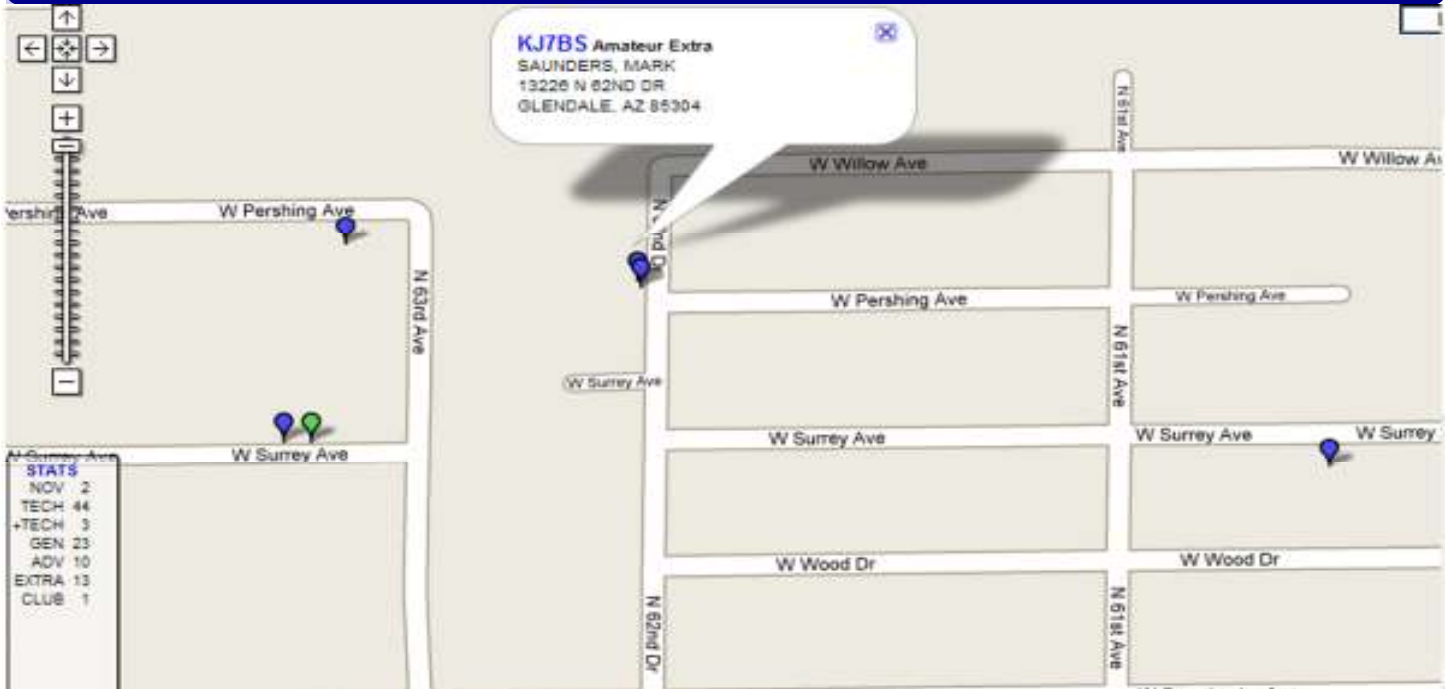


The SKCC Centurion

The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club

VOLUME 02, ISSUE 07

JULY 2008



Is Your Neighbor A Ham?

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS SKCC # 2240

Have you ever wondered who the amateur radio operators are who live in your neighborhood? Now you can answer this burning question. Simply direct your web browser to N4MC's web site <http://www.vanityhq.com/> and select the N4MC Ham

Locator about halfway down the left margin.

To use this tool, enter you ZIP code, select the map size, and click the Generate Map button at the bottom. To receive the most up to date plots, make sure you select the **Use Latest Available FCC Data** option. This search can take several minutes depending on the density of hams in your ZIP code.

Once the results come back, you can scroll and zoom. When you click on a balloon you get to see the callsign data from the FCC callsign

database.

You may be surprised to learn there are hams in your neighborhood you never knew about. Now you have something in common, so go introduce yourself and make a new friend

Product Safety Recall

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with RadioShack, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. (To access color photos of the following recalled products, see CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.)

