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Your Novice Accent

BY KEITH S. WILLIAMS, W6DTY

A language is a means of communication. It is most efficient when all who speak it follow the same grammatical rules and pronounce its words in the same way. Isolated groups of a given linguistic stock tend to develop differences in speech habits. They speak with different accents, follow different rules of grammar, the difference growing with continued isolation until each group finds it difficult to understand others even though all speak the same basic language.

International Morse code is, in a way, a language. It has been efficient because all of us have followed the same procedure and used the same "QST English." Now, however, isolation is beginning to make itself felt. A new accent, a new dialect, the "Novice Accent" is beginning to be heard. It is the one defect in an otherwise excellent innovation in amateur radio.

In pre-novice days an amateur launched forth in the main stream and in very short order lost his beginner's accent and was taken for a native. Now, on the other hand, most beginners start out on 80 or 40 meters confined, by novice status, to band segments populated almost entirely by other novices. They are the isolated linguistic group mentioned above. People speak a language with the same accent as those with whom they live and work. New hams pick up habits and operating procedures of the gang they chew the fat with.

It is increasingly easy to pick out a new General Class operator on c. w. bands. His speed may be up to par and he may have an excellent fist, but his procedure is apt to be rather odd. He has

difficulty in understanding just what is going on and his transmissions can be very confusing to the general run of amateurs. Standard ham operating procedure has been established by years of usage. In many cases it is established because it is the most efficient or intelligent way of doing it. In other cases a certain procedure is used because it has always been done that way and everybody understands what everyone else is doing.

I would like to comment on some specific points concerned with ham operating. I trust it

will not be too boring. You old timers can go to the DX department as I want to talk to novices.

Tune Around

When you, Bill Novice, heat up the filaments and prepare for a session of brass pounding, don't be too hasty. It is not good practice to start calling CQ while you're waiting for the receiver to come to life.

Check your gear, and when you're satisfied it's all ready, take a few minutes to listen. See what's going on near your own frequency and then tune back and forth a bit. More than once I've heard some good DX going to waste while the brethren are busy honking out CQ's without, apparently, having listened more than two seconds after turning on the rig. Pick some station who is already calling CQ and answer his call rather than adding to the bedlam with a CQ of your own. On the remote chance that you hear no CQ's, go ahead and try one.

Two things are important: (1) your receiver has a tuning dial; use it -- it keeps corrosion from setting in and you may hear someone calling you off your frequency. Many a time I've heard a WN or KN station (old USA novice class stations!) call CQ time after time and be answered by stations in other parts of the band with no QSO resulting. If a fellow calls CQ, signs and says "K", then starts another CQ in ten seconds you know he's not tuning.

He just sits there like a lump, expecting a call on his own frequency.

He has few QSO's and he creates beaucoup QRM with his useless calling. (2) Don't make your calls too long. Contrary to your first impression a long call does not attract eager prospects. Rather, just the opposite ... the longer you call the fewer the answers you receive.

People are a restless lot. After waiting through ten or twelve CQ's the average operator will lose patience and start looking for someone else.

One night, by actual count I heard one novice operator send 57 CQ's before signing his call! This is pure madness! This applies as much to your calling another station as it does to a CQ. Make your calls short.

With a little thought you will realize that if the other station hasn't heard you in the first minute or less he's probably not going to hear you at all.

Three-by-three

A CQ pattern that has proved very successful over a long pe-

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riod is the old three-by-three. CQ three times, sign your call three times, and repeat the whole thing three times. Personally, I punch out four CQ's, sign three times and repeat three. This is more than sufficient and results have been satisfying. When answering a CQ, make your call as short as conditions warrant. (Obviously if you're having problems - do a 3 by 3 - just to make sure the fellow knows WHERE you are!)

For instance, on 40 meters, on a weekday morning about ten o'clock you hear W6DTY calling CQ near your frequency with practically no activity on the band. You only need call about three times, sign your call three times and you're in. If you're 25 kilocycles away, call a bit longer, but not too long because it doesn't take the receiving operator long to tune through the band when activity is light. On the other hand, when QRM is heavy, make your call somewhat longer because it takes a receiving operator longer to comb through the mess. In other words, make the length of your call suit conditions. It is seldom necessary, even under the worst conditions, to call a station more than eight or ten times before signaling your own call.

