

The SKCC Centurion

The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club

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DECEMBER 2008

NT9K Honored

Frank Haas KB4T—SKCC 981



Bill NTSK, SKCC 1926T smiles broadly after the surprise presentation of a special SKCC Service Appreciation Plaque in Melbourne FL, December 2008.

On December 6, 2008, Bill Crosier NT9K, SKCC 1926T

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presented with SKCC Service Appreciation Plaque during lavish ceremony at Denny's.

Bill Crosier NT9K, of Melbourne, FL thought Saturday morning was going to be just another get-together with nearby straight key lover Frank Haas KB4T of Daytona Beach, FL. Bill & Frank meet a few times a year for breakfast and a show 'n tell session that always attracts attention. But this get together had a little surprise for Bill.

Several weeks prior, the

SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) Leadership Team decided to honor Bill with a special recognition for his lengthy service to the club. Bill has served SKCC as Webmaster, Sprints Manager as well as providing considerable data processing support for the SKCC Anniversary Special Events. Bill recently stepped down as Sprints Manager to devote more time to his Webmaster duties and his growing custom long lever key creation efforts.

Working secretly, the Leadership Team passed the plate and commissioned George N2JNZ, SKCC 2836T (noted for his exotic wood key bases) to put together a custom plaque with a key and an engraved plate honoring Bill for his long term service to the club.



George contacted Frank KB4T, SKCC 981T in Daytona Beach asking for assistance in presenting the plaque. When George learned that Frank & Bill meet from time to time, the plan was set. The plaque was sent to Frank and a meeting date was set with Bill.

On the day of the grand event, Johanne N4HQE agreed to accompany Frank under the pretense that she and Frank had further plans after the breakfast meeting (which was actually true!) However, her primary role was to act as photographic historian of this momentous occasion. At the appointed hour, Frank, Johanne and Bill met at a Denny's in Melbourne, FL with Frank and Bill each carrying large bags with their treasured Show N Tell items. Johanne's eyes rolled (as expected) as she realized that she was clearly in the company of two big kids and their toys.

As we awaited breakfast, Bill could hardly contain himself and broke out his latest Amplidan-based long lever key creation.

Bill has been improving his tool set and gaining experience creating beautifully artistic, solid performing long lever keys with big knobs and shiny metals. His latest production was a sight to behold!

Maintaining his usual calm, cool demeanor, Frank slowly brought out the plaque and presented Bill with his award. Bill beamed with surprise but the smile on his face made it clear he was pleased to be recognized for his long hours of service to SKCC. The plaque is made of 1.5 inch thick, 8 inch square exotic wood with a J-38 style key and an engraved metal plate.

After our gourmet Denny's breakfast the Show N Tell began and Johanne took pictures. Lorna Burdick KE4WJW, manager of the Denny's, came over and visited as did other folks who were curious about the strange looking contraptions that covered the table. Bill returned a Vibroplex Lightning bug Frank had loaned him. Frank showed off a 1921 Vibroplex Lightning bug with Japanned base that he had purchased recently. Bill & Frank had fun explaining to visitors how the "machines" were used.

With the secret mission successfully accomplished and recorded, a good meal enjoyed by all and the keys adequately presented, the get-together ended with plans to meet again soon with more toys to show off.

SKCC has many dedicated members committed to making the club successful. Thanks to their efforts SKCC continues to provide a wide variety of resources and activities for those who appreciate the traditional aspects of ham radio operation. The SKCC Leadership Team thanks everyone who labors to help SKCC succeed. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

The Straight Key Century Club was created in January 2006 as a means to expand the joy of Amateur Radio's traditional Morse Code operation by creating monthly "straight key nights" and other activities that promote the use of manually operated, non-electronic keying devices. SKCC provides operating events, expert technical resources, training resources, online resources and a unique camaraderie that promote the finest traditions of Amateur Radio. SKCC membership is open to any Amateur Radio Operator anywhere. Membership is free. Visit <http://www.skccgroup.com> for more information.

