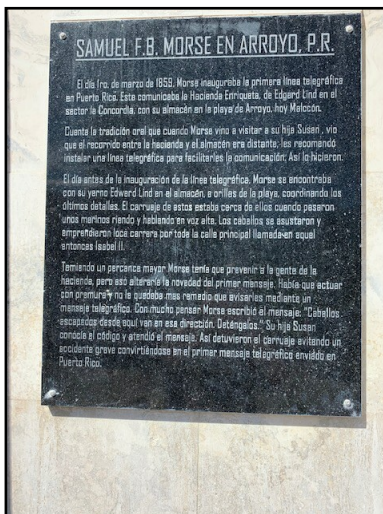
I just got back from a week-long trip to Puerto Rico. A couple of the places I visited might be of interest to Club members.



The first place of interest is the Arcibo Observatory, home of the world's second largest radio telescope. While taking the tour, I happened to notice the Observatory's ham radio club station, KP4AO. I had a nice chat with a couple of the operators there. Here is my wife, Helen and myself at the station. I wasn't able to operate it as the telescope was actively involved in a scientific project.

A couple of days later, we drove to the southern part of the island. In the town of Arroyo, we encountered a monument dedicated to Samuel F.B. Morse. It commemorates the first

telegraph message ever sent in Puerto Rico on 1 March 1859. Here are a few pictures of the monument.



Interestingly enough, the first message sent by Morse wasn't planned. Morse sent it to his daughter, Susan who was at the receiving station on the coast. It says "Horses escaped from here going in your direction. Stop them." Susan knew the code and gave the message to the ranchers who were able to stop the horses, avoiding a serious accident.

73,  
Andy, K200 SKCC 10315s

## November 2019 KE8CEW FT8 Event



Main tower, shack is on the left of the garage.

It was a typical fall day when friends gathered together to misuse and abuse Greg's call KE8CEW, operating FT8 and FT4 for no other reason than to get together laugh, eat and make a few QSOs.



Jeremy KD8VSQ got the computers all set to go, Greg brought some excellent Venison Sloppy Jo and other food and drink was available for the ops.

We kicked off the event at 9 am and planned to operate until 3 pm thus giving us six hours to see how many QSOs we could make and how many countries and grids we could gather. We had stations on 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 meters.



View of the 20m, 17m and 40m stations before the confusion...the calm before the storm!



Greg KE8CEW and Max W8KBW working hard racking up those 20m FT8 QSOs! Note the "intense" effort!



Jeremy KD8VSQ on 17m and Steve NQ8T on 40m. Both ops glaring intently at the screens as the computers churn away making QSOs.



Stan W8ATE working hard applying the "Stanley Curse" to the 30m station (equipment failed...damn "Stanley Curse!")



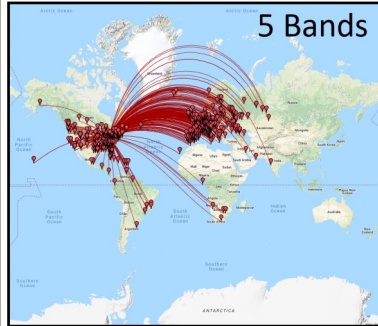
Max guarding the food and trying to decide what to eat first!



Dennis KT8X(left), Wes AC8JF working 15m and Brian KG8CO . Dennis and especially Brian, came for food and emotional support (and insults).



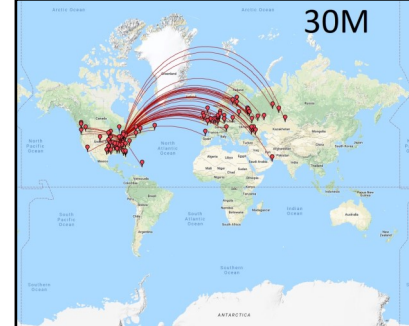
So how did we do...just great!



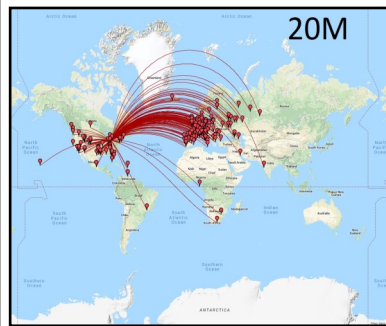
599 QSOs, 320 grids and 63 counties



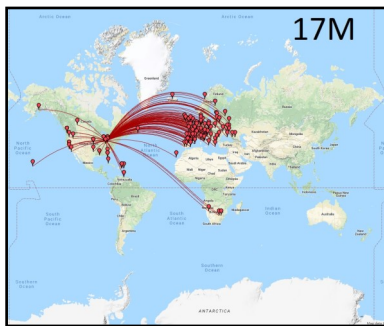
40M, 3 Countries, 74 Grid squares



30M, 20 Countries, 79 Grid Squares



20m, 39 Countries, 145 Grids



17m, 43 Countries, 103 Grids



15M, 15 Countries and 39 Grid Squares

Even 15m proved to provide good Qs! All in all, everyone had a good time and we were very pleased with the results.

Next up to have their call abused will be Stan W8ATE and that'll hopefully be in December. Hope you can join us.

73,  
Ted K8AQM

*So why is this article in the SKCC newsletter....it sure ain't CW! BUT it does have to do with amateur radio. Unlike CW where one radio communicates with another radio "through" the operators, FT8 communicates computer to computer with the operators just "eavesdropping" on the "communicating" computers. What can and does occur in our situation of digital operation is a many complicated study of propagation, technology understanding, equipment operation and station building. However, the BIG gain in this operation is working, talking and teaching face-to-face with each other and the building of strong social friendships. We are all SKCC members and these multi-multi operations make us all better amateurs.*

*Our FT8 operation can be likened to a "dessert" and our CW operation is our "meat and potatoes." A steady diet of "desserts" is not a good thing but once in awhile a "dessert" is a great compliment to a great meal!*

*Digital operation will never replace CW for us but it is fun once in awhile! Yum!*

## November SKS Euro

*Pretty quiet month, only 10 log submissions and one photo.*

### Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 07-Nov-2019

Overall | QRP | QRO | QRO+ | SWL | By SPC | Soapbox

#### Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	F5UQE	Duc	13468S	FRA	22	13	8/4/0	446
2	W5ZR	Bert	2931S	LA	20	13	4/3/1	355
3	K9LI	Don	19153T	IN	16	10	5/7/0	305
4	K3WW	Chas	14962S	PA	11	8	4/5/0	198
5	F6EJN	Bob	508S	FRA	10	6	4/1/0	130
6	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	9	4	5/1/0	121
7	GORDO	John	2133S	ENG	5	4	4/1/0	90
8	I22XAAO	Luca	19865	ITA	6	1	4/1/0	76
9	AA6AC	BOB	6276S	CA	3	2	2/1/0	46
10	G0DJF	Paul	20600	ENG	3	3	1/1/0	34



Bands 40 & 80 were quite noisy here but surprised to get 3 DX on 40m.

