



# 'Rag Chew'

*The quarterly newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club*

Volume 6 Issue 4

December, 2015



The Christmas Season is upon us! May the season bring you many QSOs, strong signals and lots of needed DX!

SKCC has nearly 15,000 members and still continues to grow. We have operating events, awards, software, a QSL bureau, web page, FaceBook page and a chat board...oh yes, a news letter too! QSOs are generally just an "ask" away on the K3UK page, Logging and award tracking help are there for the asking as well as possible help on technical issues. Our members are QRP and QRO operators, contesters, DXers and Rag Chewers and when not doing CW they are involved in digital modes and yes, even some have been heard operating SSB; we do everything! The list of operators span the globe with all continents represented.

Truly SKCC is a wonderful group of hams and we are lucky to have had it formed. The club has no dues and no scheduled meetings...except the scheduled gathering at Dayton! So this year make a resolution to stay involved with SKCC and promote it when fellow hams you know are not familiar with SKCC.

Season's Greetings to you all and may Santa fill your shack with goodies!"

## K3Y Is Coming!

Yes, it's that time of year again when we celebrate our club's birthday. Those of us who have been around on previous K3Y celebrations know the great fun it is. But this year why not try something different? Maybe an effort from your shack or a buddy's as a "multi operator...multi station" operation? It's like Field Day without the generator and bugs! Here at the K8AQM shack we get together with the local club call W8TQE (Adrian Amateur Radio Club) and carve out a weekend of "multi-multi" K3Y/8 activity.

It doesn't have to be a "big" effort, just two transceivers and a couple of antennas. It can be QRP or QRO; a dipole and yagi, a dipole and vertical, anything to operate with a friend having a good time and a few laughs. Don't worry about rate nor speed, just get on and enjoy the operation. Whether it in a buddy's shack, a club station or the local "emergency communications center," get together, have some fun and take pictures!

Here are some scenes from the Adrian ARC's multi-multi efforts in K3Y/8, be sure to notice the food table...all part of the fun! The number of contacts is not the important factor here, it's the laughs, the pranks and the great memories we have. This will be our fifth year of getting together for K3Y and it has become a well anticipated event

The food has become something special for us too. We had "ham" one year, deep fried turkey for all the "turkeys" present and of course since it's January in Michigan, lots of chili...loaded with beans!

This has been all about K3Y and multi-multi operating but it could also be about multi-multi in the SKS or the WES! Don't limit your fun, get together and enjoy amateur radio with your fellow amateurs.

I hope to be able to post your K3Y stories in the next issue of the Rag Chew! 73,  
The multi op-multi station gang of the Adrian ARC



## **SKCC 10th Anniversary - K3Y 2016**

SKCC will be ten years old in January! As usual our month-long anniversary special event will start on Jan. 2nd, right after the traditional SKN activities of New Year's Day. The event has become known as "K3Y", referring to the 1x1 callsign we've used for the past several years. You should be hearing that call a lot throughout the month!

To our newer members who may not be familiar with "K3Y", it is quite a popular non-contest event which generates some tens of thousands of straight key, bug and side-swiper QSOs. Members and non-members alike will attempt to log contacts with the official K3Y stations in each of the ten US call areas, plus KH6, KL7 and KP4. Additional stations in six continental areas, operated by our DX members, will help to make it a worldwide event.

In general, the idea is to work as many different K3Y stations as possible and keep the bands active with straight key CW throughout the month. Toward this end the K3Y "stats" page has been re-tooled a bit to include new categories such as: US States & Canadian Provinces Worked; DX Worked; Number of Operators/Bands/Areas Worked. Whichever of these may be your interest you will have the entire month to pursue it.

Any SKCC member can sign up to operate under the K3Y call, but only one K3Y operator per US call area is permitted on the air at any given time. Operators will be scheduled accordingly by volunteer Coordinators in each call area. Our DX affiliate stations are not restricted by the one-per-area rule.

Please consider joining our team of K3Y operators in January. No special expertise or experience is required; CW novices have done so in the past with great results. Now is the time to start thinking about taking the plunge, especially if you have hesitated doing so in prior years. It's a lot of fun and very rewarding. Plus, as a K3Y operator, you can make lots of contacts toward Centurion, Tribune, or other SKCC awards.

An official K3Y 2016 QSL card will be issued listing one QSO per each K3Y call area and DX continental region worked: 19 QSOs total for the complete sweep. Cards will be sent automatically to all members of the SKCC QSL Bureau who have made any contacts with K3Y stations. Others can request cards by sending a SASE to the Bureau.

You can contact me at [af2z@skccgroup.com](mailto:af2z@skccgroup.com) regarding any of the above, or to obtain a 2016 K3Y Operators Guide. The operating guides, operator schedules, station location map, etc can also be found on the K3Y web pages at [www.skccgroup.com/k3y/](http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/)

Hope to catch you in January. Watch for our K3Y stations and make sure to keep them busy with plenty of contacts!

Drew Kowal - AF2Z  
K3Y Planning Group



## History of the Birthday Celebration Cards



Drew sent along this fine collection of all the QSL cards used in the past to celebrate and honor the SKCC birthday event. In addition to the QSLs it is possible to have a “mug” made with the QSL on the side. These can be made at many stores having a photography department and also can be found on the internet at various sites.

*Ed..... They make great mementos honoring the event and especially multi-multi operations...hint!*



## **“An Ode to Code” VA5CW Bill, 4326S**



I am basically a slow, straight key cw ragchewer.

Licensed in 1996, and found CW to be my favourite mode, even tho I learned it the wrong way... not by sound. I still find I am paying more attention to dits and dahs rather than the sound of the characters and words, but shall plug away at it. Maybe one day I will be able to sit back and read the mail in comfort. I use a Czech military straight key about 99% of the time, but will try the bug now and

then, as well as a keyer on occasion, but am more comfortable on a straight key.

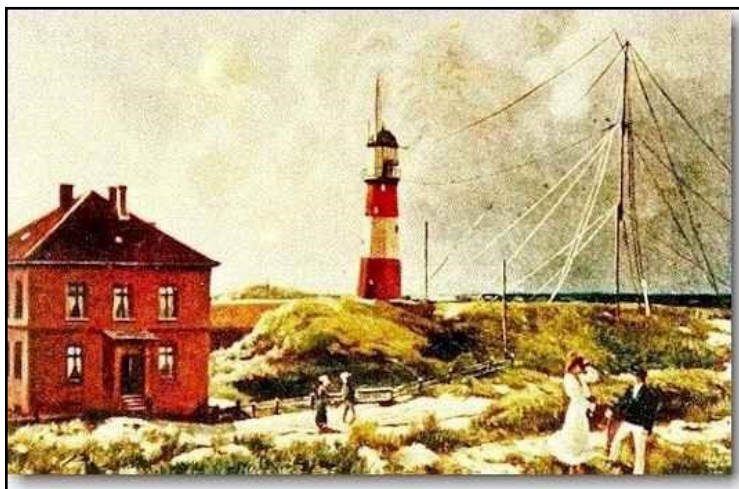
I like to work the RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) contests, but that's about it for my contesting interest. I don't chase DX, but tend to work whatever I can hear, wherever it may be. I don't initiate QSL card exchanges, but will reply to those that do..... direct only.

I also belong to the [SKCC](#) club, which is a fine CW club that can keep you as busy or relaxed as you wish to be. Anyone from new ops to seasoned ham vets can always find something of interest to assist in honing their CW skills, from exchanging member numbers for award levels, to just finding someone to have a ragchew with at a variety of speed levels. Numbers can only be exchanged with straight keys, bugs, cooties, or just tapping a couple of wires together.... no electronic keyers. However, if you wish to ragchew with someone at 25 to 35 wpm on a keyer, I am sure someone can accommodate you..... just not me. You can check out the [SKCC Sked Page](#) to see who is around and what they are up to.

