

'Rag Chew'

The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club



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Volume 7 Issue 1

April, 2016

DAYTON'S COMING!!!

Friday, MAY 20th through Sunday May 22nd, 2016

VOLUNTEERS FOR SKCC BOOTH NEEDED!

I'm sure many of you have heard the news that the MECCA of AMATEUR RADIO is considering moving their venue from the HARA Arena at Dayton to new digs... Well, 'Bunky' – as of this writing, the word from Dayton is that it WILL go on as planned at the HARA Arena from Friday through Sunday, 20 – 22 May 2016. AND... once again, an illustrious and hardy team of intrepid SKCC 'Hamventioners' are being sought to 'work' (did I say "work"?... that's a 4-letter word for this retiree) at the SKCC Booth during the annual MECCA of Amateur Radio. (If you've not yet been there, you need to plan a trip at least once in your Amateur Radio lifetime.)

So... as I somehow managed, once again, to not take two steps back when volunteers to coordinate the staffing of the booth were sought, as resident 'stuckee', I am seeking volunteers to spend an hour or two (or... whatever you can spare – we know you are there to see the show and we'll give you a place to 'take a break' from the crowds (and, if you haven't been to Dayton – there are CROWDS!) at the booth during the show. I am establishing a 'schedule' for staffing that will run daily from 0900-1800 Friday, Saturday 0900-1700, 20-21st AND 0900-1300 on Sunday, 22nd. On Saturday at 1300 Local, we'll gather at the rear entrance of the hall for a group picture for any and all SKCCers that are present.

IF YOU are planning on attending this year, PLEASE send me an e-mail, Dayton-Coordinator@skccgroup.com with any particular hour or two that you can contribute or, if you don't have a time in mind, that you are willing to help, with how much time you can give to the effort. I will respond and attempt to coordinate a good spot for you. We need to provide for 2 people at the booth at all times during which the show is open. We'll have the brochures and keys to play with. I will be making the booth MY headquarters while at the show, but I'd like to be able to wander off to see how much money I can part with on occasion. In your e-mail, please include: 1) your NAME, CALLSIGN, and SKCC #, 2) the time(s)* you can be available to help staff the booth (* time(s) because the show is 3 days and if you're gonna' be at the show all three days, maybe you can give us time each day...). You will find that after walking the indoor events and then trekking through the acres of outdoor tailgating, you will soon be a 'pooped puppy' and will welcome an opportunity to sit for a bit – our SKCC booth is just the place – AND you'll find good SKCC friends and camaraderie. Not only that but you'll have the honor and privilege of meeting a wonderful guy, truly a saint among saints, a hero in his own

in his own mind, he's "trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent (a good boy scout), etc..... me!

"Ok.. , but whatta I gotta do while sitting at the booth?" you ask (good question, Bunky!) We are there for three reasons: 1 – to introduce potential members to the "joy of CW" and belonging to SKCC, 2- to provide a 'home base' for members who are enjoying the show – sorta' the "clubhouse" for a few days, and 3- to demonstrate that CW is alive and well (with over 15,000 members WORLDWIDE– as of this writing)! So, come out, bring your best sales pitch (actually, no sales pitch needed – the free membership and camaraderie demonstrated at the booth is a good sales point). We want to make the potential (and regular) member feel welcome! We will have some handouts and we'll ask that any visiting SKCCers stop by and 'register' with us so we can get a 'head count' of SKCC attendance. Last year, if my feeble memory serves me correctly, we tallied 135 (+/-) members registered at the show!

As SKCC is a no-dues club, participating in events such as the SKCC Booth at Dayton would not be possible without the generous donations from our members. The Booth reservation itself costs nearly \$600 each year and is made possible ONLY through direct donations from our members. Your contribution and volunteer efforts are sincerely appreciated and help to keep the SKCC free and fun for all of us.

All-in-all, we are looking forward to another fun time to be had by all. And, the opportunity to lighten our wallets as we drool at the new ham goodies.... As for me, my blushing bride, Linda will be accompanying me to the 'show' ; Linda's a ham (N3KSM) but not into CW (in fact, can't get her to talk on the radio anymore...) However, I'm SURE she'll let me buy that new 1.2Kw amplifier at the show, right Dear? (What? I only get a hundred bucks to spend? Again??...)

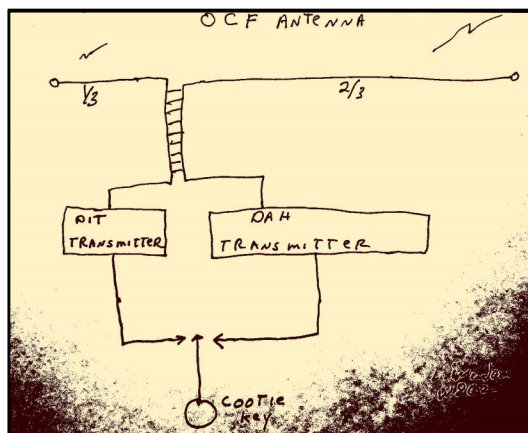
I'm 'open for business' so give me a holler and get in on a lot of fun!

73!

Larry Wandel, AH6AX

SKCC 11165S

Ed...and there are always snacks hanging around the booth and various telegraph keys and a CPO (code practice oscillator ... as well as a few "chief petty officers!"



New SKCC Antenna

This antenna is designed for those SKCCers who use a cootie and/or a bug. One can easily see the advantage of this antenna for clean copy/sending of CW.

Of course it should be obvious that if the operator is left handed then all dimensions must be reversed from left to right.

Thanks to Jeremy KD8VSQ, #13072 for this excellent antenna article!

K3Y 2016 Wrap-up

Thanks to everybody who participated in K3Y 2016. I hope you had fun. Can't believe some of us have been doing this for the past ten years...

Propagation was not the best this year and perhaps has not been worse since the K2A event (SKCC 2nd Anniv). Certainly the DX operations were often a struggle. I can't remember when it was more difficult to make contacts with EU stations any time in the past ten years. These are usually pretty easy from here on the US east coast. (There were no DX regions in the 2008 event, so can't compare.)

Even so, we are only slightly off in total number of QSOs compared to last year, which was the best ever. There were more time slots and operator hours scheduled this year compared to last. Thanks to all those who signed up as K3Y operators!

Logs are still coming in and will be finalized over the coming days. In the meantime you can check updates in the operator and participant stats here:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/K3Y-statistics.php>

If you have any questions about missing QSOs, etc. pls let your area coordinator know or contact me. You can check your personal contacts in the log search here:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/K3Y-logsearch.php>

The initial batch of K3Y QSL cards should be going out toward the end of February. If you're interested in getting a K3Y card see here for details and check out the example card format:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/K3Y-card.php>

New this year: DX members can conveniently obtain K3Y QSL cards and become Bureau members via a Paypal arrangement. See details at the above link.

I think that's about it. If you have any comments or questions, let me know.

FYI, here are some numbers: 2016 vs 2015 (subject to change as logs are added and corrected):

QSOs:	27,063 vs 29,411
Nr K3Y Operators:	168 vs 177
Nr Hrs scheduled:	4,933 vs 4,745
Nr Slots scheduled:	2,004 vs 1,951

73!

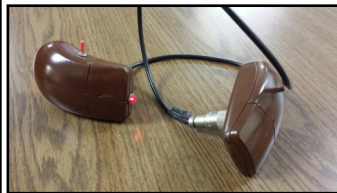
Drew - AF2Z

K3Y Planning Group



New Use for Old Mice!

Bill WB8NPI #10916 sent along his latest creation. Using two old “mice” Bill has made a continuity checker for coax. There are times when we want to check for a short in a long piece of coax from the shack. Bill removed the ball in the mouse and found an SO-239 fit perfectly in the hole and holes for mounting screws lined-up too. So each mouse has an SO-239, one mouse has a mounted 9 volt bulb and battery inside. Bill even added a switch to turn the unit off and on. The idea is simple and the project cheap. Bill used the old hole where the cord was for the pilot light and filled the other hole and “wheel” slots with JB Weld. A coat of whatever paint was available finished off the project.



Although an ohm meter would work as well, there are times when Bill’s idea would be simpler and easier to use. I can see a run of coax from the top of the tower to an antenna that needs checking ...working with a meter on the tower/antenna would be more difficult! You can never have too many tools!

Thanks Bill for the idea. Anyone else out there have a nifty little idea to share?

SKN at N8LJ..#9954

Here is a picture sent by Lee N8LJ #9954 of his restored Novice station he used during this year’s SKN. I bet a lot of Qs were made during Lee’s Novice days! Do you recognize the ARRL log there in the photo? I have six of those logs stashed away from the days before computers and when we had to keep a log!

Note also the microphone Lee has with the Hallicrafter’s transmitter. Bet that was some audio Lee had and no doubt, screen modulated too!

**Thanks
Lee for the memories!**



Another Tale from the Past de K5ZOL/HL9TY

The articles by Vic, W7VSE, and Phil, K3EW, in the December issue of 'Rag Chew' got me to reflecting on my activity with MARS in Korea in 1970-71.

In August of 1970, I arrived in Uijongbu, Korea and signed into the 51st Signal Battalion. After settling in, I found some of my responsibilities were located about 2 clicks across Uijongbu at Camp Red Cloud, I Corps HQ. While nosing around the base, I noticed a low hanging dipole. Peeking in the window of the Quonset hut I saw a Collins S-



Line. Checking with the Corps Signal officer, I learned the previous commanding general was a ham and was the reason for the station and the MARS call sign, AB4CG (AB4 Commanding General). But, the station was dormant as no one had a ham license or had shown an interest in the station. A little negotiating and the station was assigned to me and AB4CG/HL9TY was on the air. Well, sort of. Even though the equipment was top notch, the 40 meter dipole at 30 feet was inadequate to participate in the MARS activities just above the 20M band.

Not to be denied, I got one of the I Corps recreational funds to spring for a Hy-Gain 204BA, a 4 element monobander for 20 meters and a Heath SB-220. Since I also had responsibility for the I Corps signal repair facility, I spent an enjoyable weekend assembling and testing the SB-220. With an assist from a 51st Sig Bn pole climber the 204BA was installed atop a telephone pole next to the MARS station. We couldn't come up with enough money for a rotator, so we trained the antenna on the US west coast. We could easily work the MARS stations in Japan and Vietnam off the back of the beam.

The sun spot cycle in 1970-71 was close enough to the peak that we always had great propagation to the West Coast when we were on the air. I finally found a couple of other hams to help operate the station and we started running phone patches back to the US for anyone that wanted a free three minute call home. Every evening we weren't in the field, AB4CG was QRV. A west coast MARS station op in Palos Verdes, CA, Howard Dill (who's personal and MARS call signs I do not remember) was our main gateway to the US. He was there waiting for us every evening (Korean time).

Each evening we'd come up on frequency, give him a list of stateside names and numbers to call for the soldiers who were waiting to call home. He would already have one of the Palos Verdes exchange telephone operators on the line who would also copy the calling info.

She would then start down the list and when she got an answer, Howard would brief them on procedure and we'd start the call. While patch #1 was going, she'd go on to the next number, brief the family member on phone patch procedure, put them on hold and move on the next in line. As soon as call #1 was finished, #2 would begin and the telephone operator would continue to tee-up all those on the list that she could contact. If the line was busy or didn't answer, she'd move them to the bottom of the list and try again later. With that well-greased routine, we could run a maximum number of patches back to the states while the band was open.

An additional benefit the phone company provided for the soldiers and their families was all the calls were all operator assisted, person to person and collect. BUT, the phone company only charged the family receiving the collect call the rate for a direct dial for a 3 minute conversation; not even for the time they spent "on-hold" waiting for their soldier to come on the line via ham radio. The 3 min call cost the least amount possible. Talk about wonderful patriotic customer service!

