

The SKCC Centurion

The official newsletter of the Straight key Century Club

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APRIL 2008

David John Waterman, SK W7FGD SKCC # 2651



David John Waterman unexpectedly passed away in the early morning hours of Saturday, April 28, 2007 in Kelso. He was born September 28, 1942 in Des Moines, Iowa to Raymond and Anna Mae Waterman. David was a devoted husband, loving father, and grandfather who brought humor, music and intelligence to all the lives he touched. Living a "real" life was his goal. David was an active and accom-

plished Hamm Radio Operator (W7FGD). He loved to travel, garden and was an avid orchid grower. He acted with the Cascade Players for many years. He was a published author in various magazines from Hamm Radio to game publications. In 1956 he became the youngest Eagle Scout in Portland, OR. In his college years David was a professional musician with the RF Trio. He was gifted with all string instruments as well as song writing and vocal abilities, playing most recently with a local group. David was proud to serve as a firefighter for the city of Kelso for many years. During this time he met and married the love of his life, Donna and joined her in operating the House of Plants on Commerce in Longview. He worked for Columbia Ford for several years, then at the Crawford House as the administrator with his most recent years of employment at Somerset where he retired but continued as a volunteer.

He is preceded in death by his father, Raymond John Waterman. David is survived by his beautiful wife, Donna; his mother, Anna Mae Waterman of Hood River, OR; a sister, Susan Hartford of Hood River, OR; four daughters, Jessica Waterman-Baker of Longview, Stacey Waterman-Hoey of Olympia, Sarah Beth Waterman of Longview and Meredith Castro of Kelso; former wife, Linda (Nosedo) Waterman of Kelso; 2 step-sons, Kirk Addicks of Snohomish, WA and Chief Petty Officer

Joseph Addicks of Everett, WA; one niece, Jillian Cadwell of Bolder, CO; 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

At David's wishes, no formal service will be held. There will be a viewing on May 2, from 10-5 at Dahl-McVicker Funeral Home. The family will be available from 11-1.

Editor's Note: Members wishing to leave a message for David's family can do so at [The Daily News](#) of Longview, WA.

New Tribune Administrator

Starting now, Ron Bower AC2C will take over as Tribune Administrator. Our deepest thanks go out to Frank KB4T for managing the award for the first 2 years. Frank will continue to manage the SKCC Marathon award and oversee the SKCC Yahooogroup. All awards applications should be updated with Ron's information. Those applications and more information can be found at www.skccgroup.com/tribune_rules.htm. Ron's email is AC2CRon@Gmail.com.

CW Shortcuts

This is the first of two parts about CW operation shortcuts, abbreviations and Q codes.

Those CW operators of yesteryear, commercial and maritime telegraphers, really knew how to efficiently sent messages along. Using a combination of standard Q signals or codes and standard abbreviations, the task of moving traffic messages became very streamlined. A lot of work went into settling on the standards for Q codes and abbreviations and those standards are still used today by amateur radio operators around the world.

Looking at the standard abbreviations we can see many are very easy to translate into their proper meaning, but a few may puzzle the reader. As you look at this list of abbreviations, ask yourself how many of these you have heard used on the air and how many have you used on the air.

Abbrev.	Meaning
ABT	About
ADR	Address
AGN	Again
ANT	Antenna
B4	Before
C	Yes
CFM	Confirm
CUL	See you later

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ES	And
FB	Fine business
GA	Go ahead
GA	Good afternoon
GB	Good bye
GB	God bless
GE	Good evening
GG	Going
GM	Good morning
GN	Good night
GND	Ground
GUD	Good
HI	Laughter
HI	High
HR	Here; hear
HV	Have
HW	How; how copy
LID	A poor operator
MSG	Message
N	No
NIL	Nothing
NR	Number
NW	Now
OB	Old boy
OM	Old man
OP	Operator
OT	Old timer; old top
PSE	Please
PWR	Power
RIG	Station equipment
RPT	Repeat; report
RX; RCVR	Receiver
SED	Said
SEZ	Says
SIG	Signal
SKED	Schedule
SRI	Sorry
TMW	Tomorrow
TNX	Thanks
TT	That
TU	Thank you
TVI	Television interference
TX	Transmitter
UR; URS	Your; Yours
VY	Very
WKD; WKG	Worked; working
WL	Will
WUD	Would
WX	Weather
XMTR	Transmitter
YF; XYL	Wife
YL	Young lady
73	Best regards
88	Love and kisses

As you can see sending abbreviations is much faster than spelling out the actual meanings. This is one tool professional telegraphers used to efficiently pass messages and telegraphs. Many of us already use abbreviations, but some of the newer hams or operators new to CW may not be aware of this tool.