New WES Manager

As we say thank you to Bill NT9K for his dedication and service, we welcome Dick Pav K2RFP as the new Weekend Sprint Manager. Dick has some large shoes to fill, but Dick's heart is in the right place and he has experience. Dick currently manages the weekly SKCC Sprint (SKS) so he's no stranger to running a sprint event. From some of the discussions I've seen, Dick has some interesting ideas up his telegrapher's sleeve.

Thank you for your continued support of the Straight Key Century Club and good luck.

Unlock That Key

Mike NJ3Z—SKCC 3844

Some of the material in this article first appeared in "73" magazine around 1980 and is used with permission from Wayne Green, publisher.

Hams who become proficient in using code have acquired a wonderful personal skill, as SKCC members can attest, but how many of those same hams have spent an equally important amount of time learning how to properly adjust their hand keys? I know I hadn't, even though I've been licensed for over forty years! Learn the code. Plug in the key. Shake the early jitters. Pound away! If you want to walk through a locked door, the first thing you do is unlock it, right? Well, if you want to unlock the door to a more pleasurable keying experience, you need to unlock your key before you start pounding that brass.

During some recent leisure background reading about telegraphy on the Internet, I came across some suggestions that I found to be very helpful and thought they might prove useful to other SKCC members. They were shared by an anonymous author, an old telegrapher, so if you try these suggestions and find an improvement in your keying enjoyment as I did, you owe any appreciation to the kindness of that pioneer in telegraphy.

For the sake of brevity, I'll summarize these suggestions in bullet form.

- As you are holding the finger pad between your forefinger and thumb, it's as important to lift up on the lever when keying as it is to push down. Keying is an up-and-down pumping motion. The spring is meant to keep the circuit open when you're not keying. It's not meant primarily to be a lever return.
- Unlock your key! I think it's human nature to want everything screwed down tight and secure, and that preference for the lever on our keys is no exception, but it should be. Loosen the trunnion screws until you can move the lever from side to side roughly the same distance as there is in the up and down play between the lever and the contacts. This will seem really loose, but it makes an incredible difference!
- When the lever is adjusted properly, back way off the tension on the lever spring. Most of us use too heavy a spring. You want the tension to be somewhere just on the other side of too light.

I was surprised at the improvement to the feel of my key as a result of these few adjustments, a key that I thought I had adjusted pretty well. Give it a try! Unlock that hand key! Enjoy!

Bicycle Mobile

Gi Jones—SKCC 22

What exactly is bicycle mobile? I asked myself this question a year or so ago. In researching “bicycle mobile,” I came across a website for enthusiasts of this type of radio operations: <http://75.60.24.163/BMHA/default.htm>. This is Bicycle Mobile Hams of America, and membership is free. Basically, bicycle mobile is simply operating ham radio from bicycles.

The predominant mode for operating /BM is using Single Sideband, often with radios transmitting at one hundred watts. Many times the bicycles used are recumbent tricycles rather than traditional bikes. When I saw this, I decided it was not for me since my XYL and I ride what are known as “comfort” bikes. These bikes have lots of soft suspension and wide tires. Ours are so frumpy that we even have baskets on the front handlebars.

About a month ago, I started thinking about bicycle mobile again and decided I would do some experiments. Specifically, I put a bracket on my bike’s luggage rack to hold a hamstick antenna. I also played around with using my Elecraft KX-1 in the basket on the front of the bike. Using my MFJ Antenna analyzer, I discovered my twenty meter hamstick did not match well.

Further experimentation resulted in my using about twenty-five feet of copper wire attached to a piece of wood at one end and attached to the luggage rack on the other. This wire is dragged as a counterpoise for the hamstick. The tuner in the KX-1 now matches almost perfectly!

I have only been doing CW a little over four years now. I am also a person who cannot chew gum and walk at the same time. So how am I to ride a bicycle and be able to carry on a CW QSO at the same time? I started out trying to use the small paddle attached to the KX-1. This worked, but not well. What really worked well was to use Palm Paddles attached to the handlebar by way of rubber bands directly above the hand brake for my right hand. Now, I can rest the heel of my hand on the handle while operating the paddle to send CW. So far, I haven’t tried to operate a straight key this way, and I am certain a bug would not work.