Thank you to K3WW, K2FW & K3TM on 40m, plus F5DE & F5UQE on 80m. TS-440s 100w 20ft vert. 73, John GORDO



## TG4/KT8X

Dennis, KT8X (#7556) will have been on the air from Guatemala as TG4/KT8X when you read this. Using a K2/100 and Buddipole Dennis promised to use the SKED Page and do some operating on SKCC frequencies in his spare time while traveling with his family. Hopefully the next issue of the Rag Chew will have pictures of Dennis' operating and travels.

The photo here is his test setup back in Ypsilanti, MI making sure all works well.

## VE3CSS



Just had to post pics of my radio room...ham shack... with over 100 countries on the wall. Note my bottle of Morse Code Shiraz! 73, Lynn VE3CSS

# November WES



Only had a couple of hours to work Wes on Sat. morning. My first contact was with Mark, wb9hfk. I keep thinking I got his number wrong but it was right. This was the first time I ever worked a member with a two digit number. I like operating the old tube rigs best and switch to a different one for each WES. This month it was my Drake TR-3, the first transmitter that Drake made in 1963. 73, Frank AA2XB



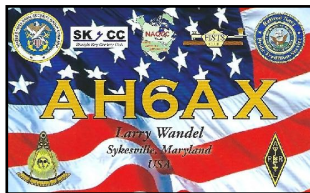
Could only participate a couple of hours on Sunday. 3 contacts on 80m and 1 on the old novice section of 40m. High noise but strong signals and great ears from the other end stations. Still a lot of fun! I could only spell WWW and WWF, none in the list, but may be useful for another time, hi hi. Thank you so much, everyone. See you on the next event. Happy Thanksgiving!! 73, AC2RJ Ruben.



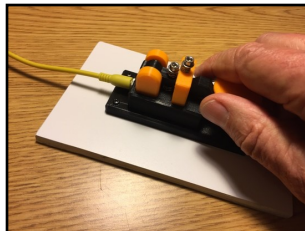
Limited time, but wanted to get some practice on my new Cootie as well as make a little progress on the 3 key award. I always enjoy WES. Thanks for the QSO's and apologies for the Cootie fist:-) 73, Mike AD5A



This was my longest effort (about 6 hours, Fri. and Sat.) in a Weekend Sprint. It allowed me to test my new portable set up, especially the 20Ah battery. Thanks to all for the QSOs, and especially to the 11 ops who copied my 80 signal - radiated by a ground mounted mobile antenna! 73, Gary AF8A



This was a fun one... lots of participants and many new members joined in the fun! Working SKCC folks is a blast! Thanks for another great WES! 73, Larry AH6AX



Conditions were much better than I had expected, in particular on 20m. So QRP was not too frustrating. I used a new 3D-printed straight key from CW Morse. Even though it is very small it worked surprisingly well. The picture shows it mounted on a larger plastic base. 73, Wolf AI6SL



Again a weekend with lots of fun! But was missing call signs with Y in it. So only 200 Bonus points. 73, Joerg DLYCS



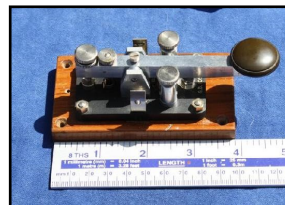
Many thanks everybody for another friendly WES : 6 QSO on 80m, 13 on 40 m and 15 on 20 m. 12 QSO with Eu stations, 22 with US stations. 8 bonuses words, only 1 "O" and 3 "E" missing to complete the whole menu ! Condx here : abt 80 watts CW, Hy-Gain DX88 GP antenna, Vibroplex Original and Lionel J36 bug keys + paper log, hi ! Happy Thanksgiving to all! 73 and see you next time just before Xmas! 73, Bernard F5DE



A really interesting WES with a lot of new SKCC numbers. 2 afternoons (1:00 pm to 6:00 pm GMT) with good spread to USA. A few qso in the late morning on Europe. Thank you very much for all these QSOs. 73, Bob F6EJN



Great fun. Mostly able to pick out only East Coast contacts with my 5W transmitter and Hallicrafters S-19R. 73, Paul K1TB



A total of 5 QSO's says it all really, but good fun had. Spent a lot of time searching for sigs, with quite a few that didn't hear me. TS-440s, 100 watts, 20ft ground mounted fishing pole vertical. 73, John G0R-DO

## November WES II



Condx pretty good and had fun as usual. Would have been more fun if I could have worked a call with just one more "Y" - hi hi. Looking forward to the next one. Vy 73 to all! Lee K1LEE



Had a lot of fun this WES. Lots of excellent SKCC Ops too. The highlight of this WES was having JR2IUB answering my CQ on 20mtrs. I couldn't believe it. 20mtrs was super this past weekend. 73 to all of the FB SKCC stations I had the pleasure of working! 73, Steve K2FW



Since my Sunday was booked, and I knew I wasn't going to be very competitive, I was pretty relaxed on Saturday, and had a very enjoyable time. Especially nice was four late QSOs on Top Band, Saturday night. K2 at 5W to a 20m EDZ up 50', or a n 80m dipole at 70'. Key is a W1SFR TBFB cootie. Ivy is our Pharaoh Hound pupper. 73, Lloyd K3ESE



I did not want to interfere with the RTTY contest, so I ran QRPP to stay out of their way :-). That actually ended up working better than I had expected. I used my small American Morse KK1B straight key this month. That is an amazing key - while it is quite small, it has the feel of a much larger key. 73, Jody K3JZD



Limited time, poor conditions and antenna severe restrictions may keep me out of first place (GRIN) but W.E.S. is always fun. Thanks for the contacts. 73, Don K3RLL



Played some Saturday with the KX3 at 4.8watts. Bands were in decent shape here and little QRN, so I enjoyed some very casual Hunt and pounce. Thanks to all who pulled out the QRP. 73, Hank K5TSK



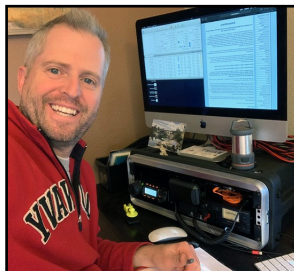
Got up an antenna for the lower bands. Only made one QSO on it. Managed a "GRAVY". Too many RTTY guys working the WAE event. Glad to be back a little. I hope to CU next month. 73, Art K7DWI



Operating portable as SNOWBIRD from Park Model at RV Resort Mesa, AZ. Limited to 20m operation only using TS530 to HB 20m vertical mounted on car port. Total time one hour Saturday and one hour Sunday. QSOs: AE4AN, WD7JS, KD0V, W5ZR, WC2K, N7LKL, K3WW, KJ7GNB, K1PU, NA5ET, K7FD, WB2RPW. 73 and STAY TUNED! Daryk K9QEW/7



Thank you all for great time. Worked on 20 and 40 meters. Alinco DX-SR8, 100 Watt; Xiegu G90, 20 Watt; The antenna is Attic Fan Dipole at 25 Feet. J38-straight key, and the "Kent" Single Paddle key, connected as a sideswiper. 73, Sergey KB9EBS