Don't fall into the habit of expecting all call signs to begin with WN or KN. There are about two hundred other call prefixes in use throughout the world. Once I heard WH6AWU call CQ half a dozen times on the 40 meter novice band, putting in an S9 signal. Now, while most novices on the band would dearly love to QSO the Hawaiian Islands, no one answered until finally some poor soul came up with W5BAWU! (Geoffrey - this happened tonight - a W4 station from Florida was CQing for DX and WH6U called him and the W4 told him "IM CALLING FOR DX AND UR NOT DX GO AWAY" - the WH6 was from Hawaii and the W4 kept on calling him W5BU - he couldn't even copy his call correct - and the W4 from Florida was an OLD timer.)

Procedure Signals

Most novices misuse the procedure signal DE. DE means "from" and it is sent only once before each series of a call sign. Do not repeat it before each transmission of your call sign in a series. It is common to hear something like this, "CQ ... CQ DE KN6ZZZ DE KN6ZZZ DE KN6ZZZ CQ ... ETC." This is not good practice. Under poor receiving conditions it is very confusing to the receiving operator who is trying to dope out your call letters. The extra DE throws him every time.

When you sign for the last time on a CQ don't be fancy. Just send the procedure signal "K". This invites anyone who heard your CQ to answer. Do not send , either by itself or followed by "K". When making calls, is used only when you have called another station but are not yet in contact with him. "AR" is a procedure signal sent as one character, di-dah-di-dah-dit. It is not sent as the two separate letter "A" and "R". Examples of current, standard procedure are

(1) ... CQ CQ CQ DE KN6ZZZ KN6ZZZ K, and (2) ... WN4YYY WN4YYY WN4YYY DE KN6ZZZ KN6ZZZ KN6ZZZ

When you have established contact there are certain preliminaries you should get squared away before you begin discussing the weather. At the beginning of a QSO, on the first transmission

from the other station, each operator is interested in two pieces of information first.

He wants to know how his signals are being received and where the other station is located, in that order. Most operators, for some odd reason, want to know the other fellow's name, but that is third in importance. Until recent years all hands were happy to be called "OM" or "OB" and nobody cared what your name was. Giving the signal report, location and name, in that order, has become standard throughout the world and is always sent first, prior to everything else.

It saves time and avoids confusion if you follow that standard. Example: . . WN4YYY DE KN6ZZZ R GE OM ES TNX FER CALL UR RST 579 579 HR IN PODUNK PODUNK CALIF NAME IS BILL BILL RIG HR . . . etc. Once the preliminaries are out of the way proceed with the QSO as it may develop. Rag chewing is lots of fun.

Abbreviations

Ham radio is full of abbreviations. There is good reason for this. It saves time. You can say more with less wear and tear on the key. A great many abbreviations are standard the world over. You'll find them listed in handbooks. Don't go overboard, but learn to use the universally understood shortcuts in operating. A good example is "AND." This is a word which is heard only on the novice bands. Learn to send "ES" instead of "AND." It's standard practice; it's quicker and easier to send. While you're at it, learn the proper use of abbreviations.

If in doubt, look them up in the handbooks.

Signals for period and comma were practically never heard on the ham bands until the novices got going. They are still not in use except in the novice bands. You may need to know them to pass a code examination, but they are clumsy and awkward in ham communications. All punctuation can be handled by the question mark and by the (dah-di-di-di-dah). What do you need with a comma?

Nothing! Don't bother to use it. Anyway, some of the old timers might not recognize it (unless they thought it meant an exclamation mark, which is what it stood for until fairly recently). Most novices are currently sending a comma between the name of their town and the name of their state. This is a waste of time and effort. No punctuation is needed there at all. Forget the lengthy, time-consuming signal for period. Just use the long break sign between sentences or thoughts.

It is much easier to send and sounds smoother. The only time in ham radio when formal punctuation signals are called for in such things as official bulletins, etc.

When you sign over to the other station make it quick and easy and use one of the standard methods. I have heard novices say, " ... NOW I AM TURNING IT BACK TO YOU SO HERE IT COMES ...".

Long winded guff is okay in its place, but it shouldn't become a habit on c. w.. Some of the boys are now sending, " ... SO BK TO YOU ..."