Now when you are in QSO and hear a strange string of letters and can't understand them, you have a handy guide to help you determine if it is an abbreviation.

Wooden Key Bases

George Osier, N2JNZ, makes beautiful key bases for your keys. George says, "I started making bases when I first got my flameproof key because there was nothing out there or nobody at the time making bases. My Dad was a cabinetmaker in his spare time and enjoyed working with many different woods. I have made bases in Redheart, Chechen and Santo Mahogany in 5/8 and 1 inch thickness. I finish the bases in Minwax Wipe On Poly Gloss which gives a great shine but doesn't make the wood look like its covered in plastic." Samples of the bases are on the SKCC YAHOO group under "photos" and then to the N2JNZ Keys Folder. These are made from exotic woods and some are almost too pretty to drill holes into for mounting your key. Contact George gossier@twcny.rr.com for a list of exotic woods currently available. Key base pricing is \$10 each plus \$5 USPS Priority Mail shipping.

Here are two samples of his work. On the left is Redheart and on the right is Chechen.



These key bases are 8 1/2 inches long, 5 1/2 inches wide and 1/2 inch thick. These will make any key look good and will be a nice addition to your shack.

Gold SKCC Stickers

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS, is making Gold SKCC stickers available to all SKCC members. These stickers are 1 inch in diameter peel-and-stick gold foil stickers. The gold stickers come 63 to a sheet on an 8 1/2 x 11 inch page. The sticker has the SKCC key logo centered on the sticker and member numbers can be printed below the logo, including Centurion and Tribune designators. Pricing for the Gold SKCC stickers is very reasonable \$0.60 per sheet of 63 plus shipping.



1 sheet (63)	\$1.40
2 sheets (126)	\$2.17
3 sheets (189)	\$2.77
4 sheets (252)	\$3.37
5 sheets (315)	\$4.14
6 sheets (378)	\$4.74
7 sheets (441)	\$5.34
8 sheets (504)	\$6.11
9 sheets (567)	\$6.71

10 sheets (630) \$7.31

Quantities over 10 sheets, please contact Mark for postage quote. Processing is 5-7 days excluding weekends. Orders and payments via PayPal to kj7bs@cox.net or USPS money order to:

Mark Saunders
13226 N. 62nd Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85304

Please include the above pricing when ordering,

Editor's Soapbox

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS SKCC 2240T

A co-worker popped into my office a few weeks ago and told me his dad was a ham years ago, but his dad wound up selling his equipment, National, Drake, and Heathkit, and has not been on the air in decades. My co-worker was curious about ham radio today and what it takes to get a license. We talked for several minutes while I explained the relative painless process to get licensed. He said, "is that all?"

Fast forward two weeks and my co-worker popped into my office again and said, "I only missed two." To which I replied, "two what?" He had passed his Technicians examination the previous evening. We went out to lunch and talked about all the things he could now do with his Technicians license. He was full of questions. How do I do this? Why can't I do that? And so on. He was hooked!

We talked at length about HF operations and he started "shopping" for a radio, comparing radios really to get an idea of what was available. He sent me an email with the Subject "Here It Is". When I opened the email, the image was that of an ICOM IC-746, a truly handsome radio. I could not help but tease him. I told him it was too much radio for him to handle. I compared it to giving a sixteen year old who just got his drivers license a new Ferrari. We both had a good laugh.

Now, he has his General class license and a vanity callsign, K7DAS and I hear "Have I told you today how I can hardly wait to get my radio?" I found him a Cushcraft R-5 HF vertical and we started designing a tilt over mount for it and talking about stealth antennas. Yes, he lives in what he calls a "Kommie Neighborhood" with an HOA.

As it turns out, his next door neighbors think it is neat he is a ham and have no problems with him having antennas up, and one of them is the HOA President. Now, K7DAS is on the air and full of questions. What is operating split? What are these weird sounds on the bands? What's a net? What's that strange muffled sound coming from my TV when I transmit? So I get to explain more stuff.

Then stuff really started to get interesting. He worked his first DX station and then another and another. Did I mention he is hooked? I introduced him to Ham Radio Deluxe for logging and rig control and integrated DX spotting cluster. He could hardly believe if he clicked on the callsign in the DX cluster

window that the radio would go to the spotted frequency. He tried it. Did I mention he is hooked?

K7DAS is having a great time and so am I. It is neat to see his excitement as he learns new stuff and I easily see my excitement 15 years ago as a new ham when I see his excitement today.

The latest, "You know I have to get my Extra now." Oh brother, I've created a monster.