Rig is Yaesu FT-950, which I find does all I need to do. Good filters, which I still have not dug into a lot, but what I do use seems to be sufficient for the most part.

Antennas are 3 el Tribander Yagi, and 75/80 meter inverted V on a 56 foot tower.

I wrote this little limerick about 17 years ago when I first got into ham radio and discovered



my passion for CW. However, I hear too many ops bunching characters together and chopping characters off in order to get on with it a bit quicker than necessary, thus manufacturing "not the best" CW. I am not a QRQ op by any means, but my belief is that a good CW op needs to be comfortable at the speed they work, and understood at that speed. Therefore, I came up with this little limerick.... there is a message involved I try to adhere to. Some of you may recall it in an old FIST keynote under the call VE5HQ.

## An Ode to Code

"QRN, QRM, QSB es all..  
will not deter me anytime,  
from sending out my call..  
there may be someone out there,  
waiting patiently,  
for the sound of friendly code,  
coming from my key...  
I must make sure I send it well,  
and with a steady hand,  
so the one receiving it  
will not misunderstand..  
I "QRL?" and listen close,  
"Is the frequency clear?"  
If it is, I'll send my call,  
and hope someone can hear.  
I QRS and ask the same,  
if I feel the need -  
I will not try impressing you  
pretending I can speed;  
I vow I will be patient,  
and do a slow "ragchew"  
with the new ops that I meet..  
I was new once too!  
So as I sit, and send my call,  
and wonder who I'll meet,  
I marvel at the way this works..  
It's really kinda neat!  
So listen up all you ops!  
The new as well as old...  
For my call...I'll work you all!  
'cause I just "LOVE" morse code!

73 Bill ...  
© VA5CW  
SKCC 4326



## KZ5OM...aka K6III

In the mid-70's thru mid-90's I lived in England (North Yorkshire county at MHS) for about 8 years where I signed G5CQP and later G0CLY. You may have heard me using special event calls GB5DX, GB0RIP, GB4JUL and GB75USA. I was also a regular op at club station G0FOS. Held K6SMH until 1997 when I traded it in for the vanity call K6III.

Primary interests are DXing and HF Contesting. Past Secretary of the Northern CA DX



Club and am now a member of the Northern CA Contest Club. Am active in most HF contests as a little-pistol with my modest station.

Lately been attracted to QRP operating. Latest rig is the Elecraft K2 kit (see web site [www.elecraft.com](http://www.elecraft.com)). I prefer to operate CW but the K2 has the SSB module as well. In 2005 I added the Elecraft KX1 to my suite.

In the QRO world, I operate the IC-765 with IC-2KL

linear (400w). Hope to have RTTY mode going soon but so far, that has alluded me!

I operated club call KX6SUB for a few years. I have now traded that one in for another Club call, KZ5OM, to honor my birth QTH, Panama Canal Zone (are you old enough to remember that old KZ5-prefix?).

In 2007, I moved to Grass Valley, CA. and have reassembled my station there. I am active in my local church and various volunteer organizations.

73 de Jerry/k6iii Grass Valley, CA (Nevada County, Grid: CM99)

***Ed...for those of you NOT "Old Timers," a KZ5 call was issued only in the Canal Zone, now HP....my very first DX QSO was with a KZ5!***

## QTH?...Bird Feeder 1!

When you buy a hanging birdfeeder and then decide to pole mount it, what do you do with the attached wire? Obviously Donna W8DIY #13166, knew exactly what to do with it...make a yagi out of the wire of course! Donna and her husband Stan W8ATE #13165, recently added a tower and yagi to their shack so maybe the yagi business was on her mind? When I asked her about the "BF yagi" she said the only trouble was the birds were having a difficult time landing on it...unlike their new yagi which has become a favorite perch before heading for the "Bird Feeder 1" QTH!



## Findlay, Ohio Hamfest 2015

The September Findlay, Ohio hamfest saw “visual” presence of SKCC and many of its members. Setup in the “flea market,” it was a place to gather, tells “lies”...I mean “stories”...and to do some serious laughing. Some of those present were Stan AC8W 2813, Donna W8DIY 13166, Stan W8ATE 13165, Larry KB8HFN 2046S, Wes AC8JF 10511,



Jon W8TY 1989, Mike W8RF 1853, Ron K8CLV #7659T, John N8RVE 4811T, Brian KG8CO 6362 and Ted K8AQM 1629S.

There were lots of good “fleas” to be found here at Findlay and along with great weather it was a very enjoyable hamfest.

*Ed....Next time you go to a hamfest, shoot some pictures of other SKCCers you see and meet and send them along to the editor here. I'll be happy to get them into the paper!*

## News Flash! New Hard Drive!

As you know Ron AC2C, does the programming of the SKCC Logger. It's quite a job and involves many lines of programming. Ron works hard and needs the latest in computing power. Through clandestine measures the “Rag Chew” staff has come upon Ron's latest new computer hardware. The picture below was captured “on-the-sly” as this hardware was being uploaded at Ron's QTH. There's no doubt Ron is planning bigger and better things to happen with his SKCC Logger.



If you haven't used the SKCC Logger you should! It can track all major SKCC awards, help fill-in missing data as you operate and is wonderful in pursuit of the C, T, and S awards.

The program can be downloaded from the SKCC web page under the heading “Files and Downloads.”

*Ed...This photo is actually a 5 mega bite hard drive being loaded and made by IBM back in 1956! My, how things have changed!*



## **How I Became a DXer**

### **By Urb LeJeune W1UL formerly W2DEC**

I took my Class B amateur radio exam on November 25th, 1949 which was the day after Thanksgiving. In early 1950 my W2DEC license arrived in the mail, I was the happiest kid in the state of New Jersey. My pathway into operational ham radio was a home built transmitter and a purchase receiver. A generation of Novices would soon pursue this same route. I worked the entire summer prior to getting my license saving enough money to purchase a Hallicrafter S-40A. My first transmitter was based on a QST article and contained a crystal controlled 6AQ5 driving a 6L6 amplifier I had no idea how much power I was running, who could afford a meter? My first antenna was a folded dipole constructed using 300 ohm twin lead commonly used to feed TV antennas. The antenna ran around the ceiling of a first floor apartment. The performance of this antenna could charitably be described as abysmal.

With this rig my QSO rate was about one every third day. I did learn an important lesson, if you have a weak signal don't waste your time calling CQ because only those skilled in clairvoyance would be attracted to answer a signal that was 90% imagination. However I could, on occasion, get someone calling CQ to respond to my reply.

My home was Hillside, NJ which is between Newark and Elizabeth. All my contacts were with the first, second and third call areas plus a couple of VEs. My best DX was a QSO with a very patient operator in Northern Maine.

After about five months using this rig I talked two neighbors into allowing me to string my folded dipole between their clothesline poles and things started to improve dramatically. Suddenly, stations in the fourth, eighth and ninth call areas were within my grasp. My best DX was Miami FL, I was on my way with flying colors.

My Elmer, Jim McGintey W2YYP, helped me set up a BC459 (WWII general use transmitter) with a power supply scrounged from parts from a discarded TV. The transition from an indoor antenna to an outdoor antenna and from crystal controlled to a VFO rig had taken my QSO rate from one every second or third day to frequently five or more Qs per day.

One evening I heard KG4AN calling CQ NYC. KG4, at the time was exclusive Guantanamo Bay Cuba. Since I was close to NYC I called him and back he came. I was so nervous I could barely send coherent code. KG4AN was a Marine stationed on Gitmo and his wife had just given birth to a baby girl. He asked me to call his parents on Long Island to pass along the good news, I happily complied. I was now on my way to becoming a DXer with three countries, W, VE and KG4 worked and soon to be confirmed. The KG4AN QSL hung on my wall for many years; unfortunately the card became a victim of hurricane Sandy. Almost all of my operating was in the afternoon after school or the early evenings. I heard a few Europeans but didn't have enough confidence to even call them. I had yet to work anyone west of the Mississippi.