This is an improvement, but it's not universally understood because "BK" means BREAK, not BACK. All you need to say, really, is "HW?" or "WATSA?" Either signal indicates to the other fellow that you are through for the moment and are about to sign over to him. If it is your last transmission it is customary to part with a certain amount of love and kisses. Don't drag it out into absurdity. Haven't you heard some featherhead send, "WELL BILL NOW I MUST QRT AND WISH YOU MANY 73 73 TNX FOR THE SWELL QSO BILL AND 73 BEST OF LUCK AND LOTS OF DX AND BEST WISHES TO YOU AND THE FAMILY SO 73S AND I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN SOON BILL 73 ... etc?"

All you have to say after you've told Bill you must QRT is something like this: TNX QSO OM 73 GN WN4YYY DE KN6ZZZ. Note that it is not necessary to add "S" to 73. By itself 73 means "best regards." If you say 73's you are, in effect, saying, "Best Regardses," which is just plain silly.

More Procedure

Now a word or two about correct procedure when signing over to the other station or when ending a QSO. It's all very simple but much confusion is evident. When you are turning the QSO over to the other operator you need to proceed as follows: ... SO WATSA OM? WN4YYY DE KN6ZZZ K. The indicates that you are through for the time being. The K says, "go ahead and transmit to me."

Incidentally, there is a variation of the K signal. You may have heard it wondered what it meant and as like as not you have missed it. I am referring to the procedure signal KN. This signal indicates that you are engaged in a QSO, that you are inviting the other operator to go ahead with his transmission and you do not wish a third station ("the breaking station," so called) to interrupt by calling either of you.

This signal was originated as an aid in DX operating and is not often needed in domestic communications. Therefore, I don't advise its use in ordinary QSO's. But if you have occasion to use it do it right. It is definitely not a substitute for the plain signal "K". I have heard novices end a CQ with KN. This is obviously simple-minded. Translated to English it means, "I am calling a CQ, a general call, inviting anyone to answer, but please don't call me!" When ending a QSO use the signal, . This is easy. is never the last signal sent.

The last item is either your call or the letter K. If you have made your last transmission but will stand by for the other station's closing remarks you send, " ... 73 ES CUL GN WN4YYY DE KN6ZZZ K. The indicates that you have made your last transmission. If you have completely finished the QSO and wish to remain open for business you just naturally don't put anything at all after your call. If you intend to "close station" and hit the sack you should indicate this fact by adding the signal "CL" immediately after your call. Listening operators are thus informed that you will not be in the market for another QSO. It saves them needless calls.

CW. operating procedures are fixed by long usage and in part are called for by law. The correct procedure is just as easy to learn and use as is the Sloppy Joe type. If you are just starting

on your ham career you might just as well start right. Bad habits are difficult to break. If you find it hard to remember what to send and when to send it make up a sheet with standard forms and keep it on your operating desk. Refer to it when in doubt; first thing you know your procedure will be automatic. Once learned it isn't forgotten.

R?

Being long winded, I don't mind adding a few items which can be classed as miscellaneous (or, The Bleatings of an Old Goat). First on the agenda is an ancient complaint about birds who come back with "R" when they have copied only part or perhaps nothing at all of your last transmission. This particular scream of mingled rage and pain has been heard since Marconi first sent three dots across the Atlantic. You'd think that, after all these years, the R-for-Roger pest would have become extinct, but it is not thus. Every day some fellow manages to come back to you with something like this: " ... WN4YYY DE KN6ZZZ R R R OK BUT PLEASE REPEAT MY REPORT AND YOUR QTH ALSO MISSED YOUR NAME AND DID NOT COPY YOUR LAST QUESTION IN THE QRM ... !"

The simple fact that if you send "R" you are indicating that you copied solid everything the other operator sent. Do not send a single R if you missed any part of his transmission. Just sent a break sign, BT, after your call when you go back to him, if you missed anything, and tell him what you missed. There is nothing more exasperating than to hear,

"R BUT MISSED EVERYTHING OM!"

In connection with this business of receipting (R), one other point might be mentioned. If you have copied the other fellow's transmission solid and have so indicated by "R" when you go back to him, he can be expected to have some sense enough to know that you got what he sent. Therefore, it is needless wear and tear on your key and a waste of your time and his to go through this rigamarole of "OK ON THIS, OK ON THAT, OK ON YOUR RIG, OK ON YOUR WX, OK ON YOUR DOG HAVING JAUNDICE, ETC., ETC." Just up and proceed with your remarks and comments. If he asked a question, answer it. If he made a statement that requires no answer, make no answer. It's really very simple.