The transceiver is mounted (again with rubber bands) on a plastic box inside of the basket, together with a gel cell battery. This setup allows me to tune the radio with ease from the upright riding position of my comfort bike. My wife and I ride our bikes in a large cemetery close to our house. It has nice flat roads making it much easier for me to make QSOs using about four watts.

Actually, the biggest challenge for me is to try to remember the other operators’ call signs without being able to write them down. The older I get, the worse my memory is. When operating and copying in my head, I always write down the call sign and information for my logbook. Since I cannot record this information on the bike, I am limited to one QSO per ride—this

being the extent of my memory. For the time being, I am really enjoying this new aspect of ham radio every afternoon until the snow flies here in Montana.

Editor’s Soapbox

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS SKCC 2240T

The other night my wife sat me down and said, “we need to have a serious talk.”

I knew this was going to be good. “Ok” I said as my mind raced to anticipate what would come next. Was she going to scold me for not getting chores done around the house? Did I miss her birthday or our anniversary? Did she wreck the car? WHAT COULD IT BE?

She proceeded with, “There may be a 12-step program for this.”

Now she had my attention.

She continued, “I was sitting in your office talking on the phone and counted no less than 13 radio key things.”

Raising one eyebrow I simply said. “And?”

“And what do you need all those radio key things for anyway? They look so old. Do they even work?”

Ok, that last one stung a little bit. Most of what is in my office that doubles as my radio shack does not work or needs repair.

I had to compliment her as I could only identify 7 keys she pointed each one out to me. She even managed to find 2 more. I explained these are old keying devices, some pre WWII, but these three are modern paddles for use with electronic keyers.

“Do you need all of them?”

I told her I did not need all of them, but I wanted them and more. “This is history” I told her and I started telling her about the history. Her eyes glazed over.

When I finished my dissertation on the history of Morse code keying devices, the coldest words came out of her mouth, “So how much this all those key things cost?”

She did not want to know the present value of my collection, she was driving to the total cost. I won’t go into the details, but my collection is 5 keys lighter. I agreed to part with 5 keys. Fortunately for me, these were for parts only, but I made it appear it was a big loss to my collection.

A few days later, I confess to her what I had done. She said, “That’s ok, I only really wanted you to clean the room.”

SKCC Contest Results

SKS Sprint

November 26, 2008

This month's theme, Choose your key.

Visit the SKS page <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/> for full results.

There were 62 participants and the club call K9SKC was operated by Neil KC2KY with a score of 435.

Category 1 – I used a straight key only

1st Place Lou W9IL - 878 points
2nd Place Jack K4CNW - 864 points
3rd Place Chas K4IJ - 835 points

Category 2 – I used a sideswiper key only

1st Place Jim N0JL - 113 points
2nd Place Rob G4LMW - 56 points
3rd Place None

Category 3 – I used a bug only

1st Place Ed KG4W - 985 points
2nd Place Russ K0LUW - 710 points
3rd Place Jack KK0I - 492 points

Category 4 – I used a combination of keys

1st Place John K1NV - 229 points
2nd Place Bill NT9K - 200 points
3rd Place None

WES Sprintathon

November 9, 2008

This month's theme was the **DX, Rising stars, and Sweepstakes**. This was an unusual Sprint-A-Thon because entrants could also enter a drawing to win a beautiful key from the NT9K collection. Karen W4KRN was the lucky winner of the key.

Visit the WES page <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/> for full results and to see the handy work of some of our members.

There were **154** participants and the club call K9SKC was operated by Andy K3UK with a score of 1452 points.