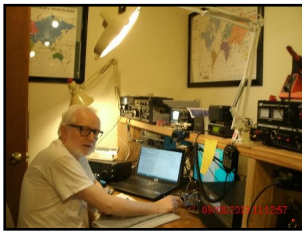


I tried QRP at first but didn't get far. At 50w, I did much better, logging the longest ever QSO I've had on CW with WB2RPW in New Jersey! My score is nothing to brag about and I'll probably be on the bottom of the list, but it was fun to use the SKCC logger for the first time. 73, Derek KJ4BQS

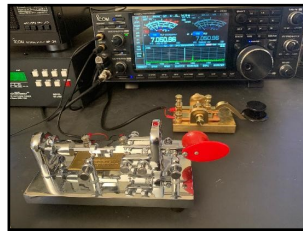


Happy Thanksgiving! Thank you! 73, Eric KB3NSK

# November WES III



What a joy. This months' Wes was quite a fun time. Booming signals on all the bands into NE IN. WES is a special activity for me. 73, Al KS9KCC



Another fun Sprint despite not being able to do all 24 hours. Next time I hope to have my "bug fist" back in shape and be able to use both the bug and SK. Veteran's Day thanks and a salute to all who have served. 73, Chris N0CC



Had Fun! S&P with new key. Thanks for the QSO's. 73, Rich N3KQN



Worked some from Dowdell Knob, FDR Park, GA SOTA W4G/CE-004 POTA K-2173 with my FT-450D, PAR End Fedz dipole and Tom G3HGE's Twanger cootie, that I got from W2RAN via N4OW. 73, Brian N4API



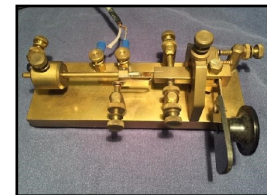
Used my Twanger Side-swiper for all of my WES QSO's to honor the memory of Tom, G3HGE designer and builder of the Twanger. Tom became an SK Nov.5,2019. May he rest in peace. Excellent conditions on 20. My Butternut Vertical was doing a great job. See you all next month. 73, AL N4ow 11375S



Another good time! The Fort Wayne area guys are active: KD9GDY, KS9KCC/K9FW, W9HT, WA9BBN, W9GT, WB9AEO, K9FMX, N8KR and are ready to welcome all to the Fort Wayne Hamfest and SKCC dinner on November 16. Contact me for more info! BTW, WES was a "Vibroplex" event for me! 73, Ken N8KR



Great time. Conditions ok except for the RTTY guys on 40 mtrs! Managed to get all the Thanksgiving theme bonus words / points! My xyl KQ4MEG enjoyed matching all the letters to callsigns. Yes, she really did. 73, David ND1J



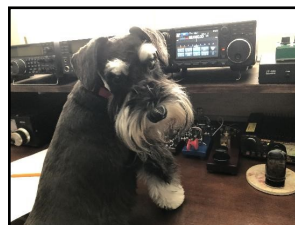
In and out several times Saturday and for a few minutes on Sunday. Mainly wanted to try out my brand-new-to-me S/N 23 VizBug. So that's my apology for the rough copy as I adjusted the bug and my fist. By the end of WES, I declared it a Keeper. I hope to shine it up to be as pretty as the one in K3RLL Don's photo. Now winding up 14 years of SKCC membership and still enjoying it as much as in 2006. 73, Rock NE7D



TNX to All! Got a few "new ones", but I can't spell! The wood shed is full & the days are getting shorter thus giving more time on the air. 73, Steve NQ8T



Busy weekend with a hamfest on Saturday, football games to watch and going to see a Sunday matinee of Midway which is really good IMHO. But managed 52 QSO's with 2 of those on the Heathkit SB-104A I bought at the hamfest. Jury rigged it up (note the ends of the power cord just stuck into the power supply terminals in the pic) and used it on 40 meters which is the only band besides 10 meters that has power output and that only about 75 watts. For the other 50 QSO's I used my IC-7300 at 100 watts with an OCF dipole and 43' vertical. 73, Bill NZ0T



Hey dad I just heard someone on 10 meters...just kidding. 73, Jerry NF5U

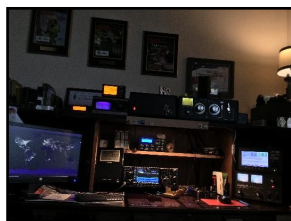
## November WES IV



Great conditions on Saturday... not so good on Sunday but I managed a personal best of 69 QSOs in this sprint and picked up my Centurion designation too. 73, Dave VE3KIU



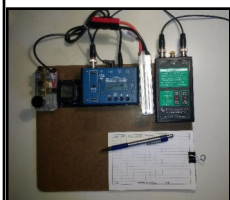
Back in Massachusetts for the winter. Time was limited by a cold, and some other distractions. Conditions were OK, not great. Lots of QSB, and some intermittent local static on 20 on Saturday. Had some rig issues on 80m, my apologies for some holes in the QSOs! Thanks to all. 73,



Always fun to works WES ! Met some old friends and some new friends this weekend. Many thanks to all for making another FUN WES weekend. 73, Rich W4RQ



Good band openings, especially on 20, but we had to compete with the RTTY contest on 40-meters Some of us moved to our secondary frequencies on 40 - a good thing to remember for the future. As usual, it was a work weekend for me so my time was somewhat limited, but all in all, a super WES. Thanks to everyone who participated. 73, Roger W6LAX



Another great WES. Thanks to all our veterans and Happy Thanksgiving. 73, Jay W8ES



Most of my Q's were on 20M. 40M was a mess due to the RTTY contest. Not many stations seemed to go up to 7.110 and above. Only worked two stations on 80M. I know that 15M was open but never saw a single station there. 10M never opened out west that I saw. Contest Highlight - Giving a new member their first CW QSO. More than happy to slow down and work him. Why do non contest stations call and want to have a rag chew? I had a nice pileup going Sunday afternoon and a W2 station called me and wants to chew the fat. I was putting WES in the final of each QSO and in every CQ. Still lots of fun was had. I mostly used my MESCO straight key but on Sunday I started alternating between the SK and my new W1SFR TBCP paddle to reduce the fatigue. 73, Terry W7AMI



We had really high QRN down here in Texas on all bands most of the weekend. However signals on 20 meters were in great shape Sunday afternoon. It was great to log a large number of recently joined members. Hope to work everyone again next month. Jim, W9BM 73 to all.