Of course, when business was slow, the MARS operators at I Corps' Camp Red Cloud could keep in touch with home regularly. As my XYL and I were expecting our first child, I took advantage of that as often as I could.

The general thought the MARS phone patches were great. He made sure his commanders made sure their troops knew of it. When the band was open, AB4CG was busy.

That's the good news.

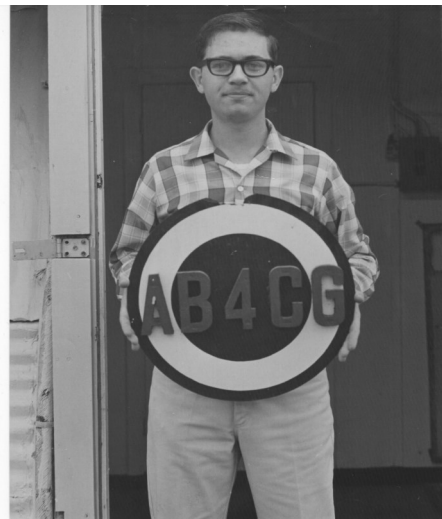
The bad news? One day, about six weeks before my turtle arrived and I returned to the states, the general was walking through the Post Exchange and saw a line of young soldiers waiting their turn at the Korean International Telecommunications booth to call home @ \$4.00/minute. He boomed out, "Men what are you standing here for? You can call home for free from the MARS station." The soldiers all departed and in about 2 weeks the Korean government had us shut down. It was still not sorted out when I left for home.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob K5ZOL (3945S)/HL9TY/ AB4CG



Bob running the station in Korea
HL9TY



"AB4CG"..."Commanding General, the
MARS call but where is Bob's uniform!

The DXer's Coffee Cup



If you chase DX and tried to work the many DXpeditions this winter season has offered then this cup is for you! The pile-ups were huge and intense, specially for those rare VP8 and K5 guys!

What DX did you work this year? Why not share some of your accomplishments with us and pass them along to your editor here.

Maybe someone would like to write a quarterly column about DXing within SKCC? Remember, DX is a relative thing and doesn't always have to do with "foreign" stations. We have lots of "DXers" who measure their DX in "watts per miles," that's serious DXing!

December WES at W8SH...#14660 C



I am a graduate of Michigan State University, class of 1970. Dave Sumner was in my class and although I was a ham back then, I never operated from the club station. I did have a DX-40 and Hallicrafters S-107 in my dorm room with a very stealthy outside 40m dipole. But this year I finally got to the MSU club station and talked them into joining SKCC, W8SH #14660. Don, KD8SKO #10953T and I decided to do the December WES from there and see if we could get them a "C." The station only had a 40m dipole and vertical for us to use. In the four hours we had to operate we managed to collect enough QSOs for that "C."

It was great fun and in the future we plan to activate it again and go for the "T." They promise to have better antennas up by fall! *de K8AQM #1629S*



KD8SKO



K8AQM & KD8SKO

The art of storytelling, whether it be prose or poetry, is a gift. We in SKCC are blessed with several wonderful storytellers. This is another example of the brilliant storytelling told by Bill, VA5CW #4326S. "Old Jack" may or may not be fiction, I knew a ham in my area (SK now) who might be "Jack" or his distant brother! The "Jacks" are out there and among us!

I just had to add the note Bill sent along with his story as it's a humorous note in itself.

I got another inspiration late one evening, (early morning actually) and took a few hours to pen a poem. Was up till close to 4 AM... (too much coffee does that it seems). Anyway, if you think the folks might enjoy it, maybe it can fill a bit of space in the next newsletter. Any spelling and grammar errors will either need to be overlooked, or edited by the reader to suit their liking. Just thought I would send it along.

Someday I may actually have something useful to contribute, but not being technical, I doubt that will be happening.

73,

Bill va5cw

Bill, no need to be "technical," just keep those prose/poems contributions coming!...TNX!

..... Old Jack!

It was late one Saturday evening,
Old Jack was on his straight key.
His CQ was steady, his ears at the ready,
And all the time he was talking to me.

And then he got a reply,
But the other op wanted to race,
Old Jack sent "QRS if you please sir,
My CQ should be setting the pace"

The other op said "you're too slow on the key
And the only signal I'm hearing tonight,
So if you want a ragchew, and that's the best you can do,
I'll show you how it's done right".

Old Jack, he just shook his head,
And I heard him let out a big sigh.
He said "This ham's still around and just won't slow down,
And so help me I'll never know why!"

Now I've been around for a few years
And I've worked lots of code fast and slow
But when Old Jack hooked-up his keyer,
I knew I was in for a show.

Old Jack picked up the pace just to match him,
As he sent out, "I hope 30's ok,
I can go a bit faster if need be,
That is if you have time to play".

The reply Old Jack got, was "I'm a good op,
I can copy and send with the best",
I'm feeling real sporty, so I'll send at 40,
Do you think you're up for the test?'

Old Jack looked at me, and I looked at him,
He shrugged and then reached for the dial.
At 50 he set it, (I thought he'd regret it),
But he keyed up and gave me a smile.

The code went out clean, and my ears were keen,
To hear what Old Jack had to say,
It went by in a lick, and I had to be quick,
And I'll repeat it to you if I may

He said, "I'm sorry sir, if I'm a bit slow
Sending this code out to you,
But if you tell me what speed it is that you need,
I'll see just what I can do."

Now before the other op could reply,
Old Jack cranked it up a bit more,
The speed I'm not sure, it was all just a blur,
But the code was as clean as before.

Now I couldn't copy what Old Jack had sent,
And I can't think of many that could,
But when the other op sent his code back,
It sounded to me just as good.

I couldn't believe what my ears just heard,
And I said as much to Old Jack,
He just looked at me, and gave me a wink,
And straight to his key he went back..

Well, this went on for a few minutes more,
They were running a blistering pace,
And when they were done, Old Jack looked at me,
And he had a big smile on his face.

He said "I can see you are wondering,
As to who it was on that end,
Who can send and can read the code at that speed,
That man was my old Elmer friend".

And then he said "Son, you may not believe it,
But he's been gone now for many a year,
The man with the fist that can send code like this",
And as he said it he shed a small tear.

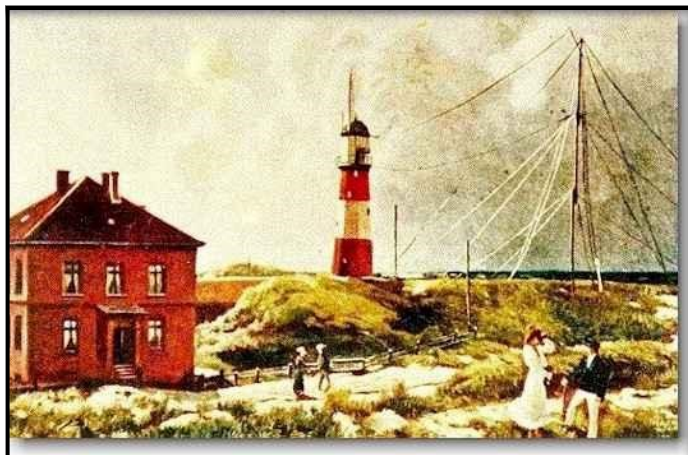
And then he told me that he'd never met him,
They only just meet on the air,
He said "One ago fall, he answered my call,
As I sat here in this very chair"

He said "Now and then he still answers my call,
And it gives a strange feeling to me,
To sit in this chair, and send code through the air,
To my friend, who's an old silent key"

Well, I never had reason to doubt him,
Old Jack never told me a lie,
I'd known him a while, we'd put many a mile,
On our keys sending code through the sky..

Now Old Jack himself has finally shut down,
He's had to silence his key,
But I'll never forget the times that we spent,
Thank you my friend... 73!

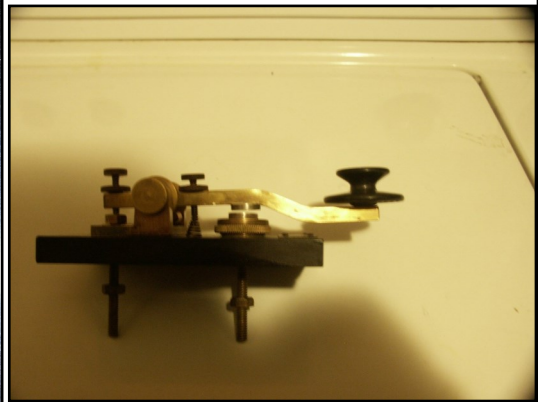
Cheers,
Bill - VA5CW ©



K8UV's New Key

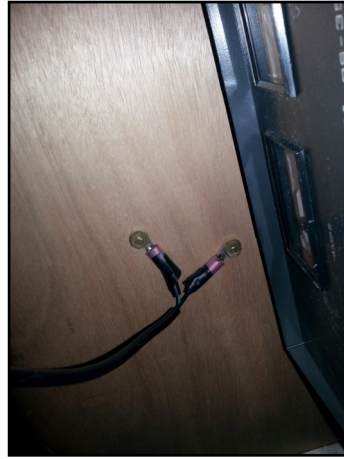
On Saturday January 16, in Farmington Hills, MI was the Michigan Antique Radio Club swap and shop. I picked up a great key. Heavy brass, the arm is almost 7 inches long. The brass plaque on the base says " 1KW telegraph sending key. For US Navy 1918. S# 238AM made by International Telegraph and Radio Co. Manhattan, NY. CM 1189 model" As you can see the base has two brass bolts that are designed to go through a table top and the wires connect under the bench to each threaded bolt. The contact is large and nickel plated the size of a dime. The bottom is especially designed to disperse heat. The history I could dig up says the key was made for submarine chasers. I might have the only one where hams who have purchased this key in the past as surplus had cut off the bolts for table top attachment. Mine is still intact and will stay this way. I will drill two holes in my station table top and mount it the way it was intended.

73, Rich K8UV #2250T



ed.....Rich later sent the photos and text below

I used both keys in working K3Y QSOs on 40 meters in the late evening. My first contact with the 1918 Navy key was K3Y/4 in Tennessee. Then K3Y/6 in CA. I have included a photo of the old Navy key attachment under the table as it was intended to be set up. You can also see the heat displacement layer under the bottom contact.



Don't forget, all my 40 meter contacts are with a Hamstick five feet above ground on the porch railing at 100 watts or less.

Forgot to mention, the J-36 is a Vibroplex marked Army Signal Corp June 27, 1943. A gift from Roger, WA2HNQ in NY who actually used it while in the Army during WWII. I did put newer key knobs to replace the worn and fragile original which I still have. 73, Rich K8UV

K8JD John #1395T Long Wave Info

Ed...I received this interesting "long wave" information from John, most interesting.

Attached is my file for longwave airport beacons received on my TS440s and FT990 with either a 160M dipole or a 40M loop antenna. I verify them by ID vs frequency on several web-site listings. Due to the upcoming FCC action on a new long wave segment for Amateur Radio, this may prove useful to see where propagation is possible on the low frequency spectrum.