Name of Product: 13.8V DC Power Supplies

Units: About 160,000

Importer: RadioShack Corp., of Fort Worth, Texas

Hazard: The recalled power supplies are wired incorrectly, posing electrocution and fire hazards.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: The recall involves RadioShack 13.8V DC Power Supplies, catalog numbers 22-507 and 22-508 with date codes from 08A04 through 01A08. Date code format is MMYY where MM is the month and YY is the year. The catalog number and date code are located on the back of the power supply. Power Supplies with a green dot on the product

Inside This Issue

Feature Columns	
Joe's Place	2
Morse Code Fonts	2
Editor's Spoopbox	3
SKCC Contest Results	3
New Members	3
SKCC Awards	4
Key of The Month	4
Shack of The Month	4
QSL Of The Month	5
Member Products	5

and the product's packaging have already been repaired and are not included in the recall.

Sold at: RadioShack stores nationwide from October 2004 through January 2008 for between \$50 and \$85.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should unplug the recalled power supply immediately and take it to any RadioShack store for a free repair. Registered owners of the recalled power supplies will be mailed a notice.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact RadioShack at (800) 843-7422 anytime, or visit the firm's website at www.radioshack.com/recall.



13.8V DC 3-Amp Power Supply
Catalog #:22-507



13.8V DC 15-Amp Power Supply
Catalog #:22-508

Joe's Place

Joe Papworth, K8MP SKCC # 3339

The following article was published in the Delaware Amateur Radio Association's newsletter and I thought I would share it with the club. Joe Papworth, K8MP, SKCC 3339 writes a monthly column for the DELARA newsletter.

Howdy from Joe's Place...

Last August I was tuning around on 10 meters and I heard a CW station calling "CQ SKCC" on 28.050 mhz. "Hmmm... What does SKCC mean?", I wondered to myself. I did a quick internet search and found that it's the *Straight Key Century Club*.

That's one club I hadn't heard of and it turns out that it is a fairly new (but rapidly growing) group of folks dedicated to using straight keys. The club is free to join (donations are welcome) and they have a great web site. (<http://www.skccgroup.com/>)

The club features a QSL bureau, monthly weekend and week-night contests, a chat-room-style sked page, their own awards program, a Yahoo User's group, and other activities to numerous to mention. They really have done it right.

Anyway, I joined soon after perusing the web site and have been having a ball with my old J-38 hand pump ever since.

Why do I recommend this club?

Several DELARA members have expressed interest in improving their CW skills, even though it is no longer an FCC requirement. The SKCC club would be a fun way of doing it and here is why: Many of the SK gang are sprouting their wings on CW, just like you would be doing. It reminds me of my old novice days when all of us new Hams were learning on the job. We all wanted to get our code speed above 13 wpm so

we could get our General class licenses. Sure, we could have practiced by copying WIAW but CW practice was (and still is) *boring*.

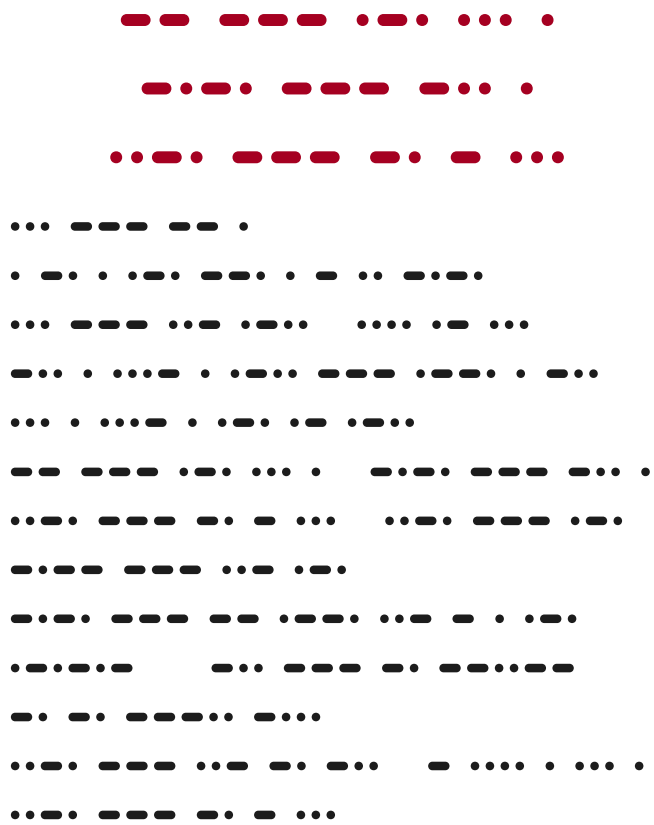
On the other hand, making contacts on the radio was (and still is) **fun !!!** Before long, the other beginners and I were copying 15 wpm, and we got there just by getting on the air and making QSO's.