Category 1 – 1 Watt or less

1st Place Jeff NS8A - 297 points
2nd Place Jeff K9JP - 56 points
3rd Place None

Category 2 – >1 to 5 Watts

1st Place Randy KB4QQJ/P - 1731 points
2nd Place Tim KX3H as N3A/2 - 1100 points
3rd Place George N2JNZ - 868 points

Category 3 – >5 to 100 Watts

1st Place Russ K0LUW - 9118 points
2nd Place Ed HG4W - 6667 points
3rd Place Ron K9DTH - 5213 points

Category 4 –> 100 Watts

1st Place Frank K2SQS - 7072 points
2nd Place John K4BAI - 3689 points
3rd Place Phil KL8DX - 3463 points

DX stations participating: G0DJA, G0RDO, G4LMW, JO3HPM, LW3EX, VA2NB, VE5BCS, VE5SMC, VE7DWG, VK4JAZ, VK4JT, ZL2BLQ

New Members

4834, KE5RTI, Bennie, Beaumont, TX
 4835, G0NXI, Les, Devon, United Kingdom
 4836, WI6I, Ric, Middletown, RI
 4837, AB2ZU, Nathan, Cortlandt Manor, NY
 4838, OK2CQR, Petr, Neratovice, Czech Republic
 4839, W8DN, Mike, Celina, OH
 4840, G3PQB, Sid, Peterborough, United Kingdom
 4841, K0AYZ, Dave, Williston, ND
 4842, WA3HGT, Herbert, Montoursville, PA
 4843, NU4ME, Robert, Birmingham, AL
 4844, WA9VEE, Wayne, Milwaukee, WI
 4845, VK4ZW, Ray, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
 4846, KB8TXZ, Jim, Orion, MI
 4847, VE7DXD, Mike, Gabriola Island, B.C., Canada
 4848, KJ4H, Herb, Brandon, FL
 4849, AB4SA, Nelson, Winter Park, FL
 4850, K7GA, Jeff, Cathlamet, WA
 4851, W7MAP, Chuck, Coppell, TX
 4852, OH7UG, Timo, Espoo, Finland
 4853, KC1JB, Pete, Franklin, MA
 4854, WA7URV, Phil, Sherwood, OR
 4855, W7XQ, Luke, Orange, CA
 4856, KE5VQX, AJ, Gulfport, MS
 4857, AD1R, Dave, Halifax, MA
 4858, K7RR, Peter, Silverdale, WA
 4859, KR4U, Dave, Saint Petersburg, FL
 4860, K3FHC, Jim, Coudersport, PA
 4861, WB7QUO, Bob, Shoreline, WA
 4862, W2XYZ, Frank, Lakewood, NJ
 4863, KC9MNU, Don, Hampton, IL
 4864, WA2ART, Phil, New York, NY
 4865, WI8Q, Terry, Toledo, OH
 4866, WA4TQS, Steve, Lake Jackson, TX
 4867, KB7CJ, Larry, Scottsdale, AZ
 4868, WB2SGS, John, Chenango Forks, NY
 4869, AG6F, Charlie, Oxnard, CA
 4870, WX3K, Stephanie, Sciota, PA
 4871, N7KR, Mike, Veradale, WA
 4872, K3SEW, Ron, Howard, PA
 4873, W1HAI, Joe, Natick, MA
 4874, KC9JDT, Susan, Poplar Grove, IL
 4875, NF9A, Bill, Gleason, WI
 4876, IK1XHN, Danilo, Genoa, Italy
 4877, KD8JHJ, Mike, Galion, OH
 4878, KB2HHW, Martin, Liberty, NY
 4879, W0NFE, Bob, Savage, MN
 4880, KA9BZM, Bill, Medaryville, IN
 4881, WB2SUN, Pete, St. Petersburg, FL
 4882, NW0C, Steven, Coon Rapids, MN
 4883, K5SOP, Jerry, Hideaway, TX