201	ZKU	LONDON	332	YFM	LA GRANDE, QC			
205	XZ	WAWA	334	YER	FT SEVERN, ON			
206	QI	YARMOUTH, NS	335	ZKF	KITCHNER, ON			
207	FD	BRANTFORD	335	YLD	CHAPLEAU, QC			
208	YSK	SANIKILUAQ, NU	338	DE	DETROIT-CITY			
209	GDW	GLADWIN, MI	338	ZEM	EAST-MAIN, QC			
212	YGQ	GILLAM, MB	340	YY	MT JOLI, QC			
216	YFA	FT ALBANY, ON	341	YYU	KAPUKASING, ON			
218	YUY	ROUYN, QC	346	YXL	SIOUX LOOKOUT, ON			
219	YMG	MANITOUWADGE, ON	350	DF	DEER LK, ON			
221	HM	HAMILTON, ON	351	YKQ	FT RUPERT, QC			
223	DM	DETROIT	353	QG	WINDSOR, ON			
223	YYW	ARMSTRONG, ON	355	YWP	WEBEQUIR, QC			
224	MO	MOOSINEE, ON	356	D7	KINCARDINE, ON			
230	YBM	ST BRUNO, QC	359	YI	WILLOW RUN-YPSI, MI			
230	VQ	GROSSE POINTE	360	PN	PORT MENIER, QC			
233	QN	NAHINA, ON	362	SB	SUDBURY, ON			
235	9H	LAGRANDE, QC	365	AA	FARGO, ND			
235	CN	COCHRANE, ON	365	TV	TRAVERSE CITY			
236	4L	CHATHAM, ON	366	YMW	MANIWAKI, QC			
241	HF	HEARST FONTAINE, ON	368	ZYZ	TORONTO-MALTON			
243	OZW	HOWELL	370	GR	GRAND RAPIDS, MI			
244	TH	THOMPSON, MB	370	YBV	MAGDALAN, QC			
245	YZE	GORE BAY, ON	371	'GW	GREAT WHALE RIV, QC			
247	YLH	LANSLOWNE, ON	372	YQA	MUSKOKA, ON			
248	UL	MONTREAL, QC	373	YXK	RIMOUSKI, QC			
248	WG	WINNIPEG, MB	373	2Q	MT LAURIER, QC			
250	FO	FLINFLON, MB	375	7B	ST THOMAS, ON			
253	YTF	ALMA, QC	376	YAG	ft frances, on			
254	MB	MANISTEE, MI	377	YRR	OTTAWA-GREELEY, ON			
254	5B	SUMMERSIDE, PEI	378	RJ	ROBARVAL, QC			
257	YXR	EARLTON, ON	379	YPQ	PETERBORO, ON			
258	ZSJ	SANDY LK, ON	382	YPL	PICKLE LK, ON			
260	YAT	ATTAWAPISKAT, ON	382	7P	IRIQUOIS FALLS, ON			
261	2H	LEBEL, QC	382	XU	LONDON, ON			
263	LQL	WILLOUGHBY, OH	382	SJX	BEAVER ISL, MI			
263	YGK	KINGSTON, ON	384	F8	VUCTORIAVILLE, QC			
263	GR	GRAND RAPIDS, MI	385	YNC	WEMINDJI, QC			
264	ZPB	SACHIGO LK, ON	385	ZDH	TORONTO-RERXDALE, ON			
266	ZHM	HAMILTON, ON	386	D8	DOLBEAU, QC			
269	FN	FLINT	388	H7	MANOTOULIN-EAST, ON			
272	YQA	MESKOKA, ON	390	JT	STEVENSVILLE, NS			
273	ZV	SEPT ILES, QC	391	OO	OSHAWA, ON			
274	YPM	PIKANGIKUM, ON	391	3B	BROCKVILLE, OPN			
276	YEL	ELLIOT LK, ON	391	DPP	SAN JUAN, PR			
278	NM	MATIGAMI, QC	392	ML	CHARLEVOIX, QC	410	EGQ	EMMETSBURG, IA
278	ADG	ADRIAN, MI	395	YL	LYNN LK, MB	413	YHD	DRYDEN, ON
279	RS	WOOSTER, MA	396	YPH	PT HARRISON, QC	414	3U	OTTAWA
283	PT	PEELE ISL, ON	397	ZHA	HAMILTON, ON	417	HHG	HUNTINGTON, IN
284	QD	THEPAS, MB	399	ZHD	DRESDEN, ON	417	IY	CHARLES CITY, IA
289	YLQ	LA TUQUE, QC	400	QQ	COMOX, BC	420	RYS	GROSSE ISL, MI
291	9Q	AMOS, QC	401	YPQ	PEAWANUK, ON	423	PCW	PT CLINTON, OH
300	YOG	OGOKI POST, ON	403	ZTO	TORONTO, ON	424	JJH	JOHNSTOWN, NY
300	YIV	ISLAND LK, MB	404	ZR	SARNIA, ON	432	IZN	LINCOLNTON, NC
303	YPP	PARENT, QC	404	YSL	ST LEONARD, NB	434	SLB	STORM LK, IA
326	VV	WIARTON, ON	405	7L	LA SARRE, QC	516	YWA	PETAWAWA, ON
328	YTL	BIG TROUT LK, ON	406	YLU	MEADOW LK, SK	529	LYQ	MORRISTOWN, TN
329	YHN	HORNPAYNE, ON	407	ZHU	MONTREAL, QC			
332	PH	PORT HURON	408	SN	ST CATHERINES, ON			
332	QT	THUNDER BAY, ON	409	YTA	PEMBROKE, ON			

Orlando Hamfest

I visited K8NS at his tailgate set up in Orlando - In the foreground you see is his homebrew "Steak Knife" Cootie for "cutting through the pile ups" and to the left of that his "Mouse Trap" Straight Key. Mike, K8NS is the guy with the Cigar N4OW is the guy in the POT hat.

While visiting AC8W stopped by and told us about the pending trip to Christmas Island of N8LJ, K8QKY, K8MU, KG8CO, K8AQM and himself, all SKCCers.

Hope to catch you all there as I did two years ago.

Orlando weather was perfect for tailgating and the crowds were very large. Cannot



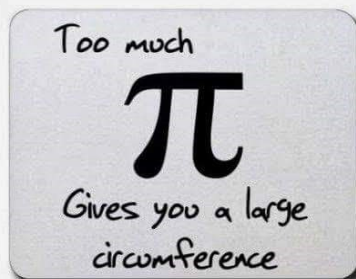
Mike K8NS 10580 T

believe Dayton would be even bigger than this event.

73 de Al, N4ow SKCC 11375 S



Al N4OW 11375 S



Thanks to Jeff, N8CC 7541 for the "PIE" reminder and to Jeremy, KD8VSQ 13072 for his attempt to have us join the resistance!

You guys spend too much time on the internet!



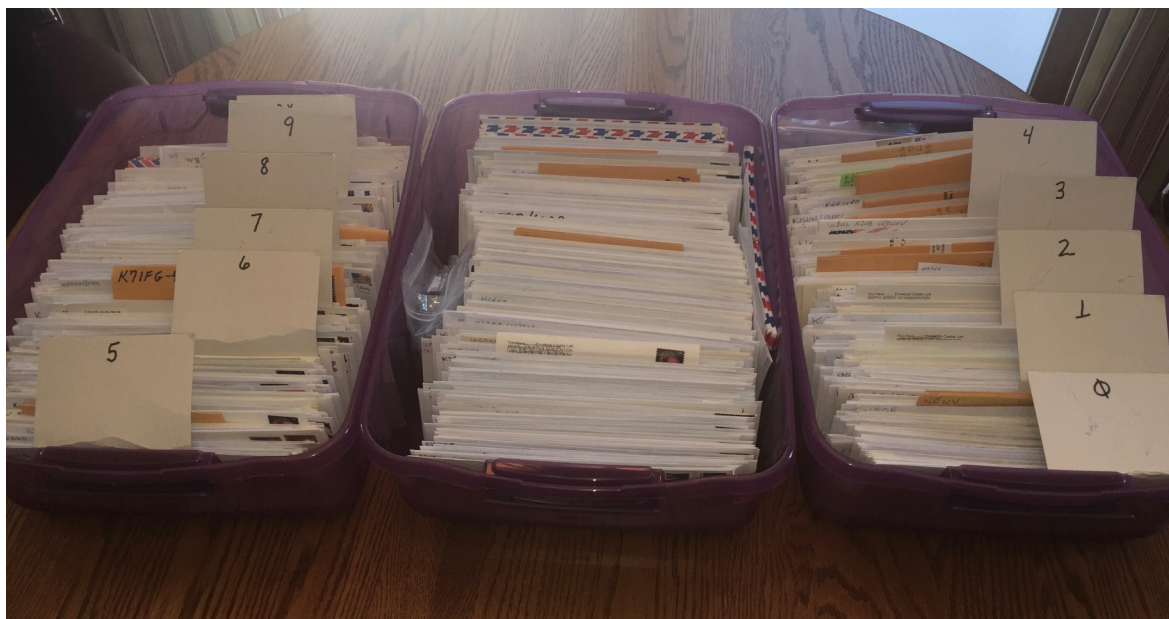
SKCC QSL Bureau - What's That All About?

The SKCC QSL bureau is a simple way for you to save some hard earned money while sending the final "Thank You" your QSL card for a wonderful SKCC QSO. The service is nearly free as you only need to pay postage to send your QSL cards for the SKCC Members listed in the bureau and of course send two or three S.A.S.E. envelopes to have on file in the bureau. When I send back one of your envelopes with QSL card received for you I usually mark the back of your envelope to let you know how many envelopes you still have on file. You can check and see which SKCC members use the QSL Bureau and all see how many envelopes you have on file anytime by going to: http://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/qls_buro/

All the info you need to get started using SKCC QSL bureau can be found using either the link on the left hand column of the SKCC Home webpage or look here: http://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/qls_buro/



Here is what the QSL Bureau looks like today. I have followed what David, K9AAA set-up originally. Your envelopes are sorted by call area and then call sign. The center file tub is envelopes which will be sent out soon filled with received QSL cards and the 2016 K3Y QSL card. Kris (my XYL) and I were on vacation the first three weeks of February this year, our annual get out of the cold and snow up treat. This year when we got back there were over 200 pieces of SKCC QSL Bureau mail received while we were away.



I am just this week catching up on the last of the SKCC QSL Bureau mail that piled up while we were gone.

Please remember to only send QSL cards to the bureau for SKCC members that are found on the bureau list having envelopes on file.

Also, I would like to thank everyone for your wonderful notes of support and the donations of stamps or cash to help with extra postage or upgrading postage on older envelopes in the bureau. Your kindness and help is very much appreciated.

Wishing you all good health and lots of SKCC QSO fun. I should be mailing out the K3Y QSL cards and any others that are on file for you in the next few weeks.

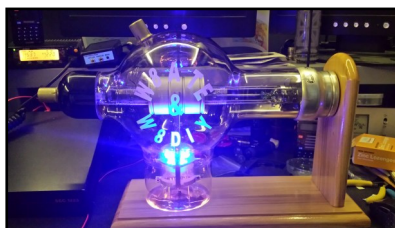
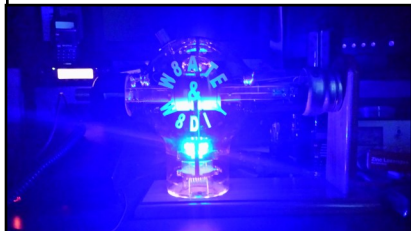
If you have any questions, address updates, or suggestions please feel free to contact me via email at skccqslbureau@gmail.com

72/73, Jeff K9JP SKCC #3008S

Ed.... Jeff does a great job managing the SKCC bureau. Whenever I go on my DXpeditions and work SKCC members I try to QSL 100% if they are users of the SKCC bureau. This is a very cheap method for obtaining QSLs and I am surprised more members don't take advantage of this service. I recently sent Jeff a pack of V47TR and T32TR QSLs for every member I worked who is a bureau member.

Old Burned-out Tubes...New Life!