Another rogue's gallery character is the guy with long, deathly silences. He sends your call, signs his, says, "R ES TNX FER DPE OM" then apparently lapses into a coma. When you finally decide that the oaf has suffered a heart attack and departed this vale of tears he suddenly comes to life and burps out a couple of 's and staggers along with "RIG HR 807 WID 50 WATTS ...," and shoves off for dreamland again. This makes the receiving operator nervous. If your mind goes temporarily blank when you are on the key, send something ... a series of or V, or most anything. Just don't sit there leaving the other operator to wonder if you are still alive. There is nothing worse than a lot of clatter on the air except complete silence.

Sloppy Sending

Practically topping the list of the Ten Most Wanted Men in ham radio is the bird with the sloppy fist. He makes life a horror for those who try to copy him. He has no idea how many dots he's

sending -- he just throws in plenty so that you can take your pick. He runs letter and words together or, just the reverse, he separates parts of letters and chunks of words. He sounds as though he's using a loose toggle switch for a key and sending in Japanese kana code. On top of all this he fouls up his spelling and procedure continually and fills the air with strings of dots to indicate errors. Some operators (?) go on for years blithely unaware that their fists are bad. In fact they may even fancy themselves as artists on the key. They get huffy if anyone suggests that they are not 100% readable. They suggest that the receiving operators need a little practice. If you are one of these boys, you are probably a hopeless case. However, if you know that your sending leaves something to be desired and you are sincerely interested in developing a good, readable fist you can cease worrying -- it's simple. Just practice sending. But not on the air.

Rig yourself a code practice oscillator and send to yourself. The ideal manual fist is one that sounds like a tape transmitter. Don't laugh! It's a skill that is easy to acquire. Of course, to begin with you must know how good code sounds. The simplest way is to turn on your receiver and tune in a commercial tape circuit and listen. Tune around, find a station sending press or other traffic and just sit and listen. You don't have to be able to copy it solid. Maybe you can copy only seven words a minute and the commercial station is sending at 20 or 25. No matter.

Don't worry about what he's sending, just pay attention to how it's sent. Listen to the individual letters; get the feel of his rhythm and spacing. Then adjust your key, get comfortable, and send to yourself. Try to make your hand-keyed letters sound like the tape-sent letters. Send from a newspaper or book and pay attention to spacing between words and letters as well as to the shape of each individual letter. At first it may seem an impossible task but you'll be surprised how rapidly your sending improves. Sure it's a lot of work, but you weren't born with a telegraph key in your hand and you have to learn. You don't write a letter in such an illegible scrawl that it can't be read (or do you?), so why transmit a botched-up mess of dots and dashes to some poor wretch on 40 meters who is trying to read it.

It's Fun!

CW operating can be pleasant and easy. It is not, as often averred, a lost art. You are welcome to dive right in and flail away at the old brass pump handle. But, please, use genuine International Morse and standard procedure! It will make life a pleasure for both you and your adversaries.

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Kittanning man takes part in experiment using his knowledge

of Morse code

By Tom Mitchell, LEADER TIMES
Wednesday, June 27, 2007

KITTANNING -- It's a language that's understood in virtually every country in the world, yet few are conversant in it. It's strange language consisting of only two monotone sounds, a long and a short beep. The language is the International Morse code and a borough man, John Shannon, is among the nation's foremost experts on this unique form of communication practiced today only by some amateur radio operators.

On June 18, Shannon, whose amateur radio call is K3WWP, was invited to the University of Pittsburgh's main campus in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh to take part in a short-term memory study involving Morse code users.

Julie Fiez, a psychology professor with the university said she got the idea of using Morse code users in her studies from a family member who is a licensed amateur radio operator and proficient with "CW," the radio term for Morse code which means "continuous wave."

Fiez said she was drawn to the idea of using CW in experiments to see how people process verbal and audio tones.

"Our interest is in verbal working memory," she said, "which is the ability to keep 'on-line' for short time, information you can access later.

As an example of short-term memory retention, Fiez said when people look up a number in a phone book, then close the book and a minute later dial the number, they are using short-term memory to remember a number they've seen in the book.