Now Go Pound Some Brass!

SKCC Contest Results

SKS Sprint

March 2008—Congratulations to Gary K9MMS for winning the February sprint! His win was closely followed by Russ, K0LUW in second place and third to John W-JFR. Congratulations gentlemen.

WES Sprintathon

March 2008—Congratulations to Bert W5ZR for taking first place, and to Cookie K5EWJ and Jose XE1YJL for taking second and third, respectively. Well done gentlemen.

New Members

4259, KC0MS, Karl, Des Moines, IA
4260, AG2I, Jim, Patchogue, NY
4261, K6JF, Jim, Sunnyvale, CA
4262, AA1LO, Dave, Wells, ME
4263, N8CBA, Jeff, Saint Joseph, MI
4264, WB9QVY, Mike, Galesburg, IL
4265, KB3OXH, Bill, Canonsburg, PA
4266, VR2YMY, K.C., Lau, Hong Kong, PRC
4267, KB2FHH, Ted, Schenectady, NY
4268, WA8KDA, John, Hudson, OH
4269, KR0I, Mac, Kansas City, MO
4270, KI4RMO, Rick, North Port, FL
4271, NV5H, Brad, Bonham, TX
4272, KJ2M, Tom, Newton, NJ
4273, W2ZU, William, Jasper, NY
4274, WB2RJR, Marty, Boulder, WY
4275, WD8NHA, Mike, West Olive, MI
4276, KA8FAN, Eric, Concord, NC
4277, KB3MXK, Mitch, Reisterstown, MD
4278, KE5QWP, David, Richardson, TX
4279, K4ZXX, Susan, Kings Mountain, NC
4280, WD4MAD, Robert, SevenLakes, NC
4281, WB2GHC, Bill, Churchville, NY
4282, WQ5X, Paul, Arlington, TX
4283, KJ4NX, Wayne, Nashville, TN
4284, K7PGL, Randy, Whitetail, MT
4285, K7RMJ, Frank, Florissant, MO
4286, W6EOD, Steve, Baker, FL
4287, N0KWA, Jim, Tailsheek, LA

4288, N4FUF, Andy, Bennington, KS
 4289, K4UFT, Ted, Greenville, SC
 4290, KC2STA, Dan, Glenville, NY
 4291, K9MMS, Gary, St. Charles, IL
 4292, WD8OSE, Tom, Stephenson, MI
 4293, K1JAW, Jim, Longmeadow, MA
 4294, W4TGB, Mark, Knoxville, TN
 4295, KH6U, John, Kailua, HI
 4296, VE7GTE, Jan, Pitt Meadows, Canada
 4297, WD9F, Woody, Springfield, IL
 4298, N4UED, Chuck, Roanoke, Rapids, NC
 4299, AC7FA, Don, Port Orchard, WA
 4300, W6HVR, Gene, Florence, OR
 4301, K4ETC, Jonathan, Johnson City, TN
 4302, KA4IQD, Steve, Sumerset, OH
 4303, K2TV, Bob, Copiague, NY
 4304, K2PAY, Gerald, Coram, NY
 4305, WA3VXJ, Karl, Carnegie, PA
 4306, JH5NTL, Yasu, Shimanto City, Japan
 4307, KB2SER, John, WestChazy, NY
 4308, N9TA, Fred, Spencer, IN
 4309, N6QBQ, Steve, Long Beach, CA
 4310, KD8IFM, Gerry, Manchester, MI
 4311, N5UGW, Jerry, Lexington, AL
 4312, KC8ITC, Dave, Saline, MI
 4313, KO6ECV, Patrick, Santa Rosa, CA
 4314, K7GLM, Greg, Sammamish, WA
 4315, AC5TD, Ralph, Buda, TX
 4316, W7NNN, Eric, Gig Harbor, WA