One night I woke up about 2 AM with a tooth ache and couldn't get back to sleep. I wondered if anyone was on the air at that hour and got up and turned on the rig. I didn't touch a single dial and there was a W7 calling CQ. I called him and much to my surprise he came back. In those days you were located in the call area where you call indicated unless you were signing / some other call area. Sure enough he was in Arizona. I was so excited I sent him an air mail QSL card.

air mail QSL card. In 1950 postage to send a QSL card was a penny and an air mail QSL cost 4 cents. I sprang for mailing my card in an envelope which set me back 6 cents. The card from W7RA hung in a place of honor on my wall for years to come. I sometimes wonder if Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook idea of putting important things on a wall didn't originate with radio hams.

Taking one more look at the band before heading back to bed I hear another W7 calling CQ. Can I be lucky twice in the same session? Yes sir, and Washington State was added to my growing list of states worked. That glorious night taught me two important lessons; learn about propagation and if you want different states try operating at times you usually not on the air. The next night the tooth ache was gone but I was again up a 2 AM. I worked a W6 and a couple of W0s stations. A few nights later I was tuning the band and there was a KH6 working another W2. I waited until they were done and called the KH6. Another miracle, he came back. A few nights later a ZL was added to my log and the DX hook had been firmly set. The rest, as they say, "is history."

Although I worked my way up to being one country off the top of the honor roll in 1965, none of the contacts putting me at that lofty high equaled the trill of working the first KG4, W7 and KH6. Who knows, if it hadn't been for the tooth ache I may have become a traffic handler and never become a DXer.

Thanks for taking the time to read this article.

73 Urb W1UL formerly W2DEC

## **SKCC DXpedition to T32**

March 1-16, 2016 will see AC8W, K8AQM, K8QKY, KG8CO and N8LJ (all SKCCers) plus two others will be QRV from Christmas Island. Although a "typical" DXpedition using all modes and bands, you can count on lots of straight key activity on the usual SKCC frequencies. Should you work them with non straight keys don't hesitate to ask for a quick straight key QSO if the pileup isn't too large or at least arrange a schedule for a later time/frequency. Conditions at Christmas Island are excellent; no man-made noise, great propagation and ideally located to work the world of SKCCers as well as the rest of the amateur population (hihi!).

LOTW will be used but if you would like an SKCC QSL card for your SKCC QSO with T32TR please QSL directly to K8AQM either with an SASE or even via the SKCC QSL bureau( see SKCC web page for how to use). You can even bring your card to Dayton and receive your card there! The following are the calls to be used:

AC8W #2813.....T32WW

T32TR #8509.....(K8AQM)

K8QKY #7552.....T32SB

KG8CO #6362.....T32CO

N8LJ #9954.....T32LJ

We'll have QRO and verticals on the beach so you'll hear us, we really want to hear you! We'll also be standing by for QRP stations.

73,

The T32 SKCCers

## **VIZ KEY and the K3** **de W4JBB, Joel Black 9512T**

*Ed...The last issue had articles about VIZKEY and whether you needed a “super-duper” transceiver. The following are comments submitted by Joel on the topics.*

I ordered my VIZ Key right-angle bug around July 20th or so. I talked with Curt (KU8L) quite a few times before ordering and then again during the process. I may be in the minority, but I don't like the swirls. Curt told me it would not be a problem and he could give me a brushed finish. I also asked him about the speed - how far down would it go? I told him I'd prefer a bottom speed of 14 - 15 WPM but that it was not a deal-killer if he couldn't do that (I had originally asked about a vertical bug, but with cats, I was afraid it might get knocked over). He told me he thought he could get enough weight on it to slow it down where I needed it. He emailed me about a week before completion telling me that it was almost finished. Upon completion, he emailed again and said he had come up with a solution to getting the speed down - he added a small weight to the end of the pendulum just past the damper. It works great. Speed range with the second weight is right at 14 - 18 WPM. Without the extra weight, the range is 18 - ?? WPM. I don't rag chew much as my mind will start drifting so I have to write it all down. I'm stuck at around 17 - 18 WPM on a rag chew but can go up to about 22 or 23 WPM during sprints. The key is perfect for me and complements my N3ZN ZN-5 brass paddle very well. It is a great addition to my shack which I consider a modest, practical shack built around a K3.

The K3 is a radio that I will probably never use to its full capabilities. In addition to CW, I also enjoy weak signal digital modes like JT65, JT9, and Olivia. I have played around with PSK31, but since it's gotten so popular, I don't much use it any more. I do enjoy RTTY during the very few contests I enter in a year's time. I probably over-bought my K3 getting caught up in the euphoria of owning such a nice rig. I was not, however, disappointed when the K3S was announced at Dayton this past Spring. I have a lot of additions to the radio:

1. The KRX3 second receiver option. I **\*rarely\*** use this. I do not have an antenna for diversity mode and most of the stations who work split, I could work with the base radio. Not sure **\*why\*** I bought this option. If I had a diversity antenna, I'd use it more often. Well, I guess it does come in handy during RTTY contests when they work split. My stereo sound card interfaces well with the second receiver.

2. KFL3A-500 5-pole 500 Hz CW filter. If I knew then what I know now, I'd have bought the 700 Hz filter and used the DSP to narrow it down a bit. Now I use the 500 Hz filter and widen it up to 700 Hz.

Honestly, Fred Cady's K3 book is a must-read for anyone contemplating owning a K3 (or the KX3).

One thing I use a lot - the P3 pan-adaptor. I really enjoy using that piece of equipment. I've got it where the menu buttons are programmed for 10 kHz, 20 kHz, 50 kHz, and 100 kHz passband. I use it every time I'm on the radio.

I'll probably never buy the K3SYNa upgrade. I don't think it's a necessary add-on for my operating style. I might look at the KIO3B depending on its NF and whether or not it allows for dual-receive.



At one time, I had both the K3 and the KX3. I sold the KX3 to fund a stupid endeavor that I'm now trying to get out of and wish I had kept that radio. A year ago (September 2014), I used only the KX3 to prove it could be done. The only reason I kept the K3 and not the KX3 was the fact that the K3 allows for a better interface for sound card modes - just plug the sound card into the back of the radio and go; the isolation transformers are built into the radio. Also, with the TCXO I added this past winter, it is much more stable on JT65 and JT9. So, I do not regret keeping the K3 in those respects, but I wish I still had that KX3. I'm currently working on selling stuff to fund the purchase of another.

Of all those things, there is one thing that will keep me an Elecraft customer as long as there is an Elecraft - their customer service. It is second to none. I do not regret spending the money with a company that treats their customers like an owner.

73,  
Joel - W4JBB

## Adrian, MI Hamfest 2015

It seems that any hamfest I visit there are always a collection of SKCCers. My home town Adrian, MI has a population of about 22,000 and our hamfest certainly isn't a great draw. That being said, we do have a lot of SKCC members in and around our area. The list of attendees in this photo include (in no particular order):

Bill KD8TTM  
Mark NU8Z  
Jan K1ND  
Wes AC8JF  
Denny WE8Z  
Don N8AMM  
Neil K8NP  
Bob K8MXC  
Ken K8KIC  
Jeremy KD8VSQ  
Noz AD7TN  
Ted K8AQM  
Rich K8UV  
Don KD8SKO.....all SKCC members



There were lots of keys both shown and sold. The weather was perfect for trunk sales and lots of "fleas" to check-out and purchase.