"We use neuro-imaging and behavioral studies to try to understand what brain areas contribute to a person's ability to perform a task," she said.

Test subjects view lists of random letters that appear on a computer monitor. After each list, they are asked to write the letters on a note pad. Next, they hear a series of random letters through ear phones and again, note each group. The final groups of letters are sent in Morse code. Subjects also copy Morse code sentences sent at 16, 19 and 24 words per minute. It was in this latter test that Shannon excelled.

Licensed as a radio operator since 1963, Shannon obtained an extra class license, the highest class available, in 1968. Although his license gives him full privileges on all amateur radio frequencies, Shannon prefers to use Morse code exclusively.

"Anyone can talk into a microphone," he said, "but using CW is a skill that few bother to maintain."

Shannon said he laments the fact that code proficiency is no longer a requirement in obtaining a radio amateur license. Since 1994 Shannon has made a minimum of one QSO (amateur radio contact) a day using Morse code. That translates to more than 4,700 consecutive days of radio contacts.

Shannon said he has confirmed Morse code contacts with radio amateurs in more than 200 foreign countries as well as having worked all states and Canadian provinces.

"There are some places that constitute a 'country' for radio purposes that are not actually countries or sovereign nations," Shannon said. "For example, if you work a scientific research station in the Antarctic, that counts as a country. St. Peter and Paul Islands, northeast of Brazil, or Kergulen Island, a French possession in the Indian Ocean, also count as countries."

However, Shannon's contacts are done the "hard way," by using low-power, 5 watts or less, and simple wire antennas.

"It's called QRP, meaning low power, operation," he said. "This shows the ability of even low powered CW signals to 'get through' while other modes may not for various reasons."

Shannon said that while he never considered short-term memory ability in relation to amateur radio, a study of the idea has merit. While most CW operators can copy 20 words per minute, and some up to 35, Shannon is certified as having copied a sizzling 55 words per minute. He said that there may be only a few dozen or so radio operators in the nation who can copy CW at that speed.

"You don't hear letters," he said, "you hear words or sometimes short sentences. You have to use a key board to copy because no one can write that fast and you always copy 'behind,' meaning that you are typing in what was sent several seconds earlier, so you're definitely using short term memory."

To date Fiez and two assistants, Maryam Khatami and Sara Guediche, have tested nine radio amateur volunteers. Shannon is the only subject from Kittanning.

"We're still looking for volunteers who are proficient in Morse," Fiez said. "The studies will continue through the summer at least."

She said she expects to find differences between individuals on the basis of how skilled they are with Morse and in the terms of how they used the code in their radio experience. Fiez said she hope to use the information gathered to better understand short-term memory.

Shannon said he will detail his part in the experiment in an upcoming issue of World Radio Magazine.

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Editor's Note: Thanks to Tom Mitchell for reprint permission, and who is a licensed amateur radio operator, KB3LFC, and an SKCC member # 629.

Team KG7FS

Rich KG7FS and I (Ted K8AQM) enjoy using straight keys and CW in general. Rich came to Michigan from Oregon and has found the "seven" call sign a bit of a problem when giving

his QTH in the SKS, so he has applied for a new "eight" call sign and will soon be K8UV. To have a last "hurrah" with KG7FS we decided to use my station in a multi-multi effort in the May sprint. Rich ran 40m using an FT-1000mp and log periodic at 110 ft with 500 watts while I ran a K2 and 2 element quad on 20m at 70 feet and a quarter wave sloper on 80m with 500 watts.



Conditions were rough here in southern Michigan with QRN from the horrible Midwestern thunderstorms but we managed to work through the QRN and had a very enjoyable two hour run. It was a lot of fun sending "gab" messages to each other through our use of Writelog and watching the QSOs come across from many of the sprint regulars. That's Rich KG7FS on the left and Ted K8AQM on the right after a very enjoyable May SKS.