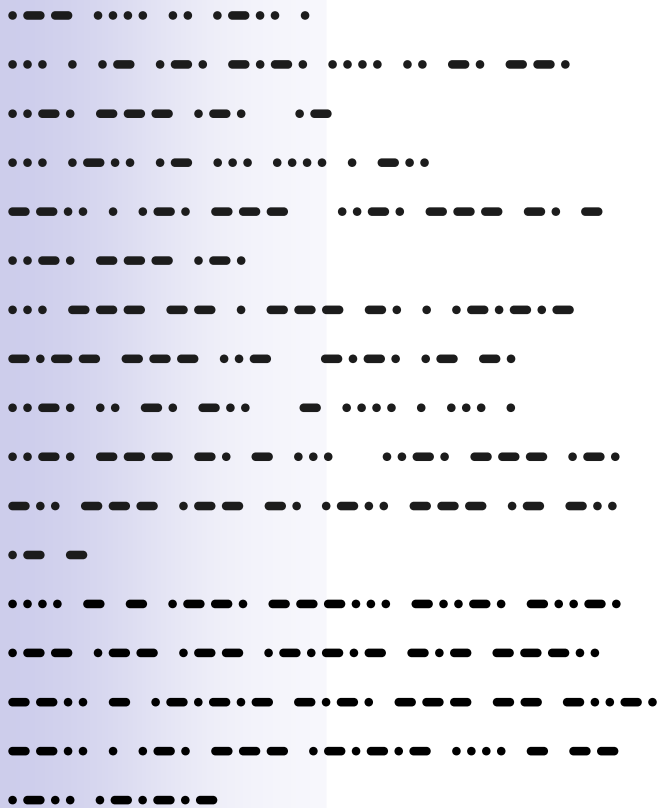
SKCC Contesting

OK, so you've listened to some of the regular CW contests and were overwhelmed by the speed of the operators. How do you think those guys got to where they could copy those 30+ wpm exchanges? Everyone had to start somewhere, right? The SKCC contests are right up your alley if you want to try CW contesting at a comfortable speed. Many of the participants run at less than 10 wpm and all are happy to go as slow as you need them to. And at slower speeds, you can easily log your contest QSO's on paper. So if you don't have computer-logging capability in your shack, no worries, mate.

One final thought on contests: Two of the "Biggies" are coming up soon. The ARRL International DX contest (CW version) takes place over the weekend of February 16-17 and the Phone version falls on the first weekend in March. If someone wants to come over and "play radio" in one of these events, just give me a call or drop me an email. (k8mp@aol.com) or 740-548-6362.

Well, that's about it for February. I hope to see you all next month...At Joe's Place.





Editor's Soapbox

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS SKCC 2240T

Band conditions are poor at this time. It's pretty bad when there are scarce signals in the 20 meter phone band. Mind you, these are my observations from my operating location and my specific setup.

Atmospheric noise and static crashes makes 160, 80, 60, and 40 meters almost unusable in the evenings. The lack of any meaningful sunspots makes 6, 10, 12, and 15 meters non-starters unless you can catch some sporadic E openings on 10 or 6 meters. Even 17 meters is having trouble supporting QSOs of late.

What about the two other bands. 20 and 30 meters? These are where I'm hearing most CW signals, weak but workable. There is also a lot of QSB on these bands. Signals start 559 to 579 and them plummet mid QSO so I tend to keep QSOs short.

Band conditions are going to get better, but it may take time. Until then, I'll find something else to occupy my ham radio time, and antenna work in the Southwest desert in the summer is not one of them. It's 110 degrees as I write this. Maybe I'll work on my mobile HF installation and HI-Q antenna mount in the air conditioned garage.