First WES in a while. Only had a few hours here and there but it was fun to participate. 73, Jay W9LW

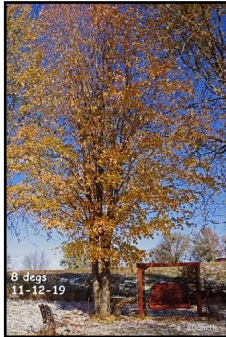


I had limited time to participate over this weekend. I got on the air when I was able and enjoyed the WES as much as possible. 73, Jack W9GT

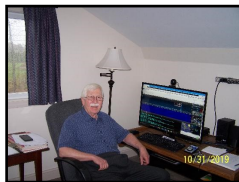


Only operated the last two hours and 10 minutes this weekend. Man, and didn't work any stations with a "y" in the call. What's the chances?? That took away my "gravity" and "turkey", then of course the "thank you" as well. RTTY was brutal on 40 meters. 73, Joe W4JF

# November WES V



Well darn..just discovered I missed the Nov. WES The first one since I joined in January 2009. Just a timing thing. The big WX change in No West Mo kept me busy..ck my Oct Brag post to see the changes...73 Rick K0KEX



Late getting this posted. 73, Dave KB1WOD



I operated QRPp-portable from a local park for a bit on Saturday. Made a couple more contacts from home later on. My thanks to all who managed to dig my 1-watt signal out of the noise and RTTY racket. 73, Craig WB3GCK



Managed to stop by the side of the road in rural PA for an hour of winter QRP portable fun while on a wedding road trip, including snow :) The WW2 WT 8 AMP handkey - a 10 pound find from the UK National Hamfest - did a great job under winter conditions and is definitely a winner for SKCC portable work with the KX2. Thanks to everyone that took the time to give a weak 5 watts and a wire in the tree station meaningful signal reports - which was just about everyone I worked. Knowing how I was really doing encouraged me to stick it out a while in the cold and snow. 73, Scott ka9p



morning so I waited for the sun to rise over the Atlantic Ocean and the 20 meter band to open around the Earth. Using a Yaesu FT-757GX and a roof mounted 'hamstick'I played S & P for a while. Can always find contacts on WES wknds. Tnx and see ya'll next time. 73, Bill KE3O



Ran my old little-used (for amateur) IC-7200 this time, running 75 watts to a multi-band vertical and a Bencher RJ-1 Straight Key. I set my minimum goal of 30 contacts and once reached I went to 28.120 PSK-31 to play in the Ten Ten Digital Contest, where I called CQ on and off for 3 hours and not a single reply! I shudda stayed in the WES! (hi hi). In any case, a fun weekend. Happy Veterans Day! 73, Curt WA2JSG



Thanks for the QSO's gang. Missed "Mashed Potatoes" for 9 out of 10. Only worked NZ0T for a "T" :~( 73, Rick - N8XI SKCC, the KEY to Amateur Radio

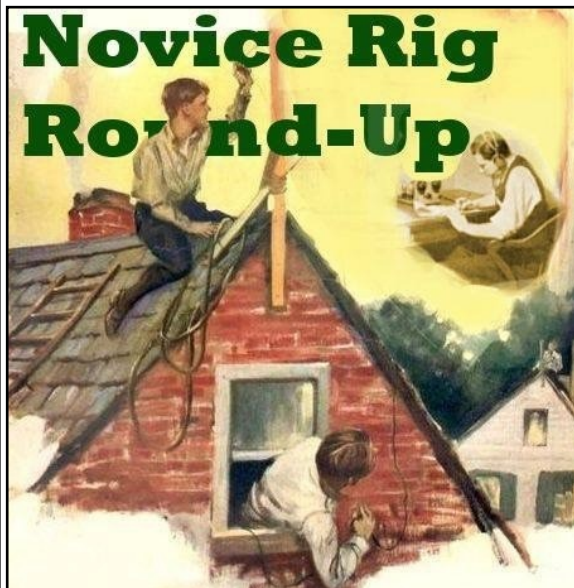


Great fun with minimal interference and good conditions here. Sadly, just when I was getting ready to do my little happy dance for getting all of the bonus words, I arrived at the word "Bread" only to discover that there is a shameful shortage of the letter "E" in ham call signs. C'est la vie! One other (not so?) interesting factoid, this WES was the maiden voyage of my new homebrew cootie (pictured herein). All-in-all, t'was a very enjoyable WES...thanks to all for the fun QSO's. 73, Arnie, NA5ET



Nice to work K0CW. I haven't worked Charlie for 40 plus years! Also nice to see other friends. As usual, I had limited time to operate. Once again, used the Collins Gold Dust Twins for the event. Main key was the Begali Sculpture Swing Cootie with a few QSO's with the Begail Blade. 73, Mike WB0SND

## The Novice Rig Roundup (NRR) 2020



The Novice Rig Roundup (NRR) 2020 will be held from 00:00 UTC on March 7, 2020 through 23:59 UTC on March 15, 2020. Although this is not an SKCC event, many SKCC members participate and enjoy both the historical implications and memories of their Novice equipment. For some it's the "smell" of tubes and for many it's the learning how to make those QSOs which seemed to be so hard and now today are just part of turning on the radio and tuning the bands.

Whether you are "crystal controlled rock bound" or have the freedom of perhaps a "drifty" VFO you'll enjoy the thrill of memories and the pleasure of making contacts and hearing those "less than 599" signal reports. Come join the fun.

For more detail on the event just "Google" Novice Rig Roundup!

## Welcome KW4WA



I had a QSO with Jerry, W8HOG. I was doing poorly on my copy as I'm just coming back to CW after 15 years and I'm rusty, but getting better every day, and during the QSO he kept on sending me these strange code containing the letter S, K and C and some numbers, which I didn't get to copy neither understood.

I sent him an e-mail through QRZ thanking him for the QSO and he answered by telling me, beside other things, about the SKCC organization. So, today I checked the SKCC web site and decided to join.

I have a small collection of bugs and straight keys, so why not. A few minutes ago I disconnected the Bencher paddles and connected my left hand Vibroplex to my radio. Will see how that goes.

Attached is a picture of my antennas, a Butternut HF6V and a Dr. Ed Fong WB6IQN's J-Pole. Also a picture of my station, a TenTec Eagle 599AT, an old Realistic HTX-202 attached to an AEA PK-232 for packet and a Baofeng attached to an Iphone 4 for APRS. 73, Julio KW4WA 21086



## SKCC PROCEDURES...WHAT PROCEDURES???

As a promoter of manually sent Morse Code I offer the following thoughts.

Back in olden times a good operator was easy to spot on the air by his fist combined with his demonstration of Morse Code procedures and the use of Phillips Code. As ham operators we adopted the International Morse Code and at the same time started using international procedures. This created a standardize system allowing stations to easily understand each other. It also provided a basic format so operators frequently knew what to expect they would hear next.

The use of Procedural Sign (Prosigns) made procedures standardized for traffic handling. For non-traffic handlers use many of the same prosigns worked well so they followed along. You can find lists of the prosigns listed in many of the ARRL publications, other amateur radio sources and of course the internet.

When Morse code was being replaced with the Teletype machine the use of prosigns simply switch to the new mode and is still used today on digital modes. For most prosigns you will find there is a Procedural Word (Proword). For some the prosign does not have a proword so an Operating Signal (Q signal for hams, Q and Z signal for military) fills in.

Example: <AR> (<> indicates sent as one character) proword is OUT, K proword is Over. Prosign <AR> international meaning "no response is required or expected" Ham meaning END OF MESSAGE ...of course to use <AR> you would first have to send a message. This is used when sending radiograms and is usually followed with B (More if there are more messages) or N (No More).

<AR> (no response required or expected) and K (invitation to transmit) are never used in the same transmission because the translation would be OUT and OVER causing confusion as to whether the station wants to be called or not.