## How I Spent My Summer Vacation ... or Our Bucket List Trip!

### Larry AH6AX 11165S

Hi Gang! As of this writing, I have been back about a week from our month-long vacation to the great Northwest – our “Bucket List” trip to see the northwestern states; states that my blushing bride and I had never visited. We managed to visit - starting from here in Carroll county, Maryland: WV,



OH, IL, IN, WI, MN, ND, SD, MT, ID, UT, WY, CO, NE, IA. For several years we had talked and planned on doing a great, month-long, driving vacation through the northwest. Each time, something came up that prevented our travel – medical issue, family issue, etc. But this year, the time was right. So, on August 16<sup>th</sup> we left our humble abode and followed the words of that famous publisher... “Go West young man, Go West”... (Okay, so we aren’t so young anymore – but we did go West!. Our trip took just under a month – we returned on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Important: The photos included in this article were downloaded from ‘open source’ material on the internet, with the exception of the photos of the ‘three amigos’...

I had intended on operating ‘portable’ while in the various states. Well, intentions and actuality are two different critters, so I found out. I had packed my Elecraft™ KX3 QRP rig and ‘Buddipole’® portable antenna to use ‘on the road’ – but we got so busy with the ‘touristy’ stuff, that I never really had time to set up the equipment. But I DID get to operate it briefly – so there IS some ham radio in my story.... Here’s our story:

We started our trip with a drive to Indianapolis– with the original intent to stop and visit an old navy buddy (Mike, KC9RC (not SKCC...YET- a work in progress) and his YL (Carol); however, they had to leave before we arrived due to a family emergency. Since we were in the area, we decided to visit the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and museum. If you’re ever in the area – it’s a worthwhile trip – even if you’re not a race fan. Their museum is full of cars and artifacts dating back to the beginning of motor racing in Indianapolis.

After Indianapolis, we drove to Springfield, IL to visit the Lincoln Museum and Library and the tomb in which Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln and one of their two sons (Tad) are entombed. I highly recommend the visit – it’s a somber reminder of one of the darkest periods in our nation’s history.

From Springfield, IL we traveled to the “House on the Rock” in Spring Green, WI. We had been told about it by friends who had visited it a few years earlier. The ‘House on the Rock’ is a com-





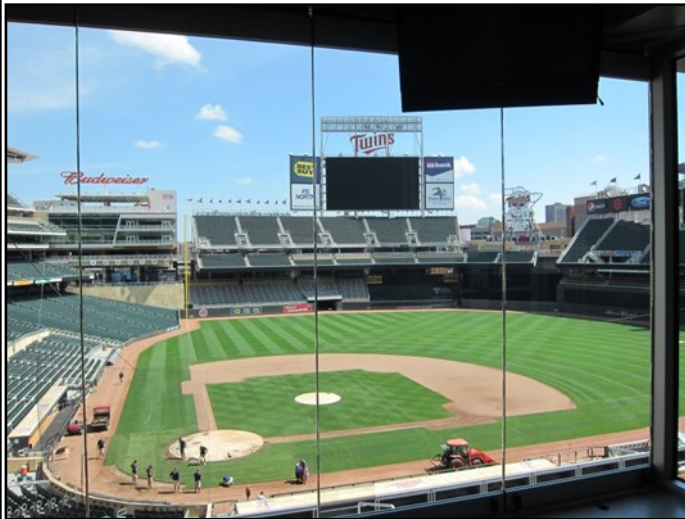


-plex of architecturally unique rooms, streets, gardens and shops, part of which is a house perched atop a column of rock standing about 200 feet above a forest. There is a glass-walled/floored walk-out over the Wisconsin forest that gives a beautiful view of the area. Over the years, additions were made and the complex now features “streets of yesterday”, ‘heritage of the sea’ with a 200 foot model of a sperm whale inside the complex and numerous other exhibits, including what is billed as the “world’s largest indoor

carousel’. Oh, and right down the road is “Taliesin”, Frank Lloyd Wright’s communal school for architects. We didn’t stop there as we ran out of time!! But, it’s on my list for another trip.

Don’t go to ‘House on the Rock’ thinking you’ll just spend an hour or so...uh uh! You’ll spend an easy 3 hours plus – because there is so much to see and lots of walking through mazes of rooms. Not to worry – there’s a nice lunch area mid-visit through the maze!

From ‘House on the Rock’ we went north to Minnesota (oh, we did stop at Wisconsin Dells – but to us, it was like being in Ocean City, MD with woods and a water lake vs. the



Atlantic ocean. So, we opted to head up to Minneapolis-St. Paul and stop in at Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins. (Yup, I’m also a baseball nut! – another bucket list of mine is to watch a ballgame at each of the major league ballparks in USA and Canada) We had a nice tour of the ballpark – very much like our own Camden Yards, home of my O’s (Baltimore Orioles). From Minneapolis it was on to – and through – Fargo and Bismarck, ND – a loooong drive across the northern prairie. Being from back East, I was warned to gas up before taking the long treks across these states, as gas stations are

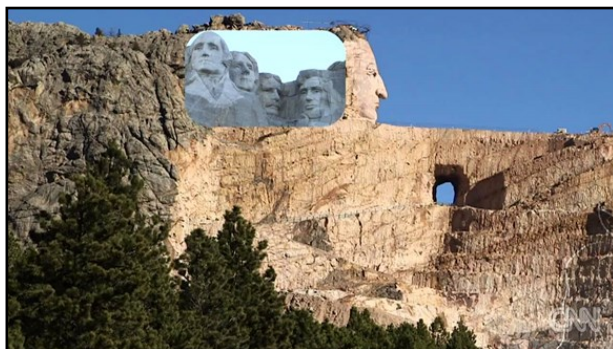
few and far between. Down to Rapid City, SD we went, where we visited Custer State Park and watched people making idiots out of themselves by tempting the buffalo along the road in the park. We had been warned (actually, there were signs everywhere) to stay away from the buffalo – they aren’t tame and, in fact, are not ‘nice’ critters. A woman was gored by a buffalo a couple months ago! But ‘stupid is as stupid does...’ to quote Forrest Gump. Cars have been turned over by buffalo who





suddenly charge at them. Needless to say, I was very uncomfortable with my brand-new, 2015 Highlander near the buffalo, who made my car look small! At one place, buffalo were in the road and we just had to sit and wait for them to move on – at their own pace. DO NOT honk your car horn at a buffalo – it just gets him riled and focused on YOU! Along with Custer state park, we visited

Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse monuments.



Crazy Horse is not on federal land and is not (yet) a national monument – it's being constructed from donations and funds from the concession and museum at the foot of the hill where it's being blasted and sculpted. My guess is completion won't be until around 2050! But when it's finished, **it will dwarf the Mount Rushmore monument!**

I need to interrupt my travelogue here and mention that my YL (Linda: N3KSM) is a quilter – she who dies with the most quilting material and sewing machines, WINS!). All along the way from Maryland through the states/cities we also visited numerous quilt stores – Linda had planned to do what is called by the quilters – a “Row by Row” quilt. In each of the cities/quilt stores on her list, which she had obtained from the internet quilting sites. She could get a free quilt pattern (or, opt to buy a ‘kit’ which included the pattern and the material for the particular quilt square). The quilt patterns were representative of the state and region where the quilt store was located. For example, in Rapid City, SD there were two quilt stores – each had a unique pattern for a quilt square that represented something from SD – in this case – Mt Rushmore, buffaloes, Deadwood City, Sturgis, etc. Some ‘row by row’ patterns from some stores were a flags and images of well-known locales in a state. So... a quilter who is traveling throughout the USA this past summer could collect enough patterns to put together a quilt representing the states they traveled in. This is Linda's project.