In a previous issue I showed pictures of the projects Jeremy KD8VSQ #13072 and his Dad Greg KE8CEW (not yet SKKCC) were making. Since then they have been very active making gifts for friends and club members.



Here is an interesting project done with an old WW II tube from a battleship done for Stan W8ATE #13165 and his lovely wife Donna, W8DIY #13166. The first picture shows the tube under a black light, the lower green area shows the “radio active” material used in the tube.



VE9CB Dave #12520 has his tube engraved with two maple leaves, Bill KD8TTM #11614 decided green LEDs would light-up his shack and Brian KG8CO #6362 is a “University of Michigan” fan and lights up his with “Maize and Blue!”...ugh!



But maybe the best or at least the funniest are the tubes in the N3JJT shack. Scott N3JJT #255T and I have a “friendly” chat regarding QRP vs QRO. Scott enjoys QRP



and I keep telling him, “QRP...making calls, QRO...making contacts.” KD8VSQ had a mini tube made and mounted on a drawer knob with Scott’s call, you can see it below. But to make it fair after Tony KD8BBkK #2443T pranked Scott with the “QRP tube,” he also presented Scott with the engraved 3-500Z tube. The picture bellows shows them in Scott’s station.

If you’re interested in such a tube contact KD8VSQ for more details...just sayin.’



K8PRC #14046T Multi-multi as K3Y/8 From the Shack of KD8BBK #2443T

Well another great K3Y event for this year as it celebrated its 10th birthday and was full of activity and fun here at the shack of KD8BBK. I decided to try a multi multi operation for the first time here at the shack. We managed to put 3 stations on the air as K3Y/8/K8PRC from Ohio and were able to pretty much keep all the stations running with the exception of when it was time to fill our bellies or just shoot the breeze among our selves.



L-R W8DHz, KD8MQ, N3JJT, N8KQ
Duane John Stumpy Randy

The bands were not in the greatest shape on the higher bands and the contacts were sometimes hard to pull out. We had 3 stations on the air as follows, Icom 7410, Icom 7200, and an Icom 718, yes I like Icom gear HI HI. Everything worked out without any problems of interference among the 3 stations and the shack was filled with the beautiful sound of the clicking of the keys, music to my ears.

We had people come and go throughout the day, some just to visit and some to operate. Some of the operators I am sure you have worked before or maybe even know. Just to name a few I will start with the one we call "STUMPY" Scott N3JJT. It is really hard to sit and operate next to this guy and not bust out in laughter, as he is always looking for a quick laugh. There was Duane W8DHz and Randy N8KQ.

None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for these guys taking a little time out of their busy day to come and spend it among friends in one of the best hobbies I think you will ever find. I would also like to thank the operators on the other end, for if not for them, we would be talking to ourselves and trust me, my wife says I already do enough of that.

That is about it from the shack of KD8BBK. Just want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make SKCC what it is...a great club!

73,
KD8BBK, Tony

*Ed...how about seeing/
hearing more multi-
multi operations?*



W8DHz and the 20m station



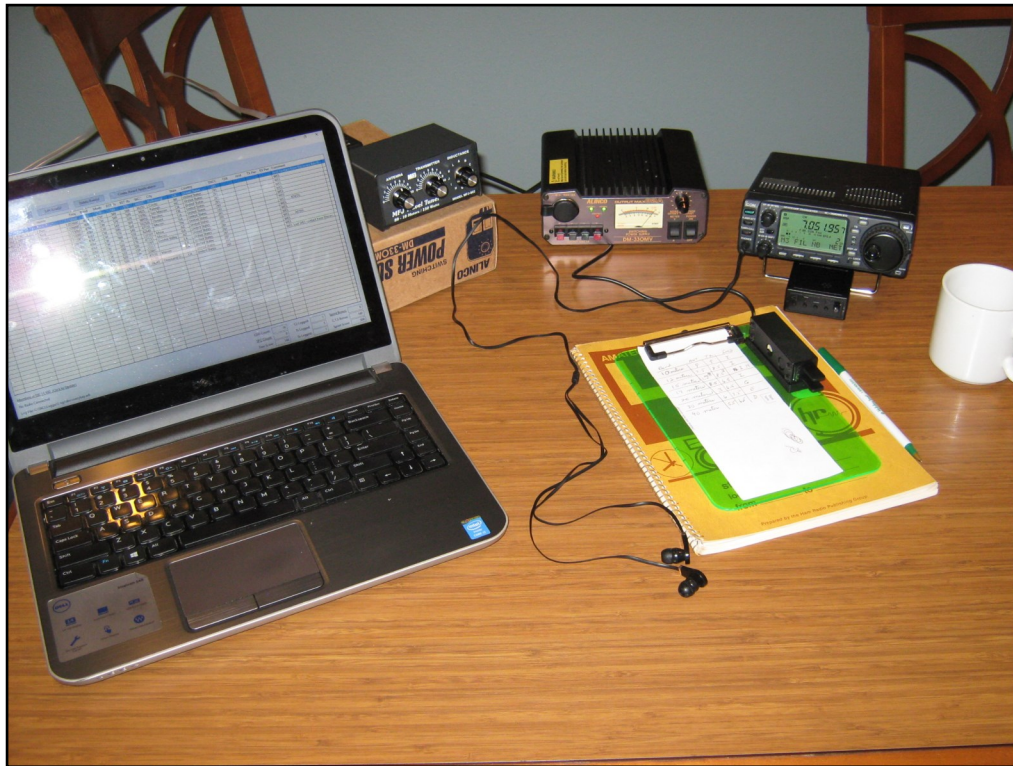
W8DHz	N3JJT	KD8BBK
Duane	Scott (Stumpy)	Tony
20m	40m	15m



Chief op Tony KD8BBK,
on 15 and 30m

K3Y/7...Busted!

De Gary K9ZMD #891T

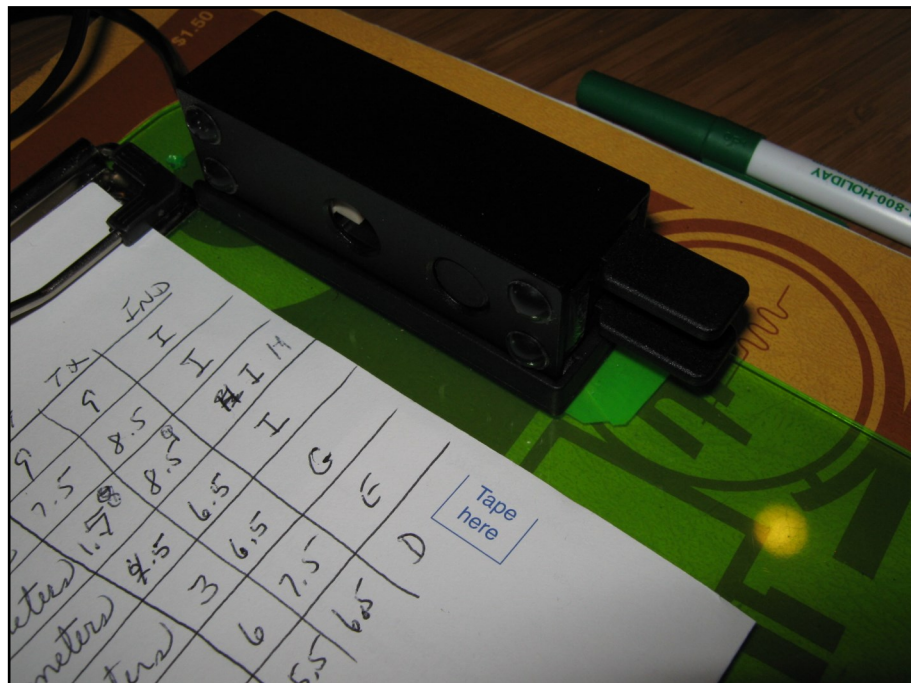


Here's the setup I used for my single shift of K3Y/7 operation while vacation portable on the west shore of Discovery Bay (near Sequim, WA). With a little practice, I became reasonably adept at using my Palm Mini-Paddle (on its side) as a straight key.

The fun all ended when I got busted. The resort management folks untied the strings that supported my 66' doublet. Later (when I reclaimed my string), they told me they really couldn't allow attachment of anything so "unsightly" to their property. Sigh. 73

Gary, K9ZMD
Ridgefield, WA

Ed...it's always an "iffy" situation when setting up a station away from home. Is it better to ask permission or to ask "forgiveness" if busted?



W8BTD #8972 Shoots 'em Dead!



L to R WA8CAE, NQ8T, W8BTD, K8NHR
K8TV, W8CQU, K8TEZ and KC8LI

There are a group of fellow hams who meet regularly over in the Oberlin, OH area for what hams do best...rag chew! Larry K8TEZ #8426T, sent me this picture of his buddies examining W8BTD's latest creation. Larry says, "Bob W8BTD wanted to make this ever since he saw Slim's original cw shooter paddle." Here



Original idea came from Eldon WA0SZV.
This is his original cw shooter cootie

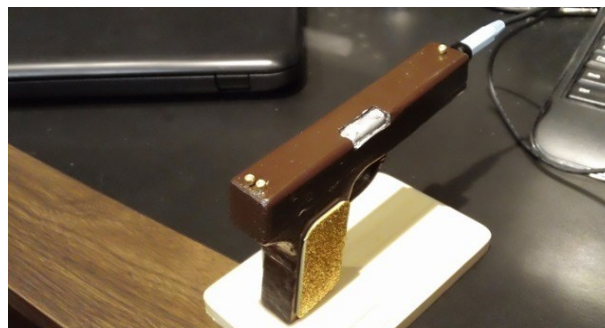
is what Bob had to say about his creation:

"Since being introduced to SKCC by a good friend, Larry K8TEZ and all the pictures he has sent to me of the many variations of hand keys, he gave me an idea. So I went to the garage and got my dermal (rotary tool) and some wood and I started to whittle away. I figured this was to be the proto type for a much bigger and better version if I could make it work. Thanks to Larry/K8TEZ and his support, I made it work."



The first contact with it was K3Y/8 Adrian ARC. Thanks to the other K3Y stations for putting up with my practicing with it. The next version will be both a straight key and a iambic key.

Oh yes then I was requested to take it to our weekly coffee group at McDonalds. Every one said they wanted to see it and even got some good reviews. Had to make sure that the cable was attached so no one thought it was a real gun and cause panic !



Vacationing with the XYL!

My wife is very understanding, I am extremely lucky! When she says, "Lets go south for a week to get out of the Michigan cold," I'm already packing! This February she wanted to

V47TR		SKCC		ARRL DXCC CW	
Straight Key Century Club #8509		Grid: FK87			
Ted Rachwal 1600 Wolf Creek Hwy Adrian, MI 49221		Ex calls: A35TR 3D2TR T32TR VE9AQM K8AQM ZF2TA 5W0TR V47TR		Pse QSL <input type="checkbox"/> Trx QSL <input type="checkbox"/>	
Confirming QSO with	Date Day / Month / Year	UTC	MHz	RST	MODE
k8aqm1629t@comcast.net					

go to St. Kitts for a week, no problem to get a license there! First I packed my radio gear and then figured what clothes I needed to pack around my gear, good planning of course! I travel light with a K2/100, my trusty Sigma V antenna (low profile at the resorts) a paperclip paddle and my Vizkey(dits died on me..nuts!).

The wife says, "vacation comes first, radio second (really?)." I do most of my operating in the early morning and later at night...my wife gets up late and goes early to bed...perfect!

Here is the vacation setup of V47TR (aka K8AQM). I worked 260 SKCC members on 10-20m and even a couple on 30m which he antenna doesn't do! I was able to go from SKCC # 8509 to 8509T during the week stay, all thanks to the many fine ops who heard my signal and the K3UK sked page!