All 2 letter prosigns are sent as a single character. Why is this important? This differentiates a prosign from a Phillips Code abbreviation. Examples: <BT> is Break, BT is But ...<AB> all before... AB is About in Phillips Code.

Now the questions is: What is Phillips Code? During the heyday of telegraphy Walter P. Phillips developed his code to shorten most words in order to expedite the transmission of messages. Often referred to has the Morse Operator's shorthand. There is a code for general message handling and another for the Stock Market Telegrapher to use. This code can be found on the internet.

I was fortunate a few years ago to work WW7P, author of the manual Date Your Vibroplex. He had been a commercial telegrapher and as you can imagine an avid Morse Operator on both the ham and the Air Force MARS radio waves. One of his ideas for fun was to challenge operators he worked on the air frequently. If he felt you were pretty proficient, he would add in punctuation that was seldom heard on the air like Quotation Marks, Left and right Parenthesis, Apostrophe ....yes they do exist in Morse code. Yes, he challenged me often and I appreciated it.

So my challenge for you is to check out the Prosigns and their use in the international setting. Practice sending the 2 letter prosigns as one character. You can practice sending them to me when I work you on the air.

For the November WES I confess if I heard a station sending CQ DE (THEIR CALL SIGN) WES AR or CQ WES DE (THEIR CALL SIGN) AR K or some rendition of that ending with AR or <AR> .....I did not call them because they told men NO RESPONSE WAS REQUIRED OR EXPECTED.

Ham Radio Still Fun After more than 40 years!  
Jim/W1RO

# November SKS



I was able to get in an hour on 40M but I think most folks had already migrated down to 80M. Signals were pretty weak overall but the east coast and Alaska (AL7JK) made it interesting. I just missed WI5H for the bonus. 73, Jon K1NV



A little frustrating; 40m was unusually devoid of signals at my QTH. 20m yielded nothing, 80m was nice. I Worked Dash, KS2KCC, on two bands, including Top Band! Elecraft K2 at 5W to mostly a 20m EDZ at 50'. 73, Lloyd K3ESE



This didn't start out well for me at all. Something is up with my antenna (fan dipole). I could barely get out on 40m, which is usually a great band for me at all hours. But 80m was pretty good, and it usually isn't that great for me. I only worked 24 stations, but those were spread between 16 SPCs, so that was really interesting. Rig tonight was my Heathkit HW-101 (100 watts) and a Vibroplex Straight Key. Long, long weekend coming up, so I'll have to get out there and see what is wrong with my antenna! 73, Steve KE4OH



Not a signal heard on 20m! 160m gave us 13 Qs, 40 was rather poor but 80 was fantastic! Ops were KD8TTM, NU8Z, K8KIC, KD8VSQ and KE8CEW. Pix L to R shows K8KIC on 40 KD8TTM logging, NU8Z on 80 and K8AQM on 160m. 73, Dash KS2KCC



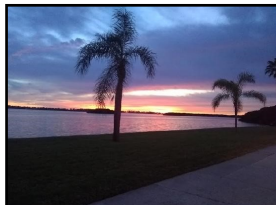
Very fun with lots of stations on the air. What a great way to spend the evening. 73,



Got in late. 40 was very long and noisy. Got better the last half hour. Happy Thanksgiving to all the FB SKCC ops. 73, Al N4ow



First SKS Sprint as a new member today. Great fun! 73 de Bob, N1MHV



40 meter operation. Screwy conditions. . . maybe just getting used to FL! Great to work the Fort Wayne gang! Happy Thanksgiving! 73, Ken N8KR



TNX ALL! Surely enjoy this group. TNX for your patience with my copy skills. Enjoy Thanksgiving. 73, Steve NQ8T



I decided to run my K2 tonight that has been sitting unused for quite a while. Still a great rig. Lots of QSB on 40 which slowed things down, but lots of fun. My final QSO was Lloyd, K3ESE, who somehow always gets through with his QRP. Thanks to everyone who participated. 73, Roger W6LAX



Another fun SKS event--a great way to spend a Tuesday evening! 73, Josh W9HT



Heard very few signals on the bands today during the SKS. Worked both VE7HI on 20 mtrs and K1NV on 40 mtrs. 73 to all & c u on the bands...John AL7JK

## SKCC at Fort Wayne, IN Hamfest ... de Ken – N8KR



The annual 2 day hamfest at Fort Wayne welcomed an “official” SKCC booth this year! Thanks to the ACARTS and FWRC, a free premium space was given to us. Throughout the first day, the booth was continuously busy. Not only did we have in excess of 60 members sign in, we also

signed up at least 5 new members and spent lots of time promoting CW, SKCC, and the art of mechanical CW. Ed – WA9BBN, took the leadership of setting up the table and making sure it was covered at all times by members. He arranged for a number of keys and oscillators for demonstration. He also had prepared a special three-ringed binder filled with various award certificates, pages from the *Ragchew*, web page reprints, SKCC calendar, SKCC logging page, K3Y information, and membership application form. It was really complete! (And I have it with me to add to the Hamcation/ Orlando SKCC table.) A logging laptop computer was also on table with an external big screen monitor. It was a first class operation! Of the 60 check-ins, a little more than half came from out of town. (SKCC has nearly 40 members in the Fort Wayne area!) The booth was a great place to hang out and rest! The highlight for me was introducing a young 11 year old boy to CW and teaching him to send his name. What a satisfying grin on his face! (You must admit, “Jet” was an easy name to send!) We’re looking forward to doing this again next year!



Ed – WA9BBN #17763S Hosting the SKCC table

## SKCC Dinner at Fort Wayne, IN

Twenty-one SKCC members and guests gathered at Hall's Factory Restaurant in Fort Wayne, IN following the Fort Wayne Ham-fest for food, fellowship and fun! Yes, it was a great time and

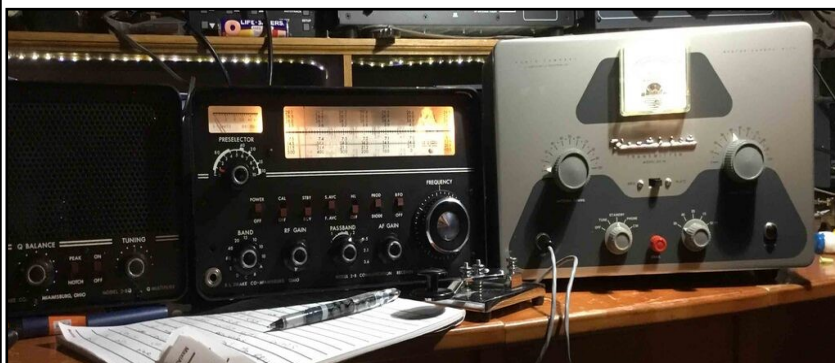


many of the people present were from out of town! Hall's welcomed us with a special menu with our official SKCC logo! Visiting with each other not only put a face to a qso, but also allowed time to share station and SKCC operating stories! Following dinner, SKCC award certificates were given to our guests and encouraging words to continue to be active were shared. There was excitement with the upcoming K3Y month in January and many of our guests expressed an interest in joining our annual K3Y multi-op activity on the second Saturday (WES) in January! There was an overwhelming consensus that we should have this dinner again next year! Special thanks to Josh – W9HT for making dinner arrangements with Halls! Hope to see more next year!