4884, WA4ZLK, Bruce, Raleigh, NC
 4885, KC8WAR, Guy, Columbiana, OH
 4886, K3VSA, Woody, Hillsborough, NC
 4887, VK3AGQ, Dick, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
 4888, K0MAF, Jack, Windsor, MO
 4889, KB1EPR, Thomas, Montpelier, VT
 4890, AB4YE, Bud, Louisville, KY
 4891, VE7API, Hugo, Duncan, B.C., Canada
 4892, KJ6EB, Cotter, Corinth, MS
 4893, VE3HNE, Walt, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada
 4894, KC0EEP, Tori, Manchester, MO
 4895, K2STU, Stu, Pottstown, PA
 4896, WT6G, Len, El, Dorado Hills, CA
 4897, G3ZOD, Graham, Stockport, England
 4898, WB6VRJ, Stuart, Fresno, CA
 4899, VE6AVJ, Dave, Gibbons, Alberta, Canada
 4900, N4PGW, Buck, Lenoir, NC
 4901, W4AIN, Phil, Louisville, KY
 4902, N1QVW, Ward, Rindge, NH
 4903, N9IBN, Karl, Springfield, IL
 4904, KU7Y, Ron, Brenda, AZ
 4905, KD8FME, James, Hudson, OH
 4906, WA8JIM, Jim, New Concord, OH
 4907, KA7VMM, Charles, Mesa, AZ
 4908, K9GRX, Kathy, Saint Joe, IN
 4909, G7DJK, Richard, Stourbridge, West Midlands, United Kingdom
 4910, G4ELZ, Jeff, Newton, Abbot Devon, United Kingdom
 4911, KS4JI, Gary, Lakeland, FL
 4912, W8VQ, Bill, Pickerington, OH
 4913, KB9ORH, Kerry, Crown Point, IN
 4914, N4IOR, Steve, Knoxville, TN
 4915, KD1PL, Paul, Danbury, CT
 4916, W4GJ, Bob, Gainesville, FL
 4917, VE3MRX NV3D/VE3, William, Oakville, Ontario, Canada
 4918, KI3N, Kenneth, Oxford, AL
 4919, KJ7UM KJ7UM/TA2, Grayson, Tucson, AZ
 4920, W6OEZ, Doyle, Madera, CA
 4921, K6ZIZ, Chuck, Ukiah, CA
 4922, KD8FYJ, George, Madison, OH
 4923, KA0SIX, Leo, Kansas City, KS
 4924, K0TER, Mike, Colorado Springs, CO
 4925, AC0FQ, Scott, Colorado Springs, CO
 4926, KD7VRG, Mike, Tucson, AZ
 4927, N4EAT, Ray, Gulfport, FL
 4928, N4BUA, Richard, Largo, FL
 4929, K4BNE, Rick, Saint Petersburg, FL
 4930, WB2ELD, Art, Flemington, NJ
 4931, N2IU, Richard, Akron, NY
 4932, KK7WB, Todd, Boise, ID
 4933, VE3ONN, Ontario, North ARES E.O.C., Ontario, Canada
 4934, WA9LT, Walt, Geneseo, IL
 4935, WA1LMD, Tom, Clearwater, FL
 4936, VE3FUJ, Brion, Harriston, Ontario, Canada
 4937, KM6NN, John, Clarksville, TN
 4938, KE7WDJ E73AW, Esed, Everett, WA
 4939, YC2YTH, Ir., Firman, Syafrony, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 4940, KE5NQP, Michael, Oxford, MS

4941, AD7KS, Steven, Pullman, WA
 4942, KF4MH, Red, Mobile, AL
 4943, KA1OX, Wayne, Old Saybrook, CT
 4944, K9NZ, Perry, Metamora, IN
 4945, ZL1HIT, Bryan, Auckland, New, Zealand
 4946, AJ4KZ, Mark, Apex, NC
 4947, K5LSU, Amateur Radio Society at LSU-Campus, Baton Rouge, LA