We plan to do it again in the fall when conditions are better but with a bit of a twist; we'll use two old Hallicrafter's HT-37 transmitters and two Drake 2-B receivers! Make sure you have your RIT on and your bandpass open because we'll be "drifting through"! Until then K8AQM 1629c and K8UV 2250 aka KG7FS will be QRV for the next sprint hoping to work many more SKCC members. 73...Ted K8AQM

Kenwood to Merge With JVC

Kenwood to merge with JVC next year (Jun 25, 2007) -- This Week in Consumer Electronics (TWICE) reports that Kenwood has agreed to merge in 2008 with Victor Company of Japan (JVC) under a holding company. JVC is owned by Matsushita Electric Industrial Company. Japan's Nikkei business newspaper reports that the final details should be worked out by the end of the month, and that under the plan, Kenwood will buy 20 billion yen (\$161,469,466) in JVC shares as early as this summer, raising its stake to 13 percent. Matsushita will also sell part of its 52.7 percent of JVC to Kenwood's top shareholder, the Sparx Group. When JVC and Kenwood integrate operations under the holding company in 2008, Matsushita will sell the rest of its JVC shares to the holding company to complete the transaction. The holding company's stock will be listed instead of Kenwood and JVC, according to Nikkei. Combined,

Kenwood's and JVC's sales are \$7.3 billion dollars annually for their fiscal year that ended March 31.

Shack Of The Month



Chris Walter, SKCC 1895 arrived home from a trip to find his radio shack had been ransacked. Chris' letter follows.

Dear Mark,

Here is a photograph of my shack for possible submission in The SKCC Centurion. The damaged items on the floor include, but are not limited to, two sets of headphones, a book or two, the manual for my ICOM-746Pro, a notebook of wallpaper, an atlas of maps and a good deal of patience for the perpetrators of this disaster.

Fortunately, the radio, straight key, computer, all cables, power supply, and dummy load were all spared.

Speaking of dummy loads, the door was left open by our pet sitter when the XYL and I were out of town.



The other photograph shows two of the usual suspects. The dog on the left is Photon, his partner in crime, Oli, is chewing the last surviving stick from an old growth forest. Hi Hi. They were probably abetted by Kayla, Leela, Mira, Nadia, Qiana, Rocky, and Sugar.

The moral of the story is keep the radio shack locked, even if your dogs can copy CW faster than you can!

Editor's Note: I hope I NEVER feel your pain!

Key Of The Month



It is the Model KK1 from American Morse <http://www.americanmorse.com/>. This is a small key about 3 inches in length but don't let it's size fool you. It is machined from brass and aluminum and has a great feel. The base extends out slightly past the edge of the knob/paddle so it stays put on your desk. The KK1 sits low to the table as well so it's very comfortable to use.

The KK1 is a kit but there's very little to do. The instructions are very good and assembly goes very quickly.

I originally bought this key so I'd have something small for traveling. My Hi-Mound HM-HK707 is a little bulky. After using the KK1 for a while now I've discovered that it's migrated to a permanent place on my desk instead of being a novelty.

New Members

- 3162, KE7HLS, Steve, Reno, NV
- 3163, W9VT, Tri Town Radio Amateur Club, Hazel Crest, IL
- 3164, KB4NXE, James, Clermont, FL
- 3165, NA0VY, Douglas, Burnsville, MN
- 3166, WE7G, Wayne, Clinton, UT
- 3167, KW1R, Bob, Upland, CA
- 3168, N4UEB, Paul, Canada, KY
- 3169, WA3RML, Andy, Arlington, TX
- 3170, VK4SDD, Stuart, Malanda, Australia
- 3171, V31JP/K8JP, Joe, Dangriga/Arcadia, Belize/IN
- 3172, WE8Z, Dennis, Adrian, MI
- 3173, N8NM, Stephen, Waterford, MI
- 3174, KC2MHU, Bob, State College, PA
- 3175, W3ZT, Joel, Skaneateles, NY
- 3176, N3NZL, Tim, Edinboro, PA
- 3177, N3TTE, Joel, Plum, PA
- 3178, K3BQT, Harry, Cannonsburg, PA
- 3179, KB8N, Jim, Canfield, OH
- 3180, NO3I, Bob, New Castle, PA
- 3181, KA3AUX, Rick, Pittsburgh, PA