Now go pound brass!

SKCC Contest Results

SKS Sprint

June 25, 2008—Congratulations to Gary, K9MMS who placed first with Ron, K9DTH placing second and Ed, KG4W a close third. Well done gentlemen. A special note for Mark, KJ7bs operating the club call K9SKC, his score was fifth highest in points, but the club call is not eligible to place. Nice showing by 57 participants.

WES Sprintathon

June 8, 2008—Congratulations to Ron, K8DT who placed first with Chris, AI4AW placing second and Gary, K9MMS placing third. Well done gentlemen. A special note for Russ, K0LUW operating the club call K9SKC, his score was first highest in points, but the club call is not eligible to place. Nice showing by 56 participants.

New Members

- 4476, WE7K, Tommy, Chandler, AZ
- 4477, SF4J, Lennart, Kumla, Sweden
- 4478, KK6CB, Matt, San Francisco, CA
- 4479, G0FEI, Victor, Norfolk, United Kingdom
- 4480, W6OI, Ten-Ten International Net Club Station, Grove Heights, MN
- 4481, WB9VTB, Dave, Greenfield, IN
- 4482, W4EHZ, Robert, Ocala, FL
- 4483, KF6NCX, Larry, Chico, CA
- 4484, KB1OSI, Devin, Windham, NH
- 4485, G4GZG, Larry, Essex, United Kingdom
- 4486, K6CSL, Bert, Riverbank, CA
- 4487, AI4RB, Randy, Saint Petersburg, FL
- 4488, W2HWW, Anthony, Neshanic Station, NJ
- 4489, N8KOM, Steve, Royal Oak, MI
- 4490, KD8FDN, Gregory, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- 4491, KF4KRV, Ed, Luverne, AL
- 4492, HB9DOD, Tom, Aargau, Switzerland
- 4493, K3DRQ, Dan, Milford, PA
- 4494, VK4IM, Adam, North Lakes, Queensland, Australia
- 4495, W4KRN, Karen, Nokesville, VA
- 4496, G4BNU, Paul, Gateshead/Newcastle, United, Kingdom
- 4497, DL3RL, Thomas, Brunn, Germany
- 4498, WA2DAC, Lynn, Peru, NY
- 4499, WN5KNY, William, Radium Springs, NM
- 4500, AB7KT, Ken, Las Vegas, NV
- 4501, G0GSJ, David, Cumbria, United Kingdom
- 4502, VK4JAZ, Grant, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
- 4503, N5VWN, Roland, Stockton, CA
- 4504, KG6TT, Jerry, Fairfield, CA
- 4505, 2E0SBS, Tony, Hampshire, United Kingdom
- 4506, KE5SNK, Shea, Independence, LA
- 4507, VE5SMC, Sean, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
- 4508, WA4FOB, Larry, Magnolia, KY
- 4509, G3SDW, Ken, Devon, United Kingdom
- 4510, K2PQ, Frank, Waterford, NJ
- 4511, M0JCD, John, Cheshire, United Kingdom

