



Volume 14 Issue 1

The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club
"The Rag Chew"
Editor: K8AQM/VE9AQM

March, 2021

K3Y 2021...Wow, Wow, Wow!

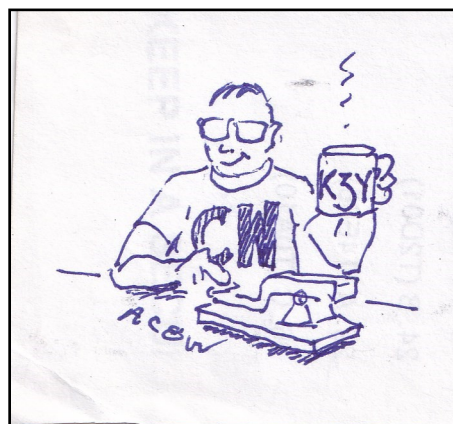
Thanks to everyone who participated in our 15th Anniversary Straight Key Month in January. It was our best ever: more than 230 SKCC members signed up as operators and logged approximately 46,000 QSOs total; that's 6,000 more contacts than last year!

For the first time all 50 US states and PR were activated, which eight people managed to sweep. Usually there are only one or two who make it to the top of the States tier in the participant stats.

I hope you had as much fun as I did. My trusty Junker straight key got a good workout during the month, and the old endfed wire served faithfully once again as it has done for the past 15 years. I hope we can do it again next year.

The master log is being finalized. We will fix missing QSOs and busted calls where possible. If any of your qsos are missing please contact the coordinator for the region in question, or let me know about it. Especially if you intend to get a QSL card. You can search the K3Y log here:

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



The Stats & Op Map are still being updated as late logs come in or corrections are made. Operators can check their stats & QSO map at these links:

[https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-statistics.php?
show=stations](https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-statistics.php?show=stations)

<https://www.easymapmaker.com/map/K3YOPS-2021>

Participants can check their stats and sweeps at these links:

[https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-statistics.php?
show=sweeps](https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-statistics.php?show=sweeps)

<https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-statistics.php?show=participants>



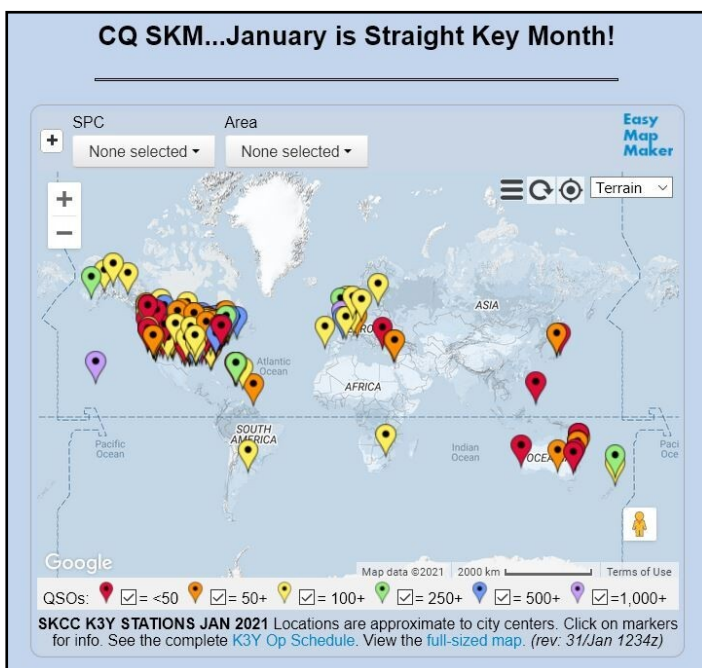
K3Y QSL cards should go out by the end of Feb or early March. For QSL info see the following link:

<https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-qsl-info.php>

[Members outside of the US can get K3Y cards by making a PayPal payment to the SKCC QSL Bureau. US members must supply SASE.]

Catch you next year!

73, Drew - AF2Z
K3Y Planning Group



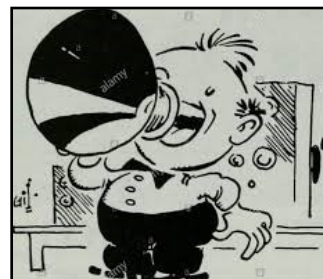
Editor..... This map shows the distribution of K3Y ops around the world. For those SKCC members who searched for the "Grand Sweep," here are some interesting facts:

1. You should have had no trouble working K3Y/5, that area worked over 5,000 stations!
2. K3Y/KH6 worked 1,418 stations and had only one operator...Max KH6ZM!
3. K3Y/KL& worked 676 stations and there were three operators.
4. K3Y/KP4 worked 1,223 stations with four operators.
5. K3Y/EU worked 3686 stations with 13 operators.
6. K3Y/OC worked 834 stations with nine operators.
7. K3Y/SA worked 340 stations with two operators.
8. K3Y/AS worked 479 stations with six operators.
9. K3Y/AF worked 198 stations with only one operator...John ZS6BJJ