SKCC Awards

Centurion

241, W8LJ, 481C, Don, Columbus, OH, 3 November, 2008
 242, KC9KHG, 3687C, Randy, Woodstock, IL, 3 November, 2008
 243, K1PUB, 4101C, Chas, Boxborough, MA, 3 November, 2008
 244, VK4TJ, 4474C, John, Top Camp, AU, 3 November, 2008
 245, KG2G, 4361C, Bernard, Lakeland, FL, 3 November, 2008
 246, KH6G, 2202C, Kala, Lawai, HI, 3 November, 2008
 247, KC2KY, 3245C, Neil, Centereach, NY, 17 November, 2008
 248, N2UM, 3041C, Gary, Farmington, NY, 17 November, 2008
 249, K3UK, 1325C, Andy, Fredonia, NY, 17 November, 2008
 250, KA0CSW, 3741C, Jim, Litchfield, MN, 22 November, 2008
 251, K2SQS, 2535C, Frank, Edgewater Park, NJ, 22 November, 2008
 252, KE5WIQ, 4730C, Neil, Sugar Land, TX, 30 November, 2008
 253, GØRDO, 2133C, John, Newton, Abbot, UK, 30 November, 2008
 254, K8IJ, 4781C, Charlie, Alexandria, KY, 30 November, 2008
 255, WA6L, 4210C, John, Alpine, CA, 30, November 2008
 256, W7GB, 2771C, Don, Moses Lake, WA, 30, November 2008
 257, N5KIP, 3755C, Dick, Baton Rouge, LA, 30, November 2008

Tribune

131, KE5PWL, 4229C, Eric, Mt. Hermon, LA, 9 November, 2008
 132, KD8CGH, 4203C, Bob, Tallmadge, OH, 11 November, 2008
 133, N7BO, 3725C, Russ, Cedar City, UT, 11 November, 2008
 134, W4KRN, 4495C, Karen, Nokesville, VA, 14 November, 2008,
 135, HC2AD, 3671C, Allan, Guayaquil, Ecuador, 14 November, 2008
 136, AD5WI, 866C, Mark, Pea Ridge, AR, 23 November, 2008
 137, K8UUV, 2250C, Rich, Manchester, MI, 28 November, 2008

Key Of The Month



Timo OH7UN—Kent keys

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



I use an Elecraft K2 and an 80m long dipole suspended from trees about 200'

behind the house. The Ten Tec Jupiter is a generous gift to my sons, Nathaniel KB3YB and Jonathan KB3RLI, from a ham and WW-II vet leaving the hobby for health reasons. He wants the rig used by "young blood," he says.

On top of the Jupiter you see two boxes. The right one is an Elecraft K1 QRP four-band rig and to the left is a switch box that switches all keys between rigs.

To the left is the power supply with a VHF/UHF Yaesu 7800R on top. The little black box next to it lets me use the rig with packet radio with a laptop soundcard. The audio output of the

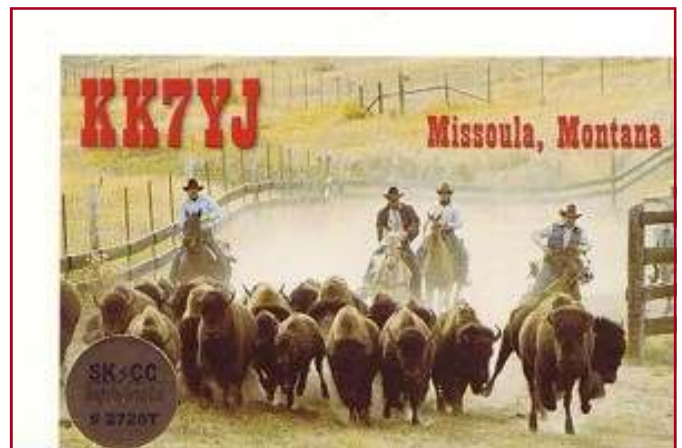
rigs goes to the mixing board at the very left so that all sound comes through the little white speakers. A subwoofer/amplifier is below the desk. (The stereo, rather than mono, set up is to also be able to enjoy commercial FM or streaming music.)

The keys are a Vibroplex 100th Anniversary Original, Kent paddles, and a Soviet Army straight key.

The mouse, pooch, and fox are carvings made in spare time sitting out back enjoying the day.

Email pictures of your shack with a 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

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" says George. 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.

Her 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. (485 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>.

SKCC Elmers—Jeff, K9JP (SKCC # 3008) manages the group of SKCC members serving as Elmers for the club. Anyone wishing assistance can visit the SKCC Elmers page for more information, <http://www.skccgroup.com/elmers.htm>.