3182, W3NP, Dave, Fort Ashby, WV
 3183, N4UWU, Bob, Glenshaw, PA
 3184, WA3LKQ, Den, Allison Park, PA
 3185, N3AZH, Seth, Mt. Lebanon, PA
 3186, KA3NRX, Vince, Mt. Lebanon, PA
 3187, N3ZLQ, John, Alliquipa, PA
 3188, W3HZ, Lowell, Edinboro, PA
 3189, N3JSP, Norm, Freeport, PA
 3190, N3SFA, Bill, Centerville, PA
 3191, K8KE, Mike, Lyndhurst, OH
 3192, W8CZN, Jim, Hudson, OH
 3193, K3YN, Dennis, Farmington, PA
 3194, W7YV, Jim, Taylorsville, UT
 3195, AE5BH, Scott, Spring, TX
 3196, K4GZZ, Karl, Lilburn, GA
 3197, AK7D, Fred, Portland, OR
 3198, KB8NVL, Don, Morenci, MI
 3199, K8UGL, Dick, Columbus, OH
 3200, WA8OKR, Bill, Stow, OH
 3201, N2FZ, Bill, Pitman, NJ
 3202, G4YJS, Barrie, Cheshire, England
 3203, AA1SC, Wayne, Florissant, CO
 3204, WI9X, Jim, Belleville, IL
 3205, KJ3D, Tom, Stafford, VA
 3206, AF4LQ, Mike, Louisville, KY
 3207, WB2IFS, Jesse, Clinton, MD
 3208, N8DWH, Don, Alpharetta, GA
 3209, WW6CC, Cliff, Los Angeles, CA
 3210, KG4GVV, Don, Summerville, Scotland
 3211, WA7YUL, Robert, Humboldt, AZ
 3212, KC5CQD, Jesse, Seaside, CA
 3213, WA5FB, Frank, Biloxi, MS
 3214, GM4SLV, John, Shetland Islands, UK
 3215, JA1MNJ, Takeshi, Tokyo, Japan
 3216, KZ5W, Bradley, Tomball, TX
 3217, AC6NN, Craig, Fairfax, VA
 3218, KB3OMJ, Richard, Edinboro, PA
 3219, W8UJX, Jerry, Morgan Hill, CA
 3220, WA2TGE, Mike, RockHill, Scotland
 3221, W4LVP, William, Johnson, City, TN
 3222, KC0TQX, Mike, Madison, SD
 3223, W5TMP, Mike, Austin, TX
 3224, N5SM, Scott, Amarillo, TX
 3225, DF9HJ, Jens, Hemdingen, Germany
 3226, K5HK, Carl, Reno, NV
 3227, W2AVC, Richard, Broadalbin, NY
 3228, W9GVW, Eric, San Antonio, TX
 3229, KD8LN, Stan, Cincinnati, OH
 3230, AB9HT, Ray, Collinsville, IL
 3231, KB3I, Ira, Owings Mills, MD
 3232, N4EEB, John, Ormond Beach, FL
 3233, N4TUA, Collin, Hawkinsville, GA
 3234, N1CO, Bill, Bangor, ME
 3235, KF5KWO, Jeff, Helotes, TX
 3236, K5HWT, Morgan, Austin, TX
 3237, W3RT, Red, Fairless Hills, PA
 3238, K1SEZ, Paul, Wallingford, CT
 3239, K0TRV, Raplh, Idaho Falls, ID
 3240, EI5HE, Sean, Mallow, Ireland
 3241, WR5U, Mike, New Iberia, LA

3242, K4CZI, Francis, Union Point, GA
 3243, N7LKB, David, Lynchburg, VA
 3244, UA3AO, Lery, Moscow, Russia
 3245, KC2KY, Neil, Centereach, NY
 3246, N0DLO, Andy, Topeka, KS
 3247, K4KHM, Kirby, Ruther Glen, VA
 3248, AB9ME, Dan, Madison, WI
 3249, KA5NNG, Mike, Marshall, AR

SKCC Awards

Centurion

88, K8BTD, 728, Gil, Quaker City, OH, 1 June 2007
 89, K4ZGB, 796, Tom, Northport, AL, 3 June 2007
 90, KD8GZ, 711, Tim, Norton, OH, 4 June 2007
 91, W5VYN, 2870, Ron, Whitesboro, TX, 5 June 2007
 92, K4CNW, 2961, Jack, Irmo, SC, 5 June 2007
 93, WU8V, 3044, Kurt, Shelby Township, MI, 5 June 2007
 94, KE5AQD, 2470, Roger, Austin, TX, 11 June 2007
 95, K5ECI, 2672, Bill, Enid, OK, 11 June 2007