The antenna is only 9 ft tall and packs easily in my suitcase. We were on the bottom floor and you can see how close the antenna was to the building but the picture showing our "view" was right to

the US. I did take a paddle and spent one day working as a DX station which netted and additional 400+ QSOs so all in all I worked 660+ QSOs during the week.

If you would like one of the QSLs just use the SKCC bureau or send on direct with an SASE. Now, on to T32TR!

The plastic bag covers the switching relays and coils



ATOM BOMBING 1945

WHEN THE ATOM BOMBS WERE DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI IN AUGUST OF 1945, I WAS STATIONED AT THE MEDFORD AIRPORT, WHICH WAS CALLED THE MEDFORD ARMY AIR BASE, MEDFORD, OREGON. I HAD BEEN THERE FOR ABOUT 6 MONTHS. I HAD COMPLETED 25 MONTHS IN THE CHINA, BURMA & INDIA (CBI) THEATRE OF WAR. I HAD ORIGINALLY SIGNED UP FOR A THREE-YEAR HITCH IN THE U.S. ARMY AIR CORPS, BUT FOUR YEARS HAD PASSED AND I COULD NOT GET DISCHARGED BECAUSE I WAS A CW (CODE) OPERATOR AND WE WERE KEPT ON HAND BECAUSE WE MIGHT BE NEEDED LATER. I WAS A MEMBER OF THE AACS (ARMY AIRWAYS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM) AND WE HAD DETACHMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD AT THAT TIME. THEY TOLD ME THAT I WOULD PROBABLY GO OVERSEAS AGAIN, POSSIBLY TO THE PHILLIPINES. BUT THEN THEY DROPPED THE BOMBS AND ENDED THE WAR. THIS MAY HAVE SAVED MY LIFE AND THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS OTHERS.

I READ IN THE AACS NEWSLETTER A FEW YEARS AGO ABOUT A GUY IN MY OUTFIT (AACS) BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTACTING THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND STARTING THE TALKS ABOUT A CEASEFIRE. THE WAY I REMEMBER THE ARTICLE WAS THAT OUR GOVERNMENT KNEW THAT, AFTER WE DROPPED TWO ATOM BOMBS, THEY WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT TERMS OF SURRENDER. BUT HOW COULD WE CONTACT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND GET THE TALKS STARTED? OUR GOVERNMENT SENT WORD TO ALL THE SERVICES TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO CONTACT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT. (MY DAUGHTER, VICKI, WANTED TO KNOW WHY WE DIDN'T JUST CALL THEM ON THE TELEPHONE!)

ONE OF OUR AACS STATION CHIEFS DOWN IN THE PHILLIPINES, (I THINK), TOLD THEM HE KNEW A WAY TO CONTACT THE JAPANESE. HE SAID WE BROADCAST WEATHER IN MORSE CODE MANY TIMES A DAY, EVERY DAY, AND HE THOUGHT THE JAPANESE HAD BROKEN OUR CODE AND PROBABLY USED THE WEATHER INFORMATION FOR THEIR OWN MILITARY OPERATIONS. THE PENTAGON TOLD HIM TO GO AHEAD. SO HE TYPED UP A SHORT MESSAGE ON THE KLEINSCHMIDT PERFORATOR, GLUED THE ENDS TOGETHER SO THE MESSAGE WOULD BE TRANSMITTED OVER AND OVER ON THE BOEHME KEYING HEAD, ON THE AIR. THE MESSAGE WAS ADDRESSED TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND ASKED SOMEONE TO TUNE UP ON A DESIGNATED RADIO FREQUENCY AND CONTACT US TO DISCUSS MEETINGS ABOUT ENDING THE WAR. IN A SHORT TIME, SOMEONE CAME UP ON THAT FREQUENCY AND SOON THE TALKS BEGAN.

I HAD USED THE SAME TYPE OF BROADCAST EQUIPMENT OVER THE YEARS AND I WAS VERY PLEASED TO HEAR THAT SOMEONE IN MY OUTFIT HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING AN END TO WORLD WAR TWO.

GEORGE MILLIGAN, ORIGINATOR OF MERCY FLIGHTS HERE IN MEDFORD, WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE AACS IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY DURING THE WAR. HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST RADAR OPERATORS. GEORGE SAID THAT AACS STOOD FOR "ALWAYS AVOIDING COMBAT SERVICE "

AMEN! IT WORKED FOR ME TOO, GEORGE!

VIC SEEBERGER W7VSE

Keys and Bugs of K8MFO

Ed... After seeing a note on the CE Bug reflector from long time friend Don, K8MFO (not SKCC unfortunately), I asked Don about my favorite TAC bugs and my McElroy bugs. Don sent along this message and some pictures of his key collection...WOW!

Well, it's like this. About 20 years ago I accumulated a few keyer paddles, and then decided that bugs were more interesting! SO I started to collect them, but deciding that the "challenge of the hunt" was much more satisfying than paying big bucks on eBay! This worked out great for me, with several very rare specimens coming into my hands along with the common stuff. I've made some good trades. My initial interest was in McElroy bugs, and I still have 19 of them, plus 5 of the TACO bugs, which were definitely designed by Ted McElroy. I would bet money that one of his Chicago partners was Bill Halligan, the owner of Hallicrafters. They were a couple of hard drinking Irish buddies! Somebody once told me that Al Kahn - W18DUS/K4FW rode a train from the East Coast to points west with them once, and it was a wild time!

After accumulating most McElroy models, I shifted my interest to Dow Key bugs, of which I still have 9. I had more, but duplicates provided great trading stock for other bugs. Basically, I expanded my collecting interests to include ANY NON VIBROPLEX make. In spite of that, 18 Vibroplex bugs are in my collection, including two Model X types.

At one point I had over 200 bugs, which I thought was excessive, so I worked very hard to get that number down to about 80. Of course some straight keys, paddles, and side swipers also followed me home, or showed up in my mailbox. All of this was without spending "ego bucks" ... The hunt is much more satisfying.

Anyway, I did get the collection down to a reasonable level. Then a couple of years ago a guy that I've known since first getting involved in the Michigan QMN CW NET in 1959 called me on the phone. He told me that his health had gone bad, and that he wanted to give me his key collection. I told him that I would be glad to look at it, and that we could come up with a dollar figure. He said: "NO, you don't understand -- I want to GIVE it to you." ... I drove to see him, arguing about paying him while packing things up, but I finally gave up. Long story short --- 130 MORE KEYS came home with me! SO, now what to do? Well, I converted one of my guest bedrooms into a key museum. Pictures follow ... Here is a very close estimate as to what I have ...BUGS - 18 Vibroplex, 19 McElroy, 6 Speed-X, 5 TACO, 3 Cedar Rapids, 9 Dows, and 48 "others", MANY of which are foreign made. For example, I have 3 Australian bugs with different manufacturers, 2 Swedish bugs made by separate companies, and 13 Canadian bugs (including Dow) from 4 different companies.

Then there are 20 paddles and side swipers, plus 130 keys of all types from my friend, including upscale paddles, spark keys, and a whole bunch of straight keys. OH and there are a bunch of sounders which I don't even inventory or display!

Here are 4 shots of my "museum", one of each wall ... The only way to appreciate what's here is to see it in person!

This is a long way to saying to you, "YES, I am into bugs", AND I use them all of the time. I thought I was decent with a bug when I was a young kid, but I truly believe that I'm a lot better now. AND I'm also using a Bunnell sideswiper on a regular basis.

There's no reason why I couldn't join SKCC Some clubs I won't join, but SKCC is not one of them.

73,

Don K8MFO

PS ... I have a number of right angle bugs, including a few Mecograph, and 2 from my close friend, sadly SK, John Merrick - VE3AWA.

Check out the pictures Don sent. I know there are others within our club and out the club too, who have major key collections, if I get should receive any other photos I'll post them here in the newsletter. And of course I'm putting the pressure on Don to join SKCC.



Sand, Surf, and Friends...Dxing From T32

This was my second trip to Kiritimati (Christmas Island, 2 degrees north of the equator) which is 4 hours flying by commercial jet south from Hawaii and used to be known as "Eastern Carolina Islands," only two degrees north of the equator. Both the British and Americans tested nuclear bombs back in the 50s on/near this dry desert atoll.

We operated from the "Captain Cook Hotel" which is the old military base of the Americans and British and shown on the map at the red circle. The Hotel is located right on the shore so our antennas were right at the water's edge! Verticals work very well when placed on ocean beaches! We had three Sigma V Force 12 verticals, 2 N6BT Bravo antennas, a 30m vertical, 40 m vertical 80m vertical and a 160 inverted L. We also had a 60m vertical and 180 ft. beverage for listening. Our rigs included 3 K2/100s, 3 Tentec Eagles, and six 500 watt amps.

There were seven operators and six of us are SKCCers. Much time by several of the operators were spent on the usual SKCC calling frequencies. T32TR (K8AQM) especially spent many hours calling and working SKCC members. SKCCers on this trip were:

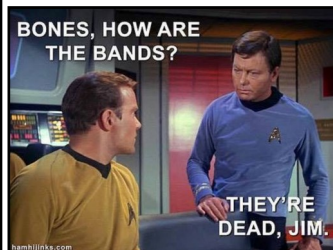
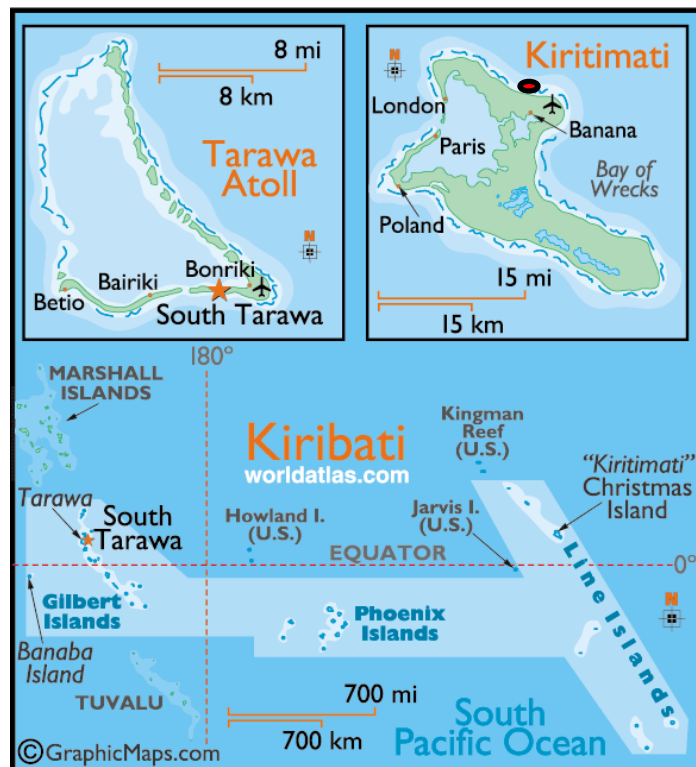
AC8W #2813.....T32WW
K8AQM #1629S....T32TR
K8MU #14823.....T32MU
K8QKY #7552.....T32SB
KG8CO #6362.....T32CO
N8LJ #9954.....T32LJ

Salt spray was very heavy requiring antennas to be washed regularly as the swrs started rising. We "lost" three amplifiers before we started, one in shipping and two because of voltages varying from 85-145 volts! Each day we had at least three blackouts during pileups and often for long periods. All of this being said, we had a great time and plenty of laughs and fun.