73, Ken – N8KR



## W2MFT Novice Station



I have been working on this for sometime now. The RX is a Drake 2B, all cleaned up and re-capped. The TX is a Heathkit DX 40 re-capped, re-soldered and a fresh coat of clear coat on the faceplate. Just thought I would share it. 73, Doc W2MFT

## QLF? = "Are you sending with your left foot?" By Chris NW6V

I recently needed an angiogram to check out my coronary arteries (good news: they're fine :-). These days, angiograms are usually done by inserting a catheter - a little tube - in the wrist, then snaking it through the body to your heart, where they do amazing and wonderful things. Great technology.

But as I lay there, happily sedated, waiting for the show to begin, they asked what is generally a simple question: "Are you right handed?" To which I sleepily and naively replied; "Left." At which point the train went off the rails.

You see, their intention was to insert the catheter into the opposite wrist, so as to interfere least with life during the required 48 hour "light duty" recovery. Allows things like "eating." Logical!

Except for one thing: I'm what my long-time-Navy-Op dad called a "lucky lefty" who could write with their left hand - so he taught me to send with my right. Worked out great for many years.

Anyway, forty eight hours after the procedure, good to go by the doctor's standards, I quickly discovered that sending just a few words of Morse - on ANY key - straight key, bug, paddles, whatever - made my arm ache like it had been beaten with a hammer.

Which left me two choices: QRT (be sensible and go off the air for a while), or QLF (send with my left foot). Or the left hand actually; which I'd never done before. But the left foot may have been better.

I quickly learned that my Left - dominant - hand was more dominant than I'd ever realized. Like "Dr. Strangelove" dominant: it seemed to have a mind of its own. I'd say "send a string of dits" and it might lay there like a dead flounder. Or send a long dash. Or a single dit. Or something in a weird variant of Morse Code it made up on the spot. And it wouldn't send slower than about 20 WPM no matter what I told it.

Definitely QLF... worse than my Novice days...

After hours of practice it improved - somewhat. I eventually managed a few QSOs - mercifully short because the arm gets exhausted after just a few minutes sending. But at least it was sending Morse. Mostly.

Now, after five days, the swelling is gone and I've started sending right-handed again. I'm taking it easy; no hour-long ragchews yet. And my 35 WPM bug will stay on the shelf for a few more days. I'm also being proactive! A good friend (Benny, K5KV) suggested getting a left-handed bug and learning how to use it. Just in case. Which I'm going to do.

But next time - if there is a next time - I think I'll just answer "Right..."



## **MAYBE IF THEIR MORSE CODE HAD BEEN BETTER.....**

From an article in the January 22, 1999 National Post Newspaper

In 1937, Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan set out in a twin-engined Lockheed Electra to fly around the world at the equator. On the morning of 2 July 1937, Earhart and Noonan set off from Lae in Papua New Guinea. This leg of their journey called for refuelling at Howland Island, a U.S. owned outcrop. A U.S. Coast guard cutter, the ITASCA, would be on hand to offer radio guidance to help land the plane. Earhart failed to establish a two way radio link with ITASCA and was unable to use her direction finder. On the morning of July 2, ITASCA received only tantalizing snippets of radio messages in which she spoke of running low on fuel and being unable to locate the island. For some days after the disappearance, distorted radio signals were picked up all over the Pacific. A multi-million dollar air and sea search rescue mission which covered 40,000 square kilometers, found nothing and was called off on July 18. On the night of July 4, 1937, two days after Earhart and Noonan disappeared, the U.S. Navy in Hawaii picked up a message sent in incompetent Morse code on one of Earhart's calling frequencies and using her call sign, KHAQQ. (Neither Earhart nor Noonan had fully mastered Morse code).

The reception was fragmentary but they received the message "281 north Howland calls KHAQQ beyond north won't hold with us much longer ... above water ... shut off", which they read as "281 miles north of Howland" to which they dutifully sent ships. Nothing was found. The message was discounted as a hoax. But if "281 north" meant 281 miles north of the Equator, this would have been exactly the latitude on which lies Nikumaroro, a tiny uninhabited atoll in the central Pacific. The few available facts are inconclusive but tantalizing clues (such as unidentified human bones and narrow size 9 US shoes) had been found there and another research trip to Nikumaroro is planned in the spring of 2000.

## **DON'T SHOOT - WE'RE REPUBLICANS!**

From an 1993 article by Kit Bonner of the Sacramento Bee  
(Transcribed By Jerry Proc VE3FAB)

From November 1943, until her demise in June 1945, the American destroyer 'William D Porter' was often hailed - whenever she entered port or joined other Naval ships - with the greetings: 'Don't shoot, we're Republicans!'. For a half a century, the US Navy kept a lid on the details of the incident that prompted this salutation. A Miami news reporter made the first public disclosure in 1958 after he stumbled upon the truth while covering a reunion of the destroyer's crew. The Pentagon reluctantly and tersely confirmed his story, but only a smattering of newspapers took notice. Fifty years ago today, the Willie D as the Porter was nicknamed, accidentally fired a live torpedo at the battleship Iowa during a practice exercise. As if this weren't bad enough, the Iowa was carrying President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the time, along with Secretary of State, Cordell Hull and all of the country's WWII military brass. They were headed for the Big Three Conference in Tehran, where Roosevelt was to meet Stalin and Churchill. Had the Porter's torpedo struck the Iowa at the aiming point, the last 50 years of world history might have been quite different.

The USS William D Porter (DD-579) was one of hundreds of assembly line destroyers build during the war. They mounted several heavy and light guns but their main armament consisted of 10 fast- running and accurate torpedoes that carried 500 pound warheads. This destroyer was placed in commission on July 1943 under the command of Wilfred Walker, a man on the Navy's fast career track. In the months before she was detailed to accompany the Iowa across the Atlantic in November 1943, the Porter and her crew learned their trade, experiencing the normal problems that always beset a new ship and a novice crew. The mishaps grew more serious when she became an escort for the pride of the fleet, the big new battleship Iowa.

The night before they left Norfolk, bound for North Africa, the Porter accidentally damaged a nearby sister ship when she backed down along the other ship's side and her anchor tore down her railings, life rafts, ship's boat and various other formerly valuable pieces of equipment. The Willie D merely had a scraped anchor, but her career of mayhem and mishaps had begun. Just twenty four hours later, the four ship convoy consisting of Iowa and her secret passengers and two other destroyers was under strict instructions to maintain complete radio silence. As they were going through a known U-boat feeding ground, speed and silence were the best defense. Suddenly a tremendous explosion rocked the convoy. All of the ships commenced anti-submarine maneuvers. This continued until the Porter sheepishly admitted that one of her depth charges had fallen off her stern and exploded. The 'safety' had not been set as instructed. Captain Walker was watching his fast track career become side-tracked. Shortly thereafter, a freak wave inundated the ship, stripping away everything that wasn't lashed down, and a man was washed overboard and never found. Next, the fire room lost power in one of its boilers. The Captain, by this point, was making reports almost hourly to the Iowa on the Willie D's difficulties. It would have been merciful if the force commander had detached the hard luck ship and sent her back to Norfolk. But no, she sailed on.