**ROW BY ROW Examples: Completed Quilts|**

She certainly made a lot of quilt shop owners happy along the way – Linda bought kits in nearly every state and town we visited. Just to help explain what a typical “Row by Row” Quilt might look like when finished, I’ve included two examples – No, they were NOT quilted by my YL – she’s still working on hers.... Ok – now back to the travelogue:



We left Rapid City area and headed for Glacier National Park. Along the way, we stopped at Devil's Tower National Monument to

see if we could have a close encounter with any aliens left over from the movie: Close Encounters of the Third Kind) and we stopped at the site of Custer's last stand: Little Bighorn, MT National Monument. There the battlefield is preserved in time to the date of June 25/26 1876, when Custer



and 250 of his 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry soldiers were



massacred by combined Lakota-Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho forces. There is much more to tell of the story of this battle and what led to it. I highly recommend reading about the true story

and disregarding the myth of poor Custer being trapped by renegade Indians. Of note: Not only is it the battlefield, but it is the grave of the soldiers – they were reinterred under a large obelisk which was erected in 1881. A national cemetery is also co-located at the site where veterans are buried to this date.

From Little Bighorn – which is just off the interstate 90 – we headed toward Glacier National Park's eastern slopes. Did I tell you Montana is BIG? It sure isn't like driving between VA and PA – it was a looong drive to Shelby, MT – a small town







town on the eastern side of Glacier, where we spent the night before making the drive through the park. We got up the next morning and drove through Glacier to Kalispell. Glacier is a huge and high mountain park with a winding road aka: “Going to the Sun Road” (a narrow, two-lane road that winds through the mountain – with beautiful scenery (which, due to smoke from Washington State fires was ‘smoggy’ until we reached Logan Pass and saw the smog below us.. (No, the photos of Glacier aren’t mine – they’re

internet pics)

After traversing Glacier National Park, we spent the night at Kalispell. The next morning we headed south to St. Ignatius where we met up with KH6OZ (George aka: Butch) and his YL and had a nice lunch in a local restaurant; then, in caravan style, we traveled down to Missoula to meet Jim (KK7YJ) and his YL, Caron). Jim had arranged for us to visit the local range – knowing I too was a life-long, NRA ‘gun nut’ (translation: I enjoy my second expensive hobby: shooting sports). So, off Jim, George and I go. While at the range, I had the pleasure of shooting Jim’s Thompson .45 cal. sub-



**The Three Amigos – George (KH6OZ), Larry (AH6AX) and Jim (KK7YJ)**



George (KH6OZ), Larry (AH6AX) and Jim (KK7YJ)

machine gun in semi-auto mode and his Glock 9mm semi-auto pistol. It was a first for me for shooting both firearms (I have several rifles and pistols, but don’t own a 9mm – I’m a .45 Cal guy.). We three amigos enjoyed the afternoon ‘throwing’ lead down range. I am indebted to Jim and George for their hospitality. It was a pleasure to meet them, their YLs, and spend a nice afternoon in Montana’s big sky country doing one of the two things I enjoy most. I hope they will take me up on my offer of being a ‘tour-guide’

should they decide to come east and visit the The Three Amigos –





Baltimore-Washington area, although; after seeing where THEY live, and seeing where I live.... After the smoke had cleared the area of Missoula, Jim took pictures and sent them to us – Now we see the beauty that surrounds them.

Our journey continued, with stops in Green River, Wyoming to visit our former pastor, who



now resides there, and a week-long visit with my brother and his family in Denver,

CO. While in Denver, I DID get to set up and operate my little portable station for about 6 hours, and managed to snag two SKCC contacts (KG7PVT – Dave, in WA and K6ELQ – Tony, in CA), along with several other, non-SKCC stations. I had high hopes of doing more work on the way home, but it just wasn't to be... Oh, and did I mention that while in Denver, I got my brother to go with me to the local Ham Radio Outlet, where I bought (with blessing from my YL and a small largess from my late-mother) a new, Kenwood TS-990S transceiver (I'd been drooling over them at HRO stores in DE



and VA over the past two years) which was to be shipped to my home address after I returned home from vacation (it was and it's online now). We also took in a Rockies game while there – they won! After our visit with my brother and his family, we started our trek home, going through Iowa, to Winterset to visit the new John Wayne Museum (Yep, I'm a John Wayne "junkie" – seen all his movies at least twice - and on to Dyersville, where we stopped to visit the famous, Field of Dreams' movie site

and walked the bases. It was a cool, afternoon – a summer storm had just passed through, leaving the grounds wet; but, undeterred, we took a walk around the bases. I loved the movie – I love baseball and, I guess my own story of never having had a ‘catch’ with MY dad, made this movie and the wish that I could have another chance like ‘Ray Kinsella’ in the movie. Any baseball nut (er: fan) should make the pilgrimage to this site, in my not-so-humble opinion. Our travel took us to Ashland, NE to the Strategic Air Command Museum – near Omaha, after which we headed down through Bishop Hill – an art community in mid-Illinois and stopped at Peoria to visit the Caterpillar Company’s museum on a lark! It turned out to be a very nice ex-



perience and I recommend it if you like big equipment. We sat in the back of a dump truck the size of a 3-story house to watch a video about Caterpillar’s equipment and history. From there, the next stop was back to our own beds in Sykesville, Maryland. We’d

had a great time, saw a lot, did a lot, but it was good to be home. Now.. We’re in the planning for our next “Bucket List” trip – this time to the South/Southwest.





## KD8SKO's New Rig

Don KD8SKO #10953T, bought himself a "new" rig. Here is his story:

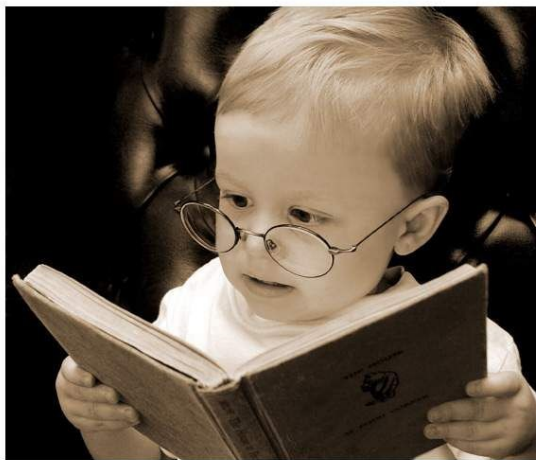
*"This came in the mail today. It's an Elecraft K1 Transceiver. It is a CW mode only rig that has the 4 band module. It will operate on the 40, 30, 20, and 15 meter bands. The output is rated at 7 watts but on my meter, it's putting out 12 watts. It is a QRP rig but most rigs you can throw in a backpack and set up a station in the middle of a hike are QRP. It just means I'll have to find an amplifier now! The receiver is phenomenal with adjustable filtering from 1.2khz down to 200hz. I cant wait to start making contacts with it!"*

And

*"UPDATE! Visited the K3UK Sked page and have about 7 contacts with the rig including my first 2x QRP QSO."*

Don compared the K1 with the K2 and claims this K1 received better than the K2 used for comparison. The plan is to use this rig while camping and hiking.

Hmm, perhaps it will become a standard mode of operation there in the shack as well as out in the field?



## K8TEZ Reading the Rag Chew!

This photo was sent by Larry K8TEZ 8426T, after he enjoyed reading the last issue of the "Rag Chew." I think I was to assume this is a picture of himself reading the issue? Never knew Larry looked so good!

I like the way Larry has bound all the issues of the "Rag Chew" into a book, nice!

If you too enjoy the "Rag Chew," please tell others as some members don't even know we have a news letter. And there is always room for more input!



*Here is another one of those great WW II stories from Vic W7VSE. Although not about radio it is a real "hoot." .....ed*

## **A True War Story**

In September of 1942, I was flown to the China, Burma India (CBI) theatre of war as a member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron, Army Airways Communications System (AACS). I was one of sixty enlisted men that were selected to provide installation, maintenance and operations of a Communications system for Aircraft flying across India and China. We had received four months of training at Bolling Army Air Base, near Washington D.C. and we were presumably briefed on everything that we could possibly encounter over there.