I didn't work as many SKCC members as I had hoped to work. I did try to answer several during the WES but they couldn't hear me or answered the stronger station. I did work a few of the gang though; K8NS, W0SZE, K4DJ, N4OW, KD8VSQ, K0TPP, N4OW, KD8DEU, K5ZOL(60m and him with along wire and 100 watts, as he said, "I fell like the cat that got the canary!"), K8TEZ and of course

Bert F6HKA! It was great to work SKCC members and I often recognized call of other various members in the pileups.

Some pictures for you're viewing on the next page.



T32TR

SKCC

Straight Key Century Club #6509

Ted Rachwal
1600 Wolf Creek Hwy
Adrian, MI 49221

Ex calls:
K8AQM A35TR 3D2TR V8AQM
V63TR ZF2TA 5W0TR V47TR

Grid: BJ11

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

We finished the DXpedition with 29,480 QSOs in our 14 days of operation. Our QSL manager for all calls is Wes AC8JF but if you worked T32TR and want an SKCC card as shown here send your card either via the SKCC Bureau or direct with an SASE and one will be returned to you.



The “shack” T32WW & T32LJ left side,
T32TR & T32CO right side



L to R Sigma V, 40m vert., Cushcraft 80-10
ver, 80m vertical...some of the beach antennas



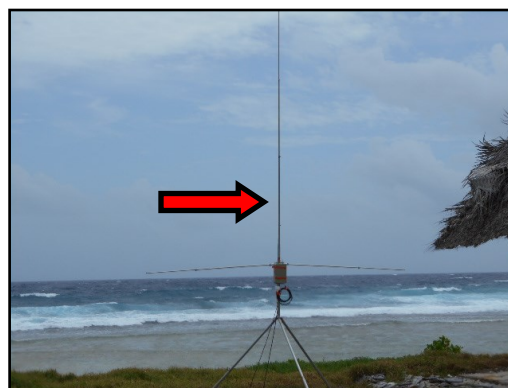
KG8CO/T32CO # 6362 Tentec Eagle xcvr,
main 160m op



N8LJ/T32LJ #9954 Tentec Eagle

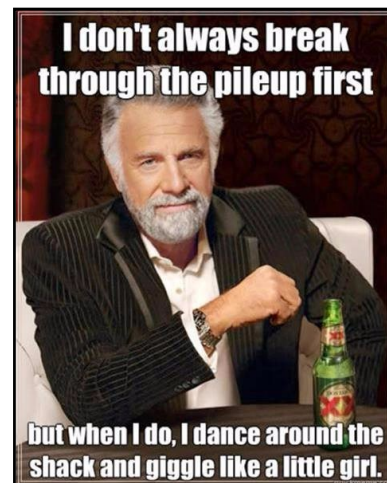


AC8W/T32WW #2813 K2/100...Stan is
known as “Glue bottom” always in the chair !



4 of these “Bravo 5” antennas were used, 10-
20m...newer model to replace the Sigma V

It takes a lot of gear to mount a serious expedition and this picture shows only part of the gear taken. We took six xcvrs, 800 feet of 8X coax, four 10m Spider poles, 4 Bravo 5 antennas, 1 Sigma V, 500 feet of control cables for the antennas, a 40 foot aluminum top-loaded 160m antenna, four amplifiers, six power supplies, eight rolls of tape, 2000 ft of parachute cord for guying; all the headphones, Win keyers, 800 ft of wire, computers and paddles needed to man the six stations...heck, we even took some food! Speaking of food, I took some jalapeno granola bars and either a rat or grab ate half of one during the night. Bet that guy had some serious heart burn the next day! He never did come back for the second half of the bar!

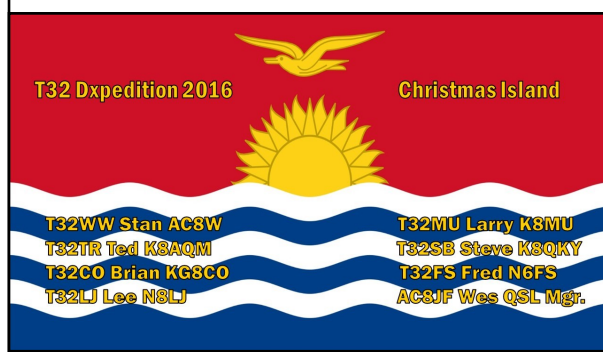



I'm sure we worked this guy!
We all heard dancing going on throughout the pileups.

Did we have problems? Yup, lost three amplifiers to voltage spikes, one power supply to "shipping" and one to voltage spikes, headphones broke, daily bathes for the antennas, temps near 90 F and humidity about the same! But it was worth it! A great time with friends, sand, surf and DXing!

Below is our "official" T32 card and if you worked us then a card can be had via AC8JF Wes, our QSL manager by sending your card and an SASE to his QRZ address.
Thanks for all the great QSOs.

73 es gud DX,
Ted K8AQM/T32TR
#1629S #8509T





T32 Crew

L to R T32WW, T32CO, T32LJ, T32SB, T32MU, T32FS, T32TR
AC8W KG8CO N8LJ K8QKY K8MU N6FS K8AQM

Many thanks to the people at Captain Cook Hotel, they made our two week stay very enjoyable. Total Qs 29484

A special thanks to our QSL and Club Log manager Wes, AC8JF.

73 es gud DX de T32 Crew

QSO Data			
Band	CW	SSB	Digital
160m	612	0	0
80m	870	29	0
60m	130	28	0
40m	1476	241	0
30m	2548	0	305
20m	2932	428	369
17m	2460	399	200
15m	3230	2572	875
12m	2477	1494	210
10m	3374	1101	273
Totals	20109	7143	2229

K0SKC #10739S, The Missouri Outlaws!



Have you “run across” these Outlaws? If you haven’t then you really haven’t been on the air much! These “fugitives” are everywhere on the band and if you have “Missouri “ in your log then no doubt you have worked several of the “gang.” They all look so very respectable and when you look their calls up on QRZ.com they have very fine stations and a very nice collection of keys. So when you works any of them in the next SKCC event or just on the bands remember, they ride together as the “Missouri Outlaws” and you have met someone of significant stature! Their gang call is “K0SKC.” Watch for them!

The “story” behind the outlaws comes from “Slim” WA0BGV. Here is what Slim has to say.

de Slim WA0BGV, es Outlaw 1 K0SKC

“Originally three hams within the county of CASS in Missouri got together initially to operate in the Field Day Event. We were also active in the Straight Key Century Club events. We were Slim, WA0BGV, Bill, N0UMP and Mark, K10I. Cass County, Missouri was the location for several who became outlaws. The county seat, Harrisonville was the hometown of the Younger Brothers. To the north in the town of Belton lived some young children who became well known outlaws later.





Their mother was a cousin of the Youngers. These children grew up and came to be known as the Dalton Gang. Other well known gents who became famous outlaws were ever present in and around the county at the time were Frank and Jesse James.

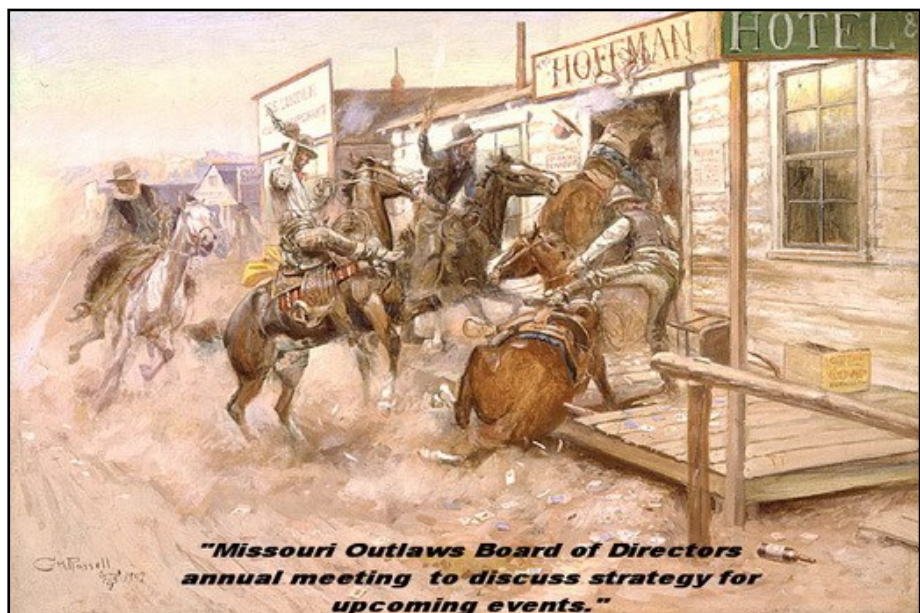
We at one point decided to get a club call and all these historical facts played an important part

in the name we chose for the club call. Hence "The Missouri Outlaw Amateur Radio Club" began life as KD0VNL. We quickly applied for a vanity call and since we were active SKCC members and officially now Outlaws, we STOLE as much of the SKCC call as we could and came up with the call K0SKC.

At that time the sprint results included a count of how many participants participated from each state and the number of QSOs for each state. So, we began talking it up with other Missouri SKCC members in an effort to put Missouri "on the map" so to say. At that point we came up with a design for a badge indicating that you were an official posse member of "The Missouri Outlaws". To become a Missouri Outlaw you had to have participated in a sprint and turn in a report to be posted on the results page.

At one point Pete Spotts, N1ABS #4853S devised a Sprint theme whereby the Missouri Outlaws were the bonus points in a sprint. Since Pete mentioned that his mother was from Missouri we made him an Honorary Outlaw Member Badge. One other favorite operator of our Missouri group was Ed, W7GVE #729T. He also got an Honorary Badge.

We do have one female member. Linda, KF4MXF #12812T liked our group and was encouraged to learn the code and become a member. She did so in record time and when she had completed the requirements to become a member we named her "The Queen of the Missouri Outlaws."

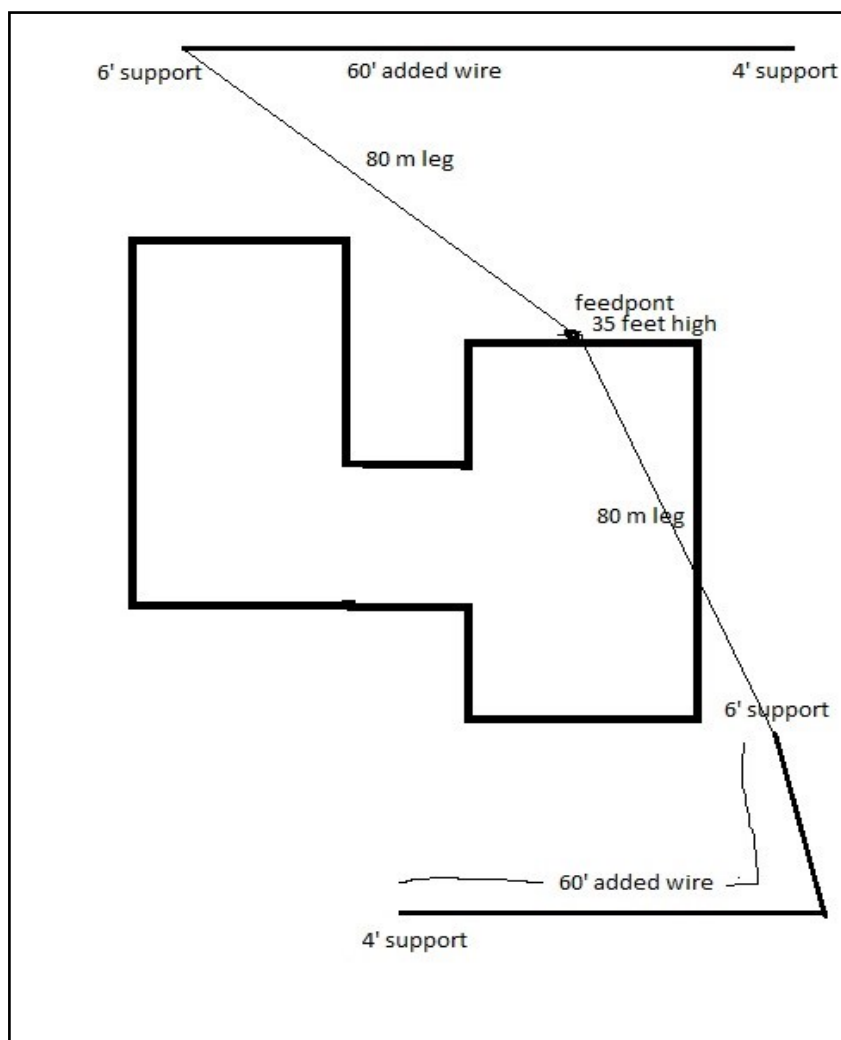


"Missouri Outlaws Board of Directors annual meeting to discuss strategy for upcoming events."