The morning of 14 November 1943 dawned with a moderate sea and pleasant weather. The Iowa and her escorts were just east of Bermuda, and the president and his guests wanted to see how the big ship could defend herself against an air attack. So, Iowa launched a number of weather balloons to use as anti-aircraft targets. It was exciting to see more than 100 guns shooting at the balloons, and the President was proud of his Navy. Just as proud was Admiral Ernest J King, the Chief of Naval Operations; large in size and by demeanour, a true monarch of the sea. Disagreeing with him meant the end of a naval career. Up to this time, no one knew what firing a torpedo at him would mean. Over on the Willie D, Captain Walker watched the fireworks display with admiration and envy. Thinking about career redemption and breaking the hard luck spell, the Captain sent his impatient crew to battle stations. They began to shoot down the balloons the Iowa had missed as they drifted into the Porter's vicinity.

Down on the torpedo mounts, the crew watched, waiting to take some practice shots of their own on the big battleship, which, even though 6000 yards away, seemed to blot out the horizon. Lawton Dawson and Tony Fazio were among those responsible for the torpedoes. Part of their job involved ensuring that the primers were installed during actual combat and removed during practice. Once a primer was installed, on a command to fire, it would explode shooting the torpedo out of its tube. Dawson, on this particular morning, unfortunately had forgotten to remove the primer from torpedo tube #3. Up on the bridge, a new torpedo officer, unaware of the danger, ordered a simulated firing. Fire 1, Fire 2 and finally Fire 3. There was no fire 4 as the sequence was interrupted by an unmistakable 'whooooooshhhing' sound made by a successfully launched and armed torpedo. Lt H Steward Lewis, who witnessed the entire event, later described the next few minutes as what hell would look like if it ever broke loose.

Just after he saw the torpedo hit water, on its way to the Iowa and some of the most prominent figures in world history, Lewis innocently asked the Captain, 'Did you give permission to fire a torpedo?' Captain Walker's reply will not ring down through naval history.. although words to the effect of Farragut's immortal 'Damn the torpedoes' figured centrally within.

Initially there was some reluctance to admit what had happened or even to warn the Iowa. As the awful reality sunk in, people began racing around, shouting conflicting instructions and attempting to warn the flagship of imminent danger. First, there was a flashing light warning about the torpedo which unfortunately indicated it was headed in another direction. Next, the Porter signalled that it was going reverse at full speed! Finally, they decided to break the strictly enforced radio silence. The radio operator on the destroyer transmitted 'Lion (code for the Iowa), Lion, come right. The Iowa operator, more concerned about radio procedure, requested that the offending station identify itself first. Finally, the message was received and the Iowa began turning to avoid the speeding torpedo.

Meanwhile, on the Iowa's bridge, word of the torpedo firing had reached FDR, who asked that his wheelchair be moved to the railing so he could see better what was coming his way. His loyal Secret Service guard immediately drew his pistol as if he was going to shoot the torpedo. As the Iowa began evasive manoeuvres, all of her guns were trained on the William D Porter. There was now some thought that the Porter was part of an assassination plot. Within moments of the warning, there was a tremendous explosion just behind the battleship. The torpedo had been detonated by the wash kicked up by the battleship's increased speed. The crisis was over and so was Captain Walker's career. His final utterance to the Iowa, in response to a question about the origin of the torpedo, was a weak, 'We did it'. Shortly thereafter, the brand new destroyer, her Captain and the entire crew were placed under arrest and sent to Bermuda for trial. It was the first time that a complete ship's company had been arrested in the history of the US Navy. The ship was surrounded by Marines when it docked in Bermuda, and held there several days as the closed session inquiry attempted to determine what had happened. Torpedoman Dawson eventually confesses to having inadvertently left the primer in the torpedo tube, which caused the launching. Dawson had thrown the used primer over the side to conceal his mistake.

The whole incident was chalked up to an unfortunate set of circumstances and placed under a cloak of secrecy. Someone had to be punished. Captain Walker and several other Porter officers and sailors eventually found themselves in obscure shore assignments. Dawson was sentenced to 14 years hard labour. President Roosevelt intervened; however, asking that no punishment be metered out for what was clearly an accident. The destroyer was banished to the upper Aleutians. It was probably thought this was as safe a place as any for the ship and anyone who came near her. She remained in the frozen north for almost a year, until late 1944, when she was re-assigned to the Western Pacific. Before leaving the Aleutians, she accidentally left her calling card in the form of a five inch shell fired into the front yard of the American base commandant, thus rearranging his flower garden. In December 1944, she joined the Philippine invasion forces and acquitted herself quite well. She distinguished herself by shooting down a number of attacking Japanese aircraft. Regrettably, after the war, it was reported that she also shot down three American planes. This was a common event on ships, as many gunners, fearful of kamikazes, had nervous trigger fingers.

In April 1945, the destroyer was assigned to support the invasion of Okinawa. By this time, the greeting "Don't Shoot, We're Republicans" was commonplace and the crew of the Willie D had become used to the ribbing. But the crew of her sister ship, the USS Luce, was not so polite in its salutations after the Porter accidentally riddled her side and superstructure with gunfire. On 10 June 1945, the Porter's hard luck finally ran out. She was sunk by a plane which had (unintentionally) attacked underwater. A Japanese bomber almost made entirely of wood and canvas slipped through the Navy's defence. Having little in the way of metal surfaces, the plane didn't register on radar. A fully loaded kamikaze, it was headed for a ship near the Porter, but just at the last moment veered away and crashed along side the unlucky destroyer. There was a sigh of relief as the plane sunk out of site, but then it blew up underneath the Porter, opening her hull in the worst possible location.



Three hours later, after the last man was off board, the Captain jumped to the safety of a rescue vessel and the ship that almost changed world history slipped astern into 2400 feet of water. Not a single soul was lost in the sinking. After everything else that happened, it was almost as if the ship decided to let her crew off at the end.



**The USS Porter (background ship) just before going under.**

These great stories and many more can be found at “The radio Reading Room” at:

<http://jproc.ca/radiostor/reading.html>

**“Unless otherwise noted, any of the stories listed in the Reading Room may be published in any non-profit publication without requiring permission. Please credit the author if using any of these stories. New stories will be added to this page periodically. “**

*The site is provided by Jerry Proc VE3FAB and has some absolutely great reading for when the bands are “dead” and you’re wondering what to do. More stories will appear in future Rag Chew editions....editor*

## A Tip On How to Adjust Your Straight Key A Sending Rhythm Test

When I read Jaimie AD0AB's story in the September issue of "The Rag Chew", it brought back memories of how I learned Morse and a variation of the noted group of words that I still use. The "sending rhythm test" I use raised the eyebrows of my instructors at the RCAF Communications School and the examiner when I took my Canadian amateur test at the Department of Transport office in Montreal. I thought that perhaps the members would find my sequence interesting.