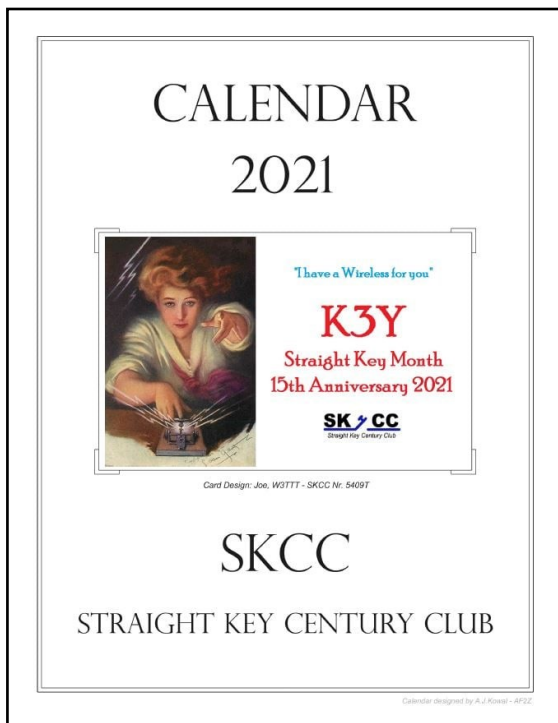
Grand K3Y Sweep

This is awarded to stations who have worked **all** of the K3Y stations worldwide: K3Y/0, K3Y/1, K3Y/2, K3Y/3, K3Y/4, K3Y/5, K3Y/6, K3Y/7, K3Y/8, K3Y/9, K3Y/KH6, K3Y/KL7, K3Y/KP4, K3Y-AF, K3Y-AS, K3Y-EU, K3Y-NA, K3Y-OC, K3Y-SA

There were 89 SKCC members who worked the Grand Sweep.



SKCC 2021 Calendar and K3Y QSL Winners



If you haven't downloaded your 2021 calendar yet, you're missing a great collection of the QSL designs for K3Y 2021 and a great place to find reminders of all the upcoming SKCC events. The calendar can be downloaded as a pdf at:

<https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-qsl-vote.php>

The cover of the calendar is the QSL design winner for 2021 K3Y QSLs. Every page of the calendar shows one of the designs submitted for the QSL contest. The calendar includes all monthly scheduled SKCC events and makes for an easy reminder to join the SKCC fun. The calendar can be spiral-bound and makes a great edition to the shack.

Below are the top three choices as were voted by the members of the SKCC. There were more than 26 entries in this year's contest.



The winner is design #2, by Joe, W3TTT Nr. 5409T



Second place goes to design #10 submitted by Derek, N7PHI Nr. 20999T



Third place goes to design #26 submitted by Chus, EA1IQ Nr. 14515T

You May be Interested....

Here are two free on line books you may be interested in :

Minimalist QRP Book by IZ3AYQ

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dw61-PQ-4JA9feh93H_KrldD4RpN1zZT/view

And

Capture the Magic of Six Meters

https://www.k5nd.net/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=5428

ZS6JBJ...John

Did you work K3Y/AF in January? Well if you did, then you worked John ZS6JBJ because John was the only K3Y/AF station. Here is an interesting look at John and his station.



I was born on 21st February, 1940 in the small town of Kilwinning, Scotland. My first job at age of 15 was as a signal box lad on British Railway. It was there I first experienced a form of Morse code. Each signal box had its own unique number of dits and dahs. Steam locomotives at that time reigned supreme, there was I at a tender age, 32 inch chest, too young to shave helping to set the various routes and watching them thundering past to get to their destination. I often had to travel on the footplate to get to place of work. The sound of a steam loco working hard is something never to be forgotten. Alas all this was to

disappear to be replaced by more modern traction. No more that special mixture of steam, oil and smoke.... Nostalgia.

At 16 volunteered for military service in engineering branch of the Royal Navy. My arithmetic was bad, the naval wage was half of what I earned on the railway. The next 11 years would be spent on various warships varying from destroyers to aircraft carriers. I was not a telegrapher, I had the impressive rating as Marine Engineering mechanic, in reality a stoker. A civilian again I was employed by American Company named Monsanto, I believe their head office was in Pensacola, they made industrial nylon fibres. It closed down in 1980. Jobs were scarce, went to Saudi Arabia with Aramco as an on job trainer to Saudi Nationals at Berri Gas Plant near Jubail. My training could not have been so good, shortly after I left for RSA there was a massive explosion leaving a big hole in ground. I immigrated to S Africa and have been here ever since.

Around the early 90's I started to take an interest in radio, dare I say it, I was an avid CBer, had a lot of fun on the citizen band. Conditions then were good and communication with rest of world was easily done with an amazing 12 watt out.

From there I moved to ham radio, not being technical I struggled to come to grips with electronics, I managed to scrape through the technical monkey puzzle questions in 1995. Seven months later I got my full licence passing the required 12 wpm test. That took a lot of effort; my motto has always been never give up. First couple of years mostly SSB. No one will ever forget their first CW QSO, mine was no exception, at age of 58 I logged my first CW QSO September, 1998. From that date on got bitten by the CW bug... hi!

I got to hear about SKCC via Drew AF2Z and Ron AC2C, both were helpful in submitting initial ADI logs of K3Y/AF/RSA every January. I am not computer literate.

From 2011 I never missed a year. As the only active member on the African Continent it is a challenge. SKCC is a great group, great operators. As a youth of 81 years young I hope to be spared to continue being part of this group of which I am proud to be a part of.

One of the greatest thrills was contacts made during my 3 visits to USA, actually met some. My son lives in Tucson. What a blessing not to struggle with weak sigs hi.