Space-Limited 160 Meter Antenna de N8KR # 7559S

When space is limited and you want to get on 160 meters, it doesn't take much but a lot of wire! I think about the winter months with many 160 meter operating events plus it's so much fun to work SKCC and to get those K3Y stations on 160! So what I do, in my small yard, is add 60 feet of wire to each leg of my existing 80 meter dipole and, with the aid of an antenna tuner, load it up on 160 meters. I find this the easiest way to get on the air and participate in *Top-Band* activities.

The apex of my 80 meter dipole (inverted vee) is 35 feet. It slopes down in (near) opposite directions to supports at the 6 foot level. My lot size is 90' wide and 120 feet deep. There is no way on my lot to extend two 125 foot legs for a 160 meter dipole but . . . if the legs are not required to be in the same consistent plane, I can get those two legs in my lot. Actually, my antenna looks like a big "Z." Within 15 minutes, I can mechanically add 60 feet of wire to each leg of my 80 meter dipole. Since it's a temporary modification, a few twists of wire, some good black tape and support strings and the antenna is up. Here's what it looks like:

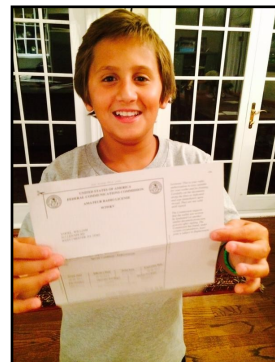


My Grandson Will, W3WKV SKCC 14042Sx2 **by Urb LeJeune W1UL SKCC 6668Sx4**

Will Vogel, W3WKV, is my grandson so please forgive me if I appear overly proud. I have four adult children and only one ever showed any interest in Ham Radio, albeit only in passing. In 2009 my wife Pat (she doesn't like being called a XYL) became W2PKV and we were on our way to starting a ham family.

In 2013, at age 11, Will became the first beta tester for my new "ham cram" website

<http://ham-cram.com> and aced his Technician exam becoming KC3AXO. In short order he became W3WKV, which are his initials. He joined the Old Barney Amateur Radio Club in New Jersey and is still the club's youngest member. He participates field day every year. In 2014 both Will and my wife used a more advanced version of my test preparation website and both aced the general exam.



Will showed early problem solving promise. When he was a little over a year old my wife and I were assigned a baby-sitting stint while his parents went to a wedding in Boston. One evening I was lying in bed reading and Will was walking around the room, very proud of his newly found ambulatory skill. When he came over to the bed I pushed the button to turn off the night table lamp. He immediately pointed to the lamp wanting me to turn it back on. When I didn't do it he started looking around the room. He discovered a phone book and brought it over to the night table so he could stand on it to turn on the light. Wow, creating a tool at one year old.

Will, although somewhat precocious at time, is a very endearing person. He has many friends. He also has three older and one younger sibling. Will's mother and father and his siblings are very proud and highly supportive of his ham radio activities. Will calls West Chester, PA home.

His rig is my former Yaesu FT-450 and a G5RV nestled in a pine tree in an inverted "V" configuration about 45 feet at the apex. He also lives on a hill and gets our quite well. Will loves a challenge and in the middle of 2014 I offered him a reward to learn CW. Some might call it a bribe but I prefer a reward. I set up "Just Learn Morse Code" on his computer and away he went. When he got to about 10 words per minute he joined SKCC in February 2015. Will has a great fist but again I'm biased.

While all this was going on Will's cousin David passed his Technician test and became

KB3SRZ. Will's uncle Dave (KB3SRZ's father) has become W3DFV. Will's older sister Lucie has shown some interest in getting a license.

Will has a medical condition that results in easy bone breakage so contact sports are out of the question. He is very competitive so chasing awards fills a big void in his life.



He has been awarded the ARRL WAS award endorsed for CW and 40 meters. He has also earned WAC. He has also earned the following SKCC awards: WAS, WASC both endorsed for 40 meters. In addition he has earned Centurion x 8, Tribune x 10, Senator x 2 and Prefix x 5. He also has DXQ 100 and needs one more SKCC country for DXC 50. During K3Y he worked all call areas, KH6, KL7, EU, SA, AF and missed only Asia and Oceania for the big sweep.

Will is in 8th grade and as you might suspect he is a good student. He is also a member of the Wilmington Youth Rowing Association and is the coxswain of his team.

He is rumored to have a girlfriend so his ham radio activities may start to diminish. It happened to me! At age 14 I was almost ready to take my Class "B" license test complete with a 13 WPM code test when I discovered girls and, a few years later, cars. I like to tell people that when I discover "the fumes" – perfume and car fumes – my license chase was delay a couple of years.

If you hear Will on the air give him a shout. He is frequently on the SKCC sked page, especially on the weekends and during a WES. He also likes receiving QSL cards. I'm his QSL manager so send cards for him to me, or the SKCC bureau, and you'll get one by return mail.

73 Urb W1UL
urb@w1ul.com



Lifetime Licensing Petition? Good or Bad?

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760 - available on the web at, <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001333714>) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise Part 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

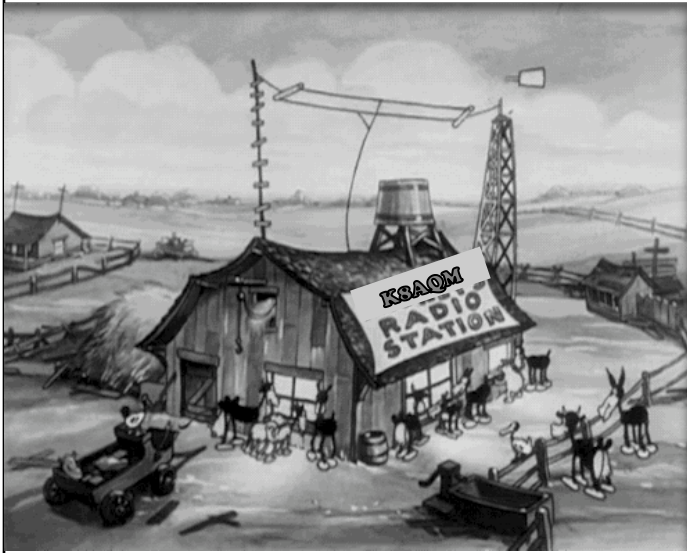
In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

Individuals may submit comments

(<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/proceeding/view?name=RM-11760>) via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS)

You can see the original at:
apps.fcc.gov

W8TQE K3Y/8 Multi-multi



This is the K8AQM/W8TQE shack BEFORE the K3Y/8 operation!



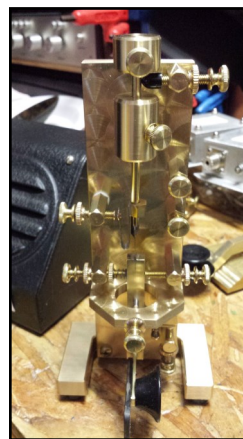
Imagine this view with 18 hams standing around!



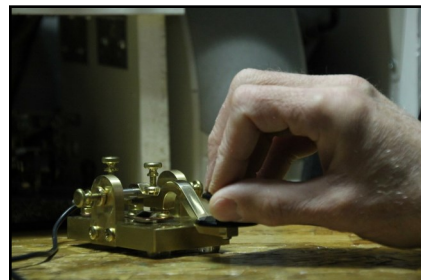
is shown here. It has a 40-10 log at 100 ft, TH-6 at 75 feet, 40m 2L at 50 ft and 2L 20m at 25 ft. There are many wires and other ya-gis available.

Another multi-multi operation for the Adrian ARC over and what an operation! We had a ball! On Saturday we had 18 operators in the shack at one time...wall-to-wall! Again we each consumed way more calories than we made QSOs and of course, many, many laughs.

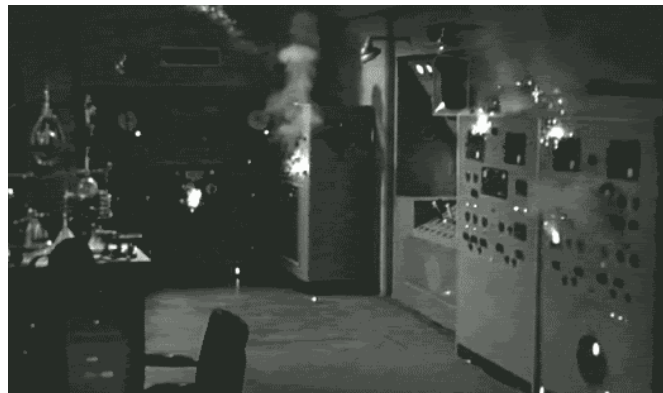
Conditions weren't great but everyone had a great time and we made sure all those who needed K3Y/8 on some band had a chance to work us.



Curt KU8L, brought a couple of his very fine VIZKeys for us to use. They are truly sweet! We had many different keys and bugs to choose from at the five different stations. At one time we were CQing on five different



bands. The main tower of the five towers



This is the K8AQM/W8TQE shack AFTER the K3Y/8 operation!

Most important are the ops who came to enjoy K3Y. Here are a few shots and names to go with the calls you've worked during this weekend run of K3Y/8.

Tim K9TM
#12335T



Don KD8SKO & Ken K8KIC
#10953T #2938T



Noz AD7TN
#10763



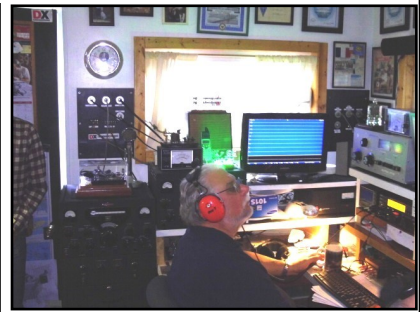
Stan AC8W
#2813



K8AQM AC8JF KB8ECG
#1629S #10511 #10169



Lee N8LJ
#9954



AD7TN & AC8JF
Noz Wes



KD8TTM & KD8SKO
Bill Don



K8KIC KB8ECG
Ken Dave



K8TEZ & NQ8T
Larry Steve

We'll be back next year with more tales of excitement...73, K3Y/8 aka W8TQE

Navy Code Trainer

The cryptologic technician (collection) (CTR) student cohort in the first revised Basic Manual Morse Trainer (BMMT) course wrapped up, Jan. 28, at the Center for Information Dominance (CID) Unit Corry Station.

The update included the latest Manual Morse software used by the Department of Defense and was tested out in a nine-week pilot course that concluded in September. The self-paced course provides basic instruction and practical application in the interception of Morse-type communications.