SKCC Awards

Centurion

163, KB3MQN, 236C, Dave, Enola, PA, 15, January, 2008
 164, W4HDM, 3729C, Damon, Cumming, GA, 16, January, 2008
 165, WQ9Z, 325C, Roy, Skesser, IL, 19, January, 2008
 166, N9CYF, 2408C, Tex, Beach, Park, IL, 19, January, 2008
 167, W2LJ, 49, Larry, South, Plainfield, NJ, 19, January, 2008
 168, K4HL, 3713C, Les, Pensacola, FL, 24, January, 2008
 169, N8UO, 2642C, Ken, Warren, MI, 24, January, 2008
 170, W3FAF, 877C, John, Mahtomedi, MN, 26, January, 2008
 171, WD4SCZ, 556C, Emil, Elizabethtown, KY, 31, January, 2008
 172, KE6OIO, 1204C, Ann, Garden, Grove, CA, 3, February, 2008
 173, W4DEC, 2119C, Larry, Theodore, AL, 7, February, 2008
 174, K2NPN, 1687C, Phil, Marcy, NY, 8, February, 2008
 175, K1ULF, 3689C, Ulf, South, Windsor, CT, 13, February, 2008
 176, W6SQQ, 1283C, Al, Orange, CA, 13, February, 2008
 177, N7BO, 3725C, Russ, Cedar, City, UT, 13, February, 2008
 178, AA9KH, 219C, Jay, Homewood, IL, 15, February, 2008
 179, AB1BW, 2468C, George, Bridgewater, CT, 15, February, 2008
 180, K4LNN, 3984C, Duane, Micco, FL, 15, February, 2008
 181, K1NNJ, 2937C, Tom, Shirley, MA, 18, February, 2008
 182, KG8WF, 3929C, Vince, Williamsburg, MI, 18, February, 2008
 183, K5EWJ, 4077C, Cookie, Santa, Fe, TX, 18, February,

2008
 184, N9FC, 3893C, John, Indianapolis, IN, 25, February, 2008
 185, WA4ONV, 3316C, Joe, Miami, FL, 28, February, 2008
 186, N6VL, 2383C, Steve, Buena, Park, CA, 29, February, 2008
 187, AD7JY, 3060C, Gordon, Nordland, WA, 12, March, 2008
 188, W4ELP, 3074C, Ed, Gainesville, GA, 12, March, 2008
 189, KU8T, 2442C, Tom, Fort, Wayne, IN, 13, March, 2008
 190, W8FDV, 1390C, James, Apache, Junction, AZ, 13, March, 2008
 191, N2YHQ, 2373C, Marcelo, Penfield, NY, 16, March, 2008
 192, WA1AR, 4079C, Alan, Wrentham, MA, 16, March, 2008
 193, AB8FJ, 62C, Ted, Loveland, OH, 26, March, 2008
 194, LW3EX, 3804C, Walt, Munro, Argentina, 26, March, 2008
 195, N8XE, 3806C, Jason, Hilliard, OH, 26, March, 2008
 196, K8UV, exKG7FS, 2250C, Rich, Manchester, MI, 27, March, 2008
 197, KA2BSK, 3875C, Eric, Jackson, NJ, 29, March, 2008

Tribune

77, KE0QM, 2166C, Dennis, Olathe, KS, 2, February, 2008
 78, K8LEN, 520C, Patrick, Pekin, IN, 15, February, 2008
 79, KE0N, 256C, Eliot, Minneapolis, MN, 15, February, 2008
 80, KE5AKL, 1113C, Mike, Albuquerque, NM, 15, February, 2008
 81, KB4QQJ, 3508C, Randy, Burlington, NC, 16, February, 2008
 82, K1NNJ, 2937C, Thomas, Shirley, MA, 28, February, 2008
 83, WB2LOS, 2729C, Michael, Lake, Grove, NY, 25, March, 2008
 84, K5EWJ, 4077C, Cookie, Sante, Fe, TX, 25, March, 2008
 85, W7DAX, 2429C, Richard, Liberty, UT, 25, March, 2008
 86, K0IVK, 1436C, Joe, Springfield, MO, 26, March, 2008
 87, N4RE, 942C, Rick, Raleigh, NC, 26, March, 2008
 88, W9TFC, 1391C, John, Mondovi, WI, 26, March, 2008
 89, N9FC, 3893C, John, Indianapolis, IN, 26, March, 2008
 90, KG8WF, 3229C, Vince, Williamsburg, MI, 26, March, 2008
 91, WA0WNV, 1232C, Ron, Hoyt, Lake, MN, 29, March, 2008
 92, N8XMS, 957C, Paul, Livonia, MI, 29, March, 2008