We stayed overnight at an Air Base in India. It may have been at Lahore, India. Next morning I went out to the outhouse to do my morning "number two" It was a small wooden building that we would call a "2-holer" back home. I was sitting comfortably on one of the holes, doing my job, when I was subjected to something that I had not heard about during my briefing back in the USA. Without any warning, an extremely loud screeching noise started coming from underneath that hole I was sitting on. It was a sound, like metal-to-metal meshing and I had a frightening mental vision of some huge steel teeth gnashing up at my family jewels that were dangling down in that hole. I exploded off that hole like a human cannon-ball! The screeching continued and I warily walked over and peeked down into the hole to see if I could find out what was making all that racket. I could see some daylight coming from the back of the building into the space underneath the seat. Soon I saw that it was a huge, removable, sliding metal drawer that someone was pulling out the backside of the building. After he checked to see if it needed emptying, he noisily slid it back into position. I guess that was the way they kept their toilets clean. He scared me worse than anything else I endured in two years of WW2 duty in China and India.

Vic Seeberger, ex T/Sgt U.S.Army Air Corps 1941-1945 (W7VSE)

## **V47TR SKCC DXpedition**

This past quarter-year has seen several DXpeditions by SKCCers. Read on for the VP2MLJ expedition by Lee N8LJ #9945 who also was accompanied by AC8W #2813 as VP2MAC. Phil K3EW #10605T operated as VP2MEW and has included an article here of his experiences, they both make for great reading.

K8AQM #1629S, will be QRV February 13-21, 2016 as V47TR #8509 and then again with other SKCCers when they "invade" T32 in March. The goal will be to get to at least 8509C and hopefully 8509T during the two trips (T32TR is also # 8509).

You would be surprised at how easy it is to work us DXers with even just 5watts, you "hear" better closer to the equator! The use of the K3UK page when possible helps to secure the contact too so be sure to monitor the sked page when DXers are about.

What other SKCCers are traveling and operating portable this year? Your stories are interesting reading and may inspire others to hit the trail either across some pond or within the states. I know for sure WS8KCC will caravan to some state(s) this summer...maybe IA or the Dakotas....any requests?

## Notes from VP2MEW, Phil Barsky K3EW Montserrat DXpedition November 4-12, 2015

At the invitation of Rick Harris AI5P, an old US Army colleague since the late 60's, I joined Rick and two other hams from Arkansas, back in March, in planning for the VP2M Dxpediton. As it turned out, the other two encountered roadblocks to their attendance and I invited my antenna Elmer, Jim Locke, W3NRJ to join Rick and I. The three of us set out from



Miami after spending the night on the island of Antigua, catching a flight on a small "Fly Montserrat" 8 seat aircraft. Flying 1000 above the deck, we had a picturesque welcome to the volcanic island of Montserrat, part of the British West Indies, and still a protectorate of Britain. Our accommodations were at the Gingerbread Hill Guest House, run by David and Clover Lea, hippies right out of the 60's who made our stay just wonderful. George, K2DM/VP2MDG has a permanent tower and winch, antennas and rigs availa-

ble for ham visitors : TA-33, 3 element beam for 6 and dipoles for 12, 18, 30, 40 , 75, 80 and 160m. We installed all except the 75 and 160 meter antennas. Our location was at least 400 feet above sea level on the side of an ancient volcanic hill. Most of the Leeward island chain are volcanic in origin with Montserrat's last large eruptions occurring in 1997 which buried the capital of Plymouth and the airport. ( see picture next page). The remaining permanent super friendly and educated English speaking population of about 3000, now live on the northern third of the island.



We arrived late on 11/4 and set up the inside equipment operating positions. We spent most of the next day installing and verifying operation of all antennas ( We were that lucky George has an MFJ analyzer there to assist in tuning antennas where needed— as we left ours at home!). We began operation in the afternoon of 11/5 and completed operation early on the morning of 11/12. Collectively we made close to 6000 QSO's in our holiday style of operation. We toured the south of island with a guide, David's son, Sunny, two days, and visited other sites on our own other days.



I tended to operate late shift working 40 and 80 into the wee hours satisfying US , Asian and European operators. We worked Grey line QSO's on 40, over the south pole into JA, HS, VU and VK just before sunrise. We worked FK8 in late afternoon on 10m and worked many pacific islands on 12 and 30 meters in the afternoon as well. We were running JA's one evening on 15, 17 and 30 simultaneously - this was

before a minor solar event which adversely affected propagation. The propagation from this QTH, three hours east of Miami put us between US and Europe/Africa which allowed for QSOs seemingly around the clock. Most of our work was on CW with a little bit of SSB on 11/11. Working 12 meters around the world with a simple dipole at 20 feet with 100W was quite thrilling to say the least- many African and Asian /Oceania QSOs logged before and after the solar event. I must say that CW sweepstakes affected US QSO count over the weekend of 11/7-11/8 and it also affected my QSO count on the SKCC Weekend Sprint also occurring that weekend. All in all, I had a good showing on the SKCC Contest but couldn't upload logs due to intermittent internet service. We extensively used "DXMaps" to study propagation and used DXsummit to spot ourselves if stations we worked didn't spot us. Having access to internet tools was essential to our success as much as our superb antenna farm and the patience and assistance of all stations attempting to work us. Thank you to the amateur radio DXing community for spreading out over the spectrum which made contacting each one a much easier task.

We had to take out an afternoon to install a new winch motor which we had carried down from Miami.( boy, was that heavy). Early afternoons were transition times for propagation, which made the QRX for a couple of hours do-able.

This location has supported many DXpeditions in the past and will continue to provide a special operational environment to the amateur community in the future. Although Rick has operated from over 83 countries, and I was HL9UZ in 69-70 with American Forces Korea, Rick, Jim and I have great memories of this special life experience in Montserrat with good friends, great hosts and constant easterly breezes which cooled us all of the time.

73,

Phil Barsky,  
K3EW, VP2MEW #10605T

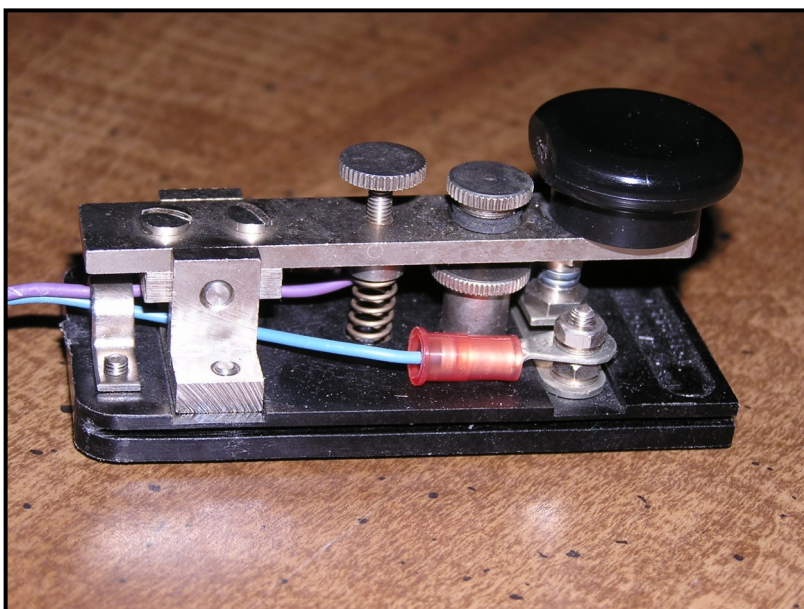


## SKCC Operation During a DXpedition...VP2MLJ

I always noticed that my SKCC Elmer, Ted K8AQM, took time out of his radio operations to include SKCC sessions. Since I was going to VP2M the first week of October as a "Holiday Style Operation" why not include some SKCC time. Spurred on by Al KD8DEU who needed VP2M for SKCC DX Award, I removed my Vibroplex Code Warrior from the suitcase and took my Jardillier French Special Forces Key. After all I was in a British Protectorate Country with Irish traditions and an active volcano. I also saved the couple of pounds to get my suitcase within airline luggage weight restrictions.