Jaimie's "Hammish" sent 'Bens best bent wire'. I have never found any reference to this particular sequence in any copy of TM 11-459 but it has been mentioned in various British publications, including Len Deighton's novel "Bomber". At the RCAF school, our "sending" manual suggested sending "best bent wire" to check key adjustment. My conclusion is that this sequence started in England probably during WW II or slightly before.

I learned Morse when I was in high school. Our instructor was an English teacher who had been a Captain in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals in WW II. He taught us after regular classes using a "Buzzer, Practice, Cadet Type", manufactured by the Wilson Company of Toronto. Wilson was a well known Canadian manufacturer of Morse keys, practice "buzzer sets", toy sets, and the semi-automatic key known as "keys, Morse" which could be used left or right handed and when the pendulum was locked, on its side as a "straight" key. Wilson manufactured

numerous Air Force blue painted straight keys that looked like a copy of the McElroy straight key and was universally referred to by us operators as "the Wilson teardrop". This key was standard at the communications school and at RCAF communications facilities.

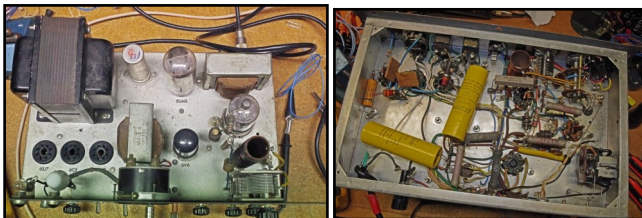
The "catchy" words that tested straight key adjustment used by our instructor many years ago?

"Bens Bent Wire Tree".

Give it a try and maybe you too will be "hooked" on this sequence and will use it as I have since I was a teenager.

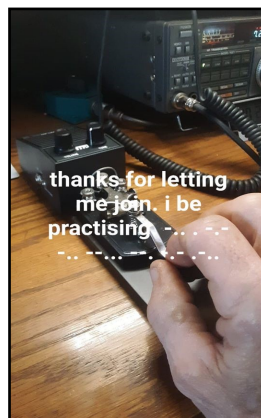
73,  
Al Illidge VE3EJM, ex-VE2DDI, VE4AV  
SKCC #14443

# Just Some "Stuff"



Brought a WRL Globe Scout 65A back to life today with plans for SKCC SKN as we transition into 2020..need to find some xtals or a VFO ...73 Rick k0kex 5220S

Polish "Stork" key and Ericsson manufactured Swedish military key (training?). Both have excellent sending feel. The Swedish key will get some clean up and I'm going to strip the remaining paint off the knob and stain. 73, Mike AA9IL



Code class Greenville, SC



"Fergus" is dog tired after SKS!



Nice bug!

## Restoration Old Gear and Novice Memories



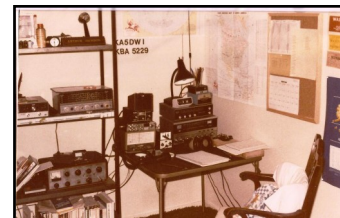
Recently an article was posted along with a picture by Doc W2MFT, of his restoration of a Drake 2B and DX-40. The picture and post generated many comments and some pictures from members' early Novice days. Here are some of the comments and pictures posted. Perfects these comments will encourage

many of you whether you were part of the "Novice" era or just might be interested in exploring and discovering the excitement and "frustrations" of the separate transmitter and receiver days of yesteryears.....editor

*My station in 1979. Burned up the DX-40, but was repaired by someone. I got a TenTec Century 21 at the end of that year. Had a ball with working DX on 10 Meters. I had a lot of fun as a Novice. I actually miss those days. 73, Art Jackson K7DWI #6907T ex-KA5DWI*



KA5DWI station 1979



KA5DWI station 1979

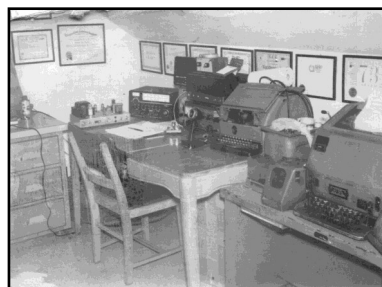
*WN8NBO 1964 -- HRO-7 and Eico 720*

*WA8NBO 1965 -- Drake 2b + 2AQ, Eico 720, Eico 730 AM modulator, homebrew keyer and Knight VFO*

*WA8NBO 1969 -- Same Rx/Tx but now a Hal keyer. Model 19 TTY, paper tape printer to left of 19, and don't remember demodulator details. Shack hasn't been that neat and organized since then!! Mike / W8DN*



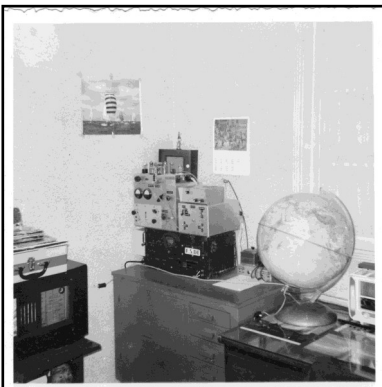
WA8NBO 1965



WA8NBO 1969



WN8NBO 1964



*It is nice to see old novice radio stations. Here is my rig in June 1967, just 3 years after getting my ticket. 73, to all and see you soon! Bernard, F5DE, #6247S*

## More Novice Gear



*Here was my station right after upgrading to General Class in early 1965. I traded in the E.F. Johnson Viking Navigator transmitter with a chirpy VFO for a Ranger II transmitter and Courier linear amplifier. 73, Barry K2MF*

*Not exactly a Novice pic - I had been a ham for seven years when this was taken in 1959 aboard the schooner Dirigo II. VR2DG/MM on the air. The little transmitter to the left of the Globe Chief was one I built for traveling - it ran 15 watts and used 50L6 tubes in all stages and would work on 110 - 240 volts, AC or DC, by changing some jumper wires. Ben VE1AHX 18100T*



*In 1985, my work colleague encouraged me to get my ticket. After doing some research, I was hooked on the idea of 2M FM in the shack, car and portable. So, I purchased a new Alinco 2M handheld and repeater-listened until I got my ticket. When my colleague told me there was a Morse Code portion of the test, my heart sank. I wanted no part of CW.*



*In 1986, my colleague gave me a set of Army Corps WW2 records to learn code. I reluctantly listened and learned. To my amazement, I learned the entire alphabet and numbers in less than a week. The second week I memorized punctuation and was sending/receiving 5wpm on a straight key. By the time I took the test I was comfortable at 13wpm with spurts at 20wpm.*

*When I got my Novice ticket, I was so impressed with CW, I sold the Alinco HT and bought a Hammarlund HQ-160 receiver, Heathkit DX-60/HG-10 and homebrewed a tuner. I was on 40M the same night I got FCC license notification. The station image attached. 73, Lou N2JPR*

Starting with the next issue of the Rag Chew will be the first of several articles on "The Art of Restoring Boat Anchors."