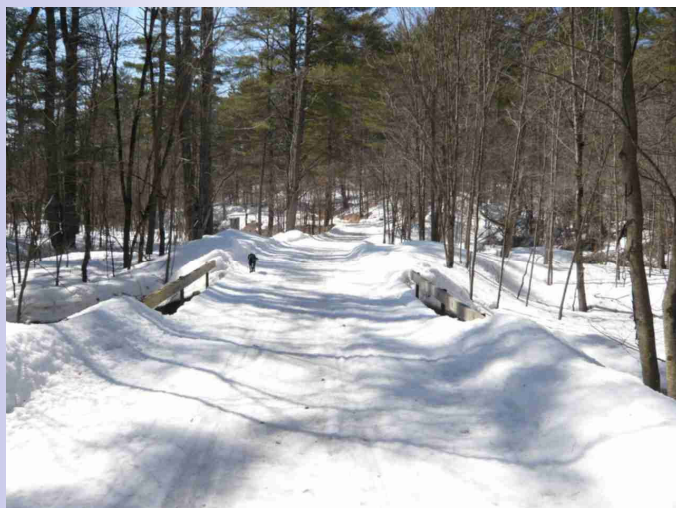
Operating Afield

Early Spring on the Pemigewasset

Jim Cluett, W1PID, SKCC # 676

April 2008

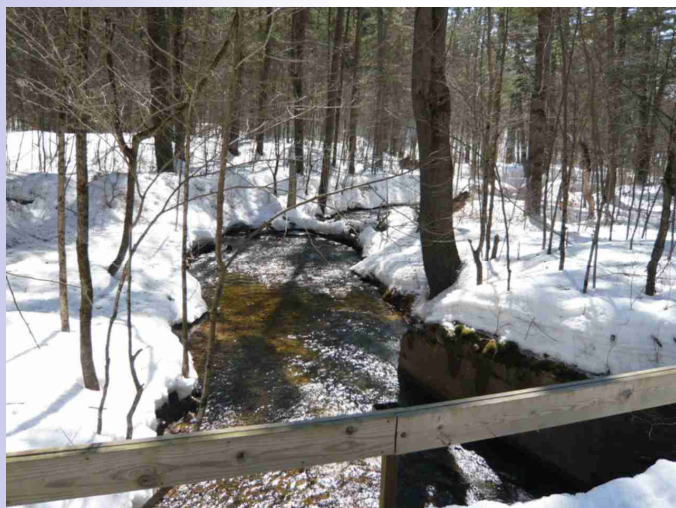
There's still two feet of snow on the ground in my part of New Hampshire. But there are signs of spring! Today it reached 45 degrees, and a few patches of bare earth peak through... if you find just the right spot on a south facing slope. So I took the ATS-3 and a half wave wire and headed down to the Pemigewasset River with my dog Meghan. In the winter this trail is only accessible by snowmobile or skis.



Meghan walks across the bridge ahead of me

The whole area is owned by the Corps of Engineers because it's upstream from a huge dam and is completely underwater in the spring. Once it really starts to melt... the river will rise between 30 and 60 feet where we're walking. It stays that way for a couple of weeks.

The ice in Salmon Brook disappeared about a week ago and water is rushing.



There are signs of spring

About a mile up the trail there is a small inlet from the river. Within sight of that little cove I find a precious patch of bare ground... just beneath some towering pines.



I throw a 33 foot wire over a pine branch and plunk myself down for a little operating. The temperature is nearly 65 degrees in the sun! I unzip my coat, and setup the ATS on 20 meters. There's some pretty nice DX on the bottom end of the band and it's strong enough that I'm sure I can work some with flea power.

Shortly after two o'clock, I hear SP75T calling CQ. This is a special event station in Poland commemorating the 75th anniversary of the SP DX contest. I work him easily and make a quick exchange.

From my spot I look out over the cove. The water is about 8 feet higher than it is during the summer. This has caused the ice in the cove to break up. In the main part of the river, there is free flowing water.



The river is opening and so is 20 meters

A few minutes later I hear VP5/W5CW working a string of stations. I make my way through the lineup and add Turks and Caicos to my log.

Before leaving I hear Slovek, OK1TN in the Czech Republic calling CQ. We exchange 599's and I tell him I am QRP. "FB QRP," he returns. "How much power?" I tell him 4 watts and he sends his congratulations.

Meghan is anxious to get going, and I pack up for the walk up the steep hill to the car. In a few weeks, the whole area will be flooded and I'll have to wait for it to dry out, probably in mid-May before returning.

Key Of The Month



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

If you would like your key featured in Key of The Month, send your picture and a short description to kj7bs@cox.net.

Shack Of The Month



K2RFP - I took the photos a few days ago. I took the station for a hike in my back pack to try for some QRP action. I came up empty. The band was rather quiet except for a few CQs by Dave at W1DV. I tried calling him but I guess he could not hear me.

Send images of your shack and a brief description to kj7bs@cox.net.

QSL Of The Month



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

The SKCC Centurion

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Glendale, AZ 85304
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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 3700 members in calendar 2007. Members enjoy a very active email list server, SKCC forums, monthly sprints, and a monthly 24 hour operating event. Information about the Straight Key Century Club can be found at <http://www.skccgroup.com>.



Operating Frequencies

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

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

Operating Events

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

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

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

SKCC Member Resources

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

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

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

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

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

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

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