I made SKCC contacts on 80 40 17 and 12 meters near the SKCC frequencies. Eighty meters was the toughest band because of QRN caused by hurricane Joaquim that just passed through the area. The hurricane didn't hit Montserrat but passed to the north and we were rewarded with beautiful lightning displays most evenings. CQ SKCC would bring SKCC QSO's but it didn't take long for the non SKCC guys to swarm the frequency, so I moved back to the usual DX watering holes and succumbed to "F" key generated cw contacts. Unfortunately I made only 50 SKCC QSO's.

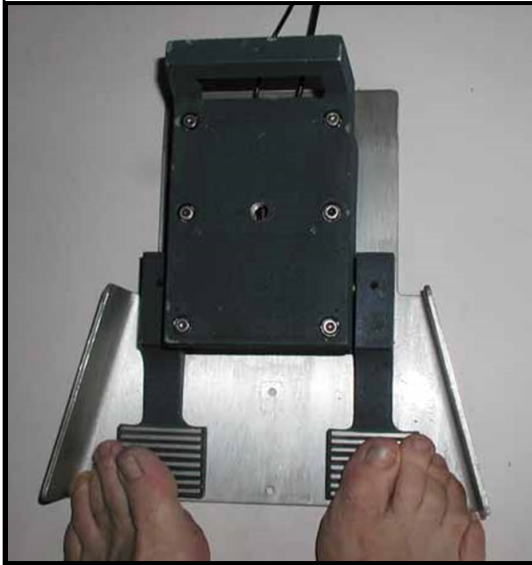
Next time I try an SKCC DXpedition endeavor, to improve the number of SKCC QSO's, I'll make better use of the K3UK sked site and take a lesson from Phil Barsky K3EW. Get an announcement on the SKCC website.



Lee  
VP2MLJ  
SKCC 9954

*ED note...Lee will once again be passing out SKCC DX QSOs as he is part of the upcoming T32 (T32LJ) expedition mentioned earlier.*

## THE FOOT PADDLE



This is a very well made paddle designed for the digitally-challenged operator who must make both dots and dashes with other limbs. The dot contacts are on the right side and the dash contacts are on the left side.

De Rich K8UV still using hand keys..... 2250-T

*ED...Of course the question becomes, "Is this the right foot model or the left foot model. Could it be operated with 'socks,' is there a tension and space adjustment? Finally, would you have to say "I'm QLF...or QRF" ...maybe QLF/QRF!!!!*

## J-38 Made in Michigan...Not a Lionel



Here is an unusual J-38 WWII era key. Of course "made in Michigan" is very cool, but what else is unusual? The key is made from white metal, not brass like most J38's. There were many varieties of the J-38 as well as many companies who made them.

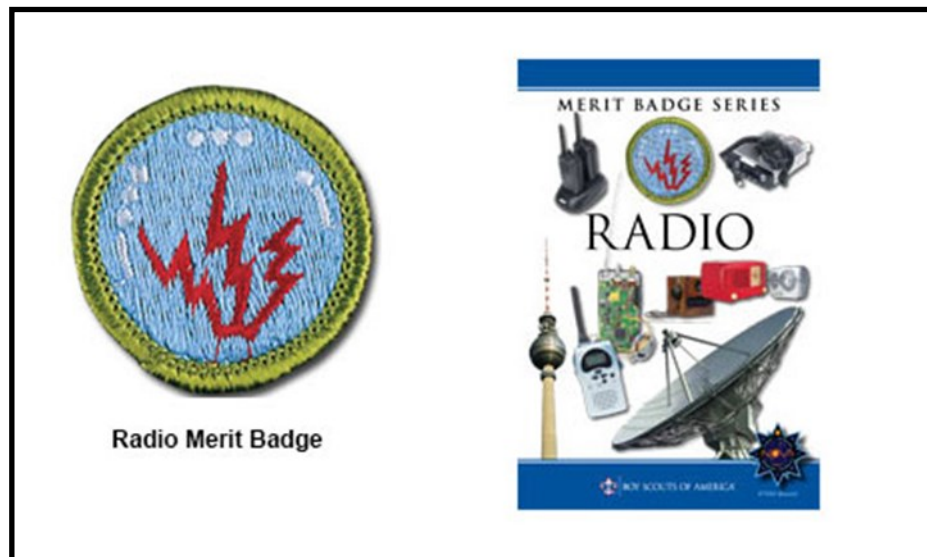
Myself, I like using my Lionel J-38, just one of many keys I have and use. Let it be said, good things can sometimes come from the U.P. of Michigan besides cold beer and pasties.

de Rich K8UV

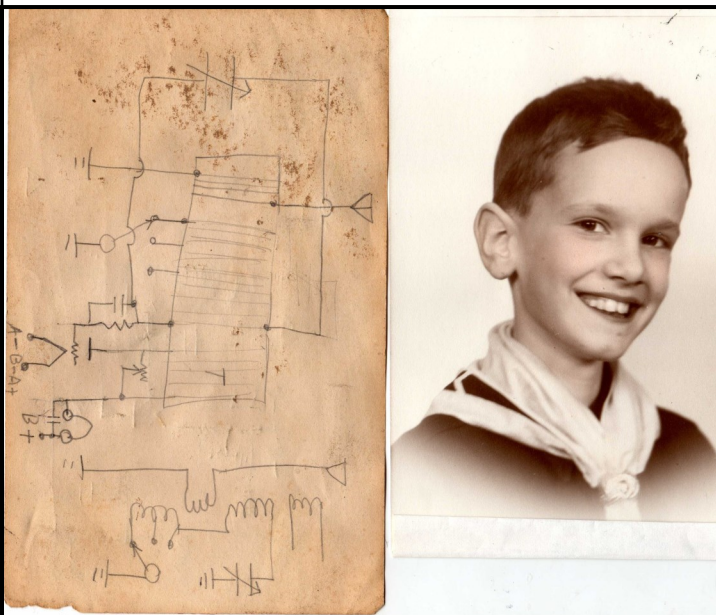


## Scouting and Amateur Radio Go Way-back

No doubt many of us were Scouts at one time or another during our early years. Requirements included knowing some form of Morse Code for signaling and there was even a radio merit badge to be earned for those advancing beyond "First Class." The Radio merit badge is still around today, and is earned by many Scouts. The blue background signifies the sky. Jagged red lines symbolize radio waves. Morse code embroidered in white forms the letters B S A.



For those scouts who are also amateur radio operators there is a shoulder patch available that can be worn on the uniform shoulder.



This fine Scout is none other than Larry K8TEZ 8426T. Larry sent along the following information (edited) that explains the history of Scouts and radio. I suspect Larry got the radio merit badge but I'm not sure. Perhaps you have been involved with the JOTA which is a world wide operating event where Scouts from all over the world get involved and introduced to amateur radio.

The need for Radio Merit Badge instructors is always needed.

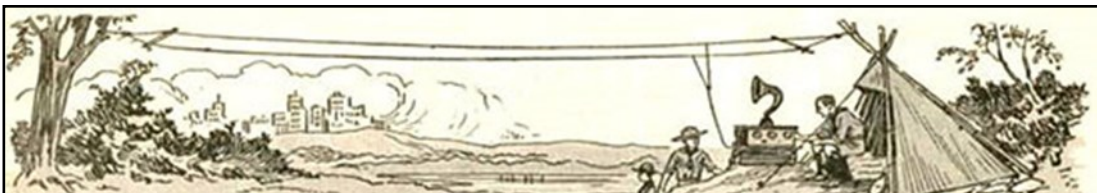


The following pages are an edited version of the information Larry K8TEZ sent me regarding Scouting and radio.