"Morse code continues to be an inexpensive and efficient means of communication for many states throughout the globe," said Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection) (IDW/NAC/SW/AW) Tony Gonzales, CTR rate training manager for CID headquarters. "Manual Morse operators here at Corry Station are learning a skill set that has stood the test of time. Many of our most senior CTRs began their careers as Manual Morse operators."

In the updated course, Sailors learn how to operate radio-receiving and associated computer-based equipment. From basic safeguards of security to communication procedures and systems theory to operation of communications equipment, the course teaches how to intercept Morse communications, as well as copy and send Morse code.

"There is something special about learning a skill that Sailors have been performing since World War II," said Gonzales. "The connection between the past, present and future cryptologic technician (collection) is rarely seen in our line of work as technologies are forever changing." Morse is just one tool that CTRs use as members of the Navy's Information Warfare community to perform collection, analysis and reporting on communication signals.

"Morse code is not only used in military operations but also in commercial navigation," said Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 1st Class (IDW/SW) Gabriel Albarran, the BMMT course supervisor. "Search and rescue, science navigations and weather status are frequently passed in automated Morse code."

Sailors can take the course immediately following CTR "A" school or can be assigned as fleet returnees to the course as part of their transfer. The course is now offered to about 40 CTRs each year in the pay grades of E-1 through E-5.

"It's a language," said Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Seaman Mary Kaitlin McKeeby, who beat the course record set during the pilot by two days, finishing the self-paced course in 39 days. "If you have a knack for languages, (Morse code) is going to be easier to pick up."

She stressed the importance of staying composed while learning Morse code and persisting through the lessons even when making a mistake.

Graduates receive NEC 9169 as a Morse code intercept operator and undergraduate college credit through the American Council on Education. They may also be eligible for selective re-enlistment bonuses in both zones A and B.

Morse code training has been taking place continuously at Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station since 2005, when the Navy moved the training back to Corry Station, in favor of cost and time savings by relocating the course with the cryptology "A" school. A long partnership with the Army providing the training came to an end at that time.

The Center for Information Dominance (CID) based at Corry Station in Pensacola,

Florida, is the Navy's learning center that leads, manages and delivers Navy and joint forces training in information operations, information warfare, information technology,

cryptology and intelligence.

With nearly 1,300 military, civilian and contracted staff members, CID provides training for approximately 22,000 members of the U.S. armed services and allied forces each year. CID oversees the development and administration of more than 200 courses at four commands, two detachments and 12 learning sites throughout the United States and Japan.

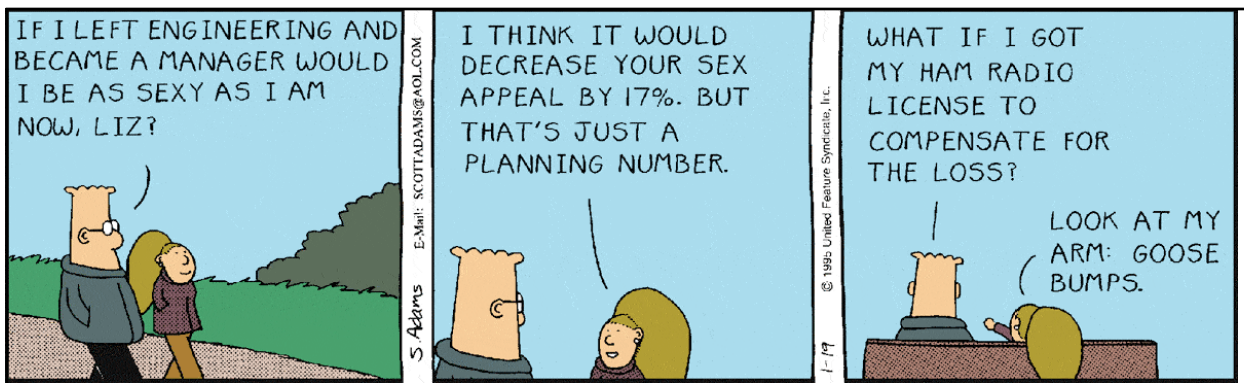
For more information on the Center for Information Dominance, visit: <http://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/ceninfodom/>

facebook.com/CenterForInformationDominance/

and

twitter.com/CenterInfoDom/

De Rich K8UV 2250T



SKCC at Toledo, OH Hamfest 2016 de N8KR #7559S

For us in the Midwest (and north) it's the beginning of hamfest season. Ohio is well known for their hamfests: Toledo and Findlay . . . and some have even heard about the one in Dayton in May! While selling at many hamfests, I always promote SKCC and try to visit with as many members as possible.

The most interesting story I heard during the hamfest (as you know, we are all full of stories) came from Rick, K8PRG. As I recall, Rick served his country in Viet Nam copying morse code. After he left the service, Amateur Radio and morse code were never considered something he wanted to do. Later in life, though, his grandson wanted to attend a ham radio class and wondered if Rick would take him. Instead of dropping Lucas off for class, Rick decided to take the class with him. What's neat about the story is that they both wanted code! Naturally, it was a fairly simple thing for Rick to get back into it but he told me how much more quickly Lucas got it! Well, both of these VERY new hams have HF stations and favorite keys and are active members of SKCC. It's nice to see interest in CW from new hams . . . especially a young one!*continued on next*

This year I had a sign-in sheet asking members to include their main rig and favorite key(s). 18 SKCCers logged in including:

W8RF	Mike	1853	FT-990	Speedex
K8PRG	Rick	14553T	IC-718	Vizkey
KD8VSQ	Jeremy	13072	TS-570	Brown CT-3
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	Omni VII	Navy Flameproof
W6LDS	Lucas	14694	IC-718	Speed-x
K8CLV	Ron	7659T	Jupiter	J-38
KC8WH	Mike	6951	TS-590S	Nye Viking Master Key
W8BTD	Bob	8972	TenTec	Home Made
K3RC	Bob	4672	TenTec	J-38
K8TEZ	Larry	8426T	FT-1000	Vibroplex Deluxe
KE8RU	Andy	11558	TS-990S	J-38
AC8JF	Wes	10511	TS-570	Czech Army
W0JX	Dennis	15043	K3	J-36
N8KR	Ken	7559S	TS-590S	Kent, Vibroplex
W8DIY	Donna	13166		
W8ATE	Stan	13165		
K8EJU	Larry	044	FT-920	
W8CNJ	Roger	2310		



K8PRG, W6LDS, KA8HFN, K8TEZ, K8CLV, K3RC, K8EJU(?), W8DIY, N8KR, W8ATE

W1UL's Ham License Preparation – Ham Cram on Steroids

Study Smarter Not Harder

Introduction

My high school physics teacher, Fr. Laurence Grassman, Ph.D., OSB is still a force of nature in my life. I knew the first day of class that Fr. Larry's Physics class was going to change life as I knew it. In the front of the classroom was a giant picture of Albert Einstein emblazoned with, "Problems cannot be solved with the same mindset that created them." Another poster simply stated, "Any non-trivial problem has multiple solutions. We are therefore looking for the best solution not simply 'a' solution." Fr. Laurence (Benedictines are called by their first name) – problem solving paradigm was simple.

Clearly define the problem. A problem well defined was a problem half solved.

Define the desired results when the problem is solved.

Ignore "conventional wisdom" and be creative during the problem solution phase.

Ham Cram Phase One, Don't Waste Time Studying Incorrect Answers

About six years ago I became the VE Coordinator for the Old Barney Amateur Radio Club (OBARC) in South Jersey. After completion of a testing session I invited successful candidates to stick around for the club meeting and offer them free membership for a year. This turned out to bring in more new member than anything else the club was doing.

During the period following the actual tests and the beginning of the meeting I would chat with candidates about their experience with the test. A surprisingly large number said something resembling, "I recognized an answer but couldn't remember if it was a correct or incorrect answer." Harkening back to Fr. Laurence's problem solving paradigm the problem was confusion between the correct answer and the distractors. The wrong answers on a multiple choice test are called distractors for a reason. The solution goal was to eliminate the confusion.

The conventional license preparation websites modality is to keep taking practice test composed of all four possible answers from the entire question pool. Thinking "outside the box" on this one was easy. Don't waste time studying incorrect answers. The first version of the W1UL Ham Cram eliminated incorrect answers in study mode. A candidate selects one or more subelements and the system lists them as:

Question one

Correct answer to question one, and so on.

My then 11 year old grandson Will W3WKV was my first beta tester and aced the technician test.

ED...Urb sent me this text and the only change I made is in the font presentation. We need more hams in our hobby and this may be of interest to those of you who teach through club

There is a very subtle but highly significant difference between the one answer method and the four answer version. With the four answers the student has to memorize the correct answer from a pool of four. With the one answer version the student only has to establish an association between the question and the correct answer. Making associations is easier and infinitely more effective than memorization.

By FCC decree the question pool for each class of test must contain at least two times as many questions as appear on the actual test. Each class of license has five different tests which the VE team selects at random during a VE session. The Technician and General test have 35 questions for a total of 175 questions. The Extra tests have 50 questions for a total of 250 questions. There are currently 412 questions in the Technician pool, 461 in the General pool and 701 in the extra pool.

There are at least 20 different website offering practice exams including, QRZ.com and ARRL.org. These practice tests are much the same with some occasional nice feature such as retesting on questions a candidate misses or skips. They all use the entire question pool. The next problem to be solved in the evolution of the W1UL Ham cram was could we come up with a way of NOT using the entire question pool?

Ham Cram Phase Two, Don't Waste Time Studying Questions Not Likely to be on the Test

I have considerable experience implementing Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques. Using these AI skills I developed a program which selects a group of questions most likely to appear on the actual tests. The program typically selects about 150 questions from the Technician and General pools and about 200 questions from the Extra pool. The AI program is complemented by a panel of 5 experts, all possessing Extra licenses. The panel has over 150 years of combined ham radio experience. These experts manually select additional questions they deem likely to appear on the test. Expert Mode is what we call this process. The results are shown below:

	Technician	General	Extra
Pool Questions	412	461	701
Questions On Tests	175	175	250
Expert Mode Questions	199	203	305

My then 12 year old grandson Will W3WKV and my wife Pat W2PKV were the first beta testers and both aced the general test.

To the best of my knowledge all other practice test websites use the entire question pool. The difference in required study time between the W1UL Ham Cram website and other preparation sites is dramatic since the W1UL Ham Cram studies less than 50 % of the questions in the pool and only 25 percent of the available answers.

How much study time is required? Study time varies greatly depending upon such factors and background, study habits and test taking experience to name a few. The required study times for the highly rated and Ham Test Online and the W1UL Ham Cram are shown below.

	Ham Test Online	W1UL Ham Cram
Technician	10	5
General	20	6
Extra	30	10

It should be noted that Ham Test Online charges \$24.95, \$29.95 and 34.95 for the Technician, General and Extra registration.

The W1UL Ham Cram method is absolutely not for everyone. If you really want to learn the material, get the ARRL Handbook and an appropriate license class manual and start studying. If you want to get your target license with the minimum amount of studying possible, the W1UL Ham Cram is what you've been searching for. After you get your license, get on the air and learn what interests you with "on the job training."

I almost forgot, the W1UL system is totally FREE.

Good luck and I would appreciate your feedback.

Urb W1UL, urb@w1ul.com
SKCC 6668S
SKCC WAS and DX awards manager

Links:

<a href=<http://ham-cram.com>>The W1UL Ham Cram Website
<a href=<http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com>>Ham Test Online



Urb and testing crew
standing left to right:
Skip N1IBM, Urb W1UL,
Frank KB2UFP, Norm
W2NRS