Tribune

AB8KS, Lloyd, Mineral Wells, WV, 1 June 2007
 K8JD, John, 1395, Commerce, MI, 5 June 2007
 W0JFR, John, 2826, Louisville, CO, 11 June 2007
 AF2Z, Drew, 2082, Collingswood, NJ, 25 June 2007

40 Meter Endorsement

W4RMM, 2471, Bill, Albertville, AL, 11 June 2007
 AB6TY, 2743, Rich, Paso Robles, CA, 13 June 2007
 NT9K, 1926, Bill, Melbourne, FL, 15 June 2007
 AI4RE, 2308, John, Rockledge, FL, 16 June 2007

20 Meter Endorsement

NT9K, 1926, Bill, Melbourne, FL, 15 June 2007
 KG4W, 2416, Ed, Glen Allen, VA, 15 June 2007

SKCC WAS

K0LUW, 1702, Russ, Omaha, NE, 15 June 2007
 NT9K, 1926, Bill, Melbourne, FL, 27 June 2007

Field Day 2007

We want your field day reports for the August issue of The SKCC Centurion. There had to be a lot of us who participated in Field Day. If you did so, please write something up for us and include some pictures and we will do our best to get them published. Did something funny happen? Did you make a memorable contact? Was it 114 degrees at your Field Day site? Did your stations and antennas not want to work? Let us know. We will laugh, cry, and sympathies with you, but most of all, we will learn from one another.

SKCC Member Badge

Don Kemp, NN8B (# 36C) worked with Sign Man of Ohio to develop an SKCC members name badge. Don sent them the SKCC logo and they designed a badge for us. Tom, KC9ECI approved the design and we can now order them directly from <http://www.signmanofohio.com/radio.asp>.



The Sign Man of Ohio has an online order form that make it easy to order. Just specify in the comments box that the badge is an SKCC badge.

The SKCC Centurion

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Glendale, AZ 85304
Phone: 623-606-1976
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With SKCC every day is Straight Key Night!

The Straight Key Century Club is the fastest growing CW club focusing on manual generation of Morse code. Founded in January 2006, SKCC has grown to over 2500 members in calendar 2006. Members enjoy a very active email list server, SKCC forums, monthly sprints, and a monthly 24 hour operating event. Information about the Straight Key Century Club can be found at <http://www.skccgroup.com>.



Operating Frequencies

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

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

Operating Events

SKCC Sprint: SKCC Sprints take place each month on the second Wednesday of the month from 0100z to 0300z (Tuesday evenings 2000 Eastern Time). Rules for participation can be found at <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sprint-rules.htm>. For more information, contact SKCC Sprint Manager Kevin Kinderen at kkinderen@gmail.com or check the SKCC Yahoo group Calendar.

SKCC HighER Speed Gathering: Every Wednesday at 0300z, SKCC members interested in building their sending (and receiving speed) gather around 3550 on the 80 meter band or 7055 kHz on the 40 meter band for some higher speed CW. Speeds from 23 WPM on up are typical but any speed that pushes your personal envelope is welcome. Straight keys, bugs, cooties or other sideswipers or any other mechanical key is welcome. The Gathering is NOT a Net. Pick a spot on or about 3720 or 7055 and call CQ SKCC HS at your desired higher speed.

SKCC Weekend Sprint: Every 4th Sunday of each month beginning at 0000z UTC and ending 2359z UTC. This operating event is open to all licensed amateurs. Operate as much as you can and submit your best contiguous 4-hour window for score. Periodically themes will be announced for upcoming weekend sprints. See <http://www.skccgroup.com/activities.htm> for more information and rules.

SKCC Member Resources

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

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

SKCC QSL Bureau—Dan Rhodes, KA3CTQ manages this free service for SKCC members. Send and receive QSL cards for QSOs between SKCC members via this service. To receive your QSL cards, you need to have SASE (self addresses stamped envelopes) on file with the SKCC QSL Bureau. Dan also says non-members can send you QSL cards through the SKCC Bureau. For more information see <http://www.skccgroup.com/qs1.htm>. There are currently 127 members participating.

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

The SKCC Centurion—The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club published monthly. The SKCC Centurion is posted on the SKCC site, in the files section of the SKCC Yahoo Groups site, and distributed via email to your email inbox. To join The SKCC Centurion email list, send an email to The_SKCC_Centurion_subscribe@yahoo.com with Subscribe in the subject. There are currently 220 subscriptions.

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

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