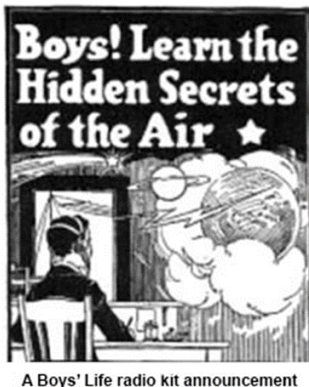


For all of time, the sky had been silent. There were sunshine and darkness and nothing more. Then voices began coming out of the air.

The age of radio arrived about the same time as the founding of the Boy Scouts of



America. Early Scouts built newfangled radio sets, put on headphones, and strained through the static to hear someone talking.

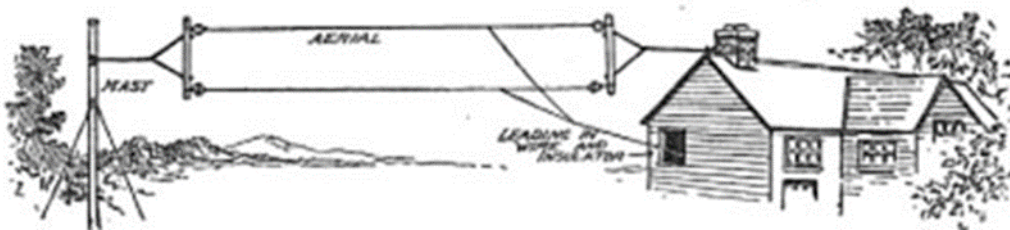


A 1911 Boys' Life magazine article noted that Boy Scouts in Northampton, Massachusetts, had a wireless station and were eagerly waiting for a troop eight miles away in Amherst to compete their own radio set.

"Within the course of a few weeks they expect to be able to transmit messages to one another and send the Scout Salute through the air." The easiest radios to build were crystal sets. A thin wire touching a crystalline mineral could pull radio signals into headphones. Transistors and diodes soon replaced the primitive crystals, making the sending and receiving of signals more reliable.

Broadcasters were learning how to put together programs, and the first commercial stations took to the air in the 1920s. Young people eagerly kept pace with technological changes and tuned in whenever they could. Radio became so popular among Scouts that it made the cover of a 1922 Boys' Life issue, paired with boys' equally passionate interest in aviation:

## Make Your Own Wireless Set!



By the 1930s, boys could listen to radios in family living rooms. President Franklin Roosevelt broadcast what he called "fireside chats" to share his thoughts with the American people. Several times he talked about Scouting. The BSA's National Jamboree, held in Washington, DC, in 1937, was granted a license by the Federal Communications Commission to broadcast radio reports to Scouts not able to attend the Jamboree in person.



Library of Congress photo

President Roosevelt Broadcasts Congratulations on the BSA's 25th Anniversary  
Standing with Scouts are BSA Vice-President Bolton Smith (left),  
National President Colin Livingston, and Chief Scout Executive James West



Library of Congress - Harris & Ewing Collection

Scout Larry Le Kashman broadcasting from the 1937 National Jamboree

Thanks Larry for the interesting history of Scouting and amateur radio.



## September WES and K8PRC #14046T

Myself, N3JJT(255T) and KD8BBK(2443T) went to operate the September WES portable with my camper, an IC7200, and a G5RV Jr. K8PRC is our club call, The Pedestrian Amateur Radio Club. We had a lake side site, but we also had plenty of rain for weekend. Since we were doing the WES, the rain did not come in to play.

We did not run hard, as we enjoyed being away and took advantage of the few gaps in rain by taking some bike rides through the park. We ended up with a little over 80 contacts that weekend, along with lots and lots of laughs!



We also had a special guest with us; Steve Erkle. He hung out with us for the weekend. However he did get in to trouble while we were out on a bike ride. Steve got in to our cooler of beer! Then we went

outside to see if we had time for a fire, and when we came back in the camper, Steve was at the key! So, if anyone worked K8PRC during the September WES, and the operator was Steve, it will not count. Steve does not have a ham license!

All in all, we had a blast, as usual. Anytime Tony and I get together it is always a laugh! Another member came by on Sunday for a visit, KD8ENV.

73 for now, K8PRC



Right to left N3JJT, Ped 1,  
KD8BBK, Ped 2, and  
KD8ENV, Ped 3

## SKCC at Massillon Radio Club Hamfest



Scott N3JJT #255T and Tony KD8BBK#2443T set up an information table for SKCC at the Massillon Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, in Massillon Ohio. We checked in around 15 members, handed out some club information to non members. We had many good conversations about SKCC and the existence on the air with CW. Many comments were also made about how GOOD the club members are on the air, and how helpful OUR members can be!

73 until next time,



## K8UV's Stealth Sigma V

Rich K8UV #2250T lives in an antenna restricted area but that doesn't mean he can't work other SKCCers nor DX! Rich uses a Force 12 Sigma V antenna, a five band (20-10m) vertical dipole. He sent the picture on the right showing how he makes the antenna acceptable to the neighbors, they think it is a bird feeder pole! This antenna is only nine feet tall, has a control cable allowing band switching from inside the shack.

I use this antenna on all my DXpeditions as it breaks down to two foot sections and fits in a suitcase.



The pictures below show what the Sigma V looks like when assembled and how nicely it breaks down for traveling. It has an extremely low angle of radiation and mounts best 1-2 feet above ground. When mounted at a beach it is a killer! It will handle 500 watts. I own three of these antennas and even had to rebuild one (thank goodness for JB Weld!) when salt ate into the control board (the center switching and coil loading area) and caused the board to arc when running 700 watts (shouldn't have pushed that!).



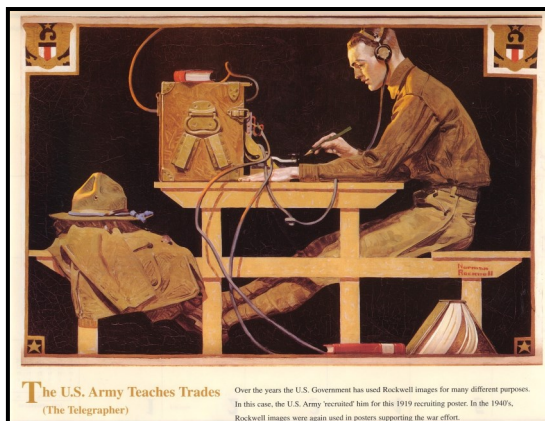
If you're in an antenna restricted area it would be a solution for you to garnish your antenna system with this five bander performer. A couple hanging bird feeders and you have a stealth antenna system!

Thanks Rich!....de K8AQM

## CW War Posters

Here are a couple of neat posters from WW I and WW II that were passed along by Rich K8UV #2250T. Rich does a lot of internet surfing and seems to come up with some great things. I have these two posters on the wall in my shack.

Thanks Rich for passing these along.



## New Life for Old Burned-out Tubes

Ugh, if you've been around for awhile in amateur radio then you no doubt have a collection of old tubes, good or bad. Good friend Greg KE8CEW, is very resourceful. Greg took



the old maybe dead/maybe not dead tubes and built an LED circuit with son Jeremy KD8VSQ #13072 and sandblasted his call letters on the tubes. The tubes were then put into a finished walnut base and connected to a 12 volt source. You can see the results in the picture here. Very impressive!

I'm very lucky to be on the receiving end of

their friendship! The pictures on the left and below are a lights-on and lights-off pictures of the tube displays Greg and Jeremy made for me. Where Greg used red LEDs for his tube call sign, I asked for green and white LEDs. I am a graduate of Michigan State University and those are my school colors. The displays are beautiful and add a great atmosphere to the shack.



I can't thank them enough for these fine additions to the shack.

Perhaps this will give someone a great idea for some "in-shack artwork?"

By the way, a quick message on the amp reflector

asking for burned-out 3-500Z tubes is bringing me six or seven for more art tubes and at a cost of postage and shipping.

Anyone out there got some great "art" ideas?

73,  
Ted K8AQM