- 4512, M0XIG, John, Romsey, United Kingdom
- 4513, AI4GF, Dave, Tallahassee, FL
- 4514, AD7KC, Richard, Lacey, WA
- 4515, WD5CCW, Mike, Columbia, MS
- 4516, KC9NUH, Dion, Plainfield, IL
- 4517, K9PLM, Ed, Lemont, IL
- 4518, NH6JC, Mitch, Kapaa, HI
- 4519, KG4BYN, Ben, Kingston, TN
- 4520, M3ZVI, Frank, Liverpool, United Kingdom
- 4521, VA3TSK, Greg, Burlington, ON, Canada
- 4522, KI6JPX, Itchy, Gardena, CA
- 4523, N6RS, Kurt, Sacramento, CA
- 4524, WB4DLR, Dave, Manson, NC
- 4525, N8ZYA, John, Charleston, WV
- 4526, WD8IEL, Chelsea ARC, Chelsea, MI
- 4527, W4ZMZ, Don, Orangeburg, SC
- 4528, W1RET, Jim, Liberty Township, OH
- 4529, VO1BB, Bill, Saint John's, NL, Canada
- 4530, W5TM, Ed, Henryetta, OK
- 4531, KC7KZ, Rod, Idaho Falls, ID
- 4532, W9IL, Louis, Centralia, IL
- 4533, KI4OQE, Hank, Perry, FL
- 4534, VE1GA, Leigh, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- 4535, W8NSI, James, Belmont, MI
- 4536, G0DJA, Dave, Bolsover, England, United Kingdom
- 4537, N5JJJ, David, Livingston, TX
- 4538, SP3VZY, Greg, Owczeglowy, Poland
- 4539, K4SES, Myles, Brixton, GA
- 4540, AB1JB, Karen, Somersworth, NH
- 4541, KF4WI, Stanley, Albuquerque, NM
- 4542, KB0ETU, Phillip, Lillian, AL
- 4543, WB8HWF, Joe, Newark, OH
- 4544, VA3RE, Bob, Hamilton, ON, Canada
- 4545, KB5VWA, Steve, Beaumont, TX
- 4546, I5NQK, Antioio, Carrara, Italy
- 4547, KA9GEU, David, Poplar Grove, IL
- 4548, K8UY, Jack, Manchester, MI
- 4549, W2CSS, Jay, Aventura, FL
- 4550, KM4LC, Mark, Silver Spring, MD
- 4551, KC2CCX, Steven, Aventura, FL
- 4552, AB2MC, Cynthia, Brooklyn, NY
- 4553, KC2EIM, Fred, Union Beach, NJ
- 4554, KG4DKC, Howard, Cooper City, FL
- 4555, KC2HUC, Ansel, Brooklyn, NY
- 4556, K4SW, Dean, Manchester, TN
- 4557, K3KW, Doug, West Chester, PA

SKCC Awards

Centurion

- 222, N0JL, 2079C, Jim, Chillicothe, IA, 18 June, 2008
- 223, K6FFY, 1221C, Nick, Mt. Vernon, WA, 18 June, 2008
- 224, K8KS, 4444C, Kaz, Ann Arbor, MI, 18 June, 2008
- 225, K5IZO, 1507C, John, Houston, TX, 23 June, 2008

Tribune

- 114, KA3LOC, 660C, Ric, Lansing, KS, 8 June, 2008
- 115, N9OL, 4014C, John, Evansville, IN, 4 July, 2008

Key Of The Month



NT9K's Junkbox key.

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



WA7Yul's modest shack.

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

QSL Of The Month

Confirming QSO with	Date Day / Month / Year	UTC	MHz	RST	MODE

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

Member Products

Wooden Key Bases

George Osier, N2JNZ, makes beautiful key bases for your keys. 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 gosier@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) \$1.19
- 2 sheets (126) \$2.18
- 3 sheets (189) \$2.78
- 4 sheets (252) \$3.38
- 5 sheets (315) \$4.15
- 6 sheets (378) \$4.75
- 7 sheets (441) \$5.35
- 8 sheets (504) \$6.12
- 9 sheets (567) \$6.72
- 10 sheets (630) \$7.32

(Prices include shipping)

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, USPS money order or check to:

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

Please include the above pricing when ordering,

The SKCC Centurion

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

With SKCC every day is Straight Key Night!

Operating Frequencies

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

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

Operating Events

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

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

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

SKCC Member Resources

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

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

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

The Straight Key Century Club is the fastest growing CW club focusing on manual generation of Morse code. Founded in January 2006, SKCC has grown to over 3700 members in calendar 2007. Members enjoy a very active email list server, SKCC forums, monthly sprints, and a monthly 24 hour operating event. Information about the Straight Key Century Club can be found at <http://www.skccgroup.com>.



ceive your QSL cards, you need to have SASE (self addresses stamped envelopes) on file with the SKCC QSL Bureau. Dan also says non-members can send you QSL cards through the SKCC Bureau. For more information see <http://www.skccgroup.com/qs1.htm>.

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

The SKCC Centurion—The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club published monthly. The SKCC Centurion is posted on the SKCC site, in the files section of the SKCC Yahoo Groups site, and distributed via email to your email inbox. To join The SKCC Centurion email list, send an email to The_SKCC_Centurion_subscribe@yahoo.com with Subscribe in the subject. (469 members subscribed to electronic delivery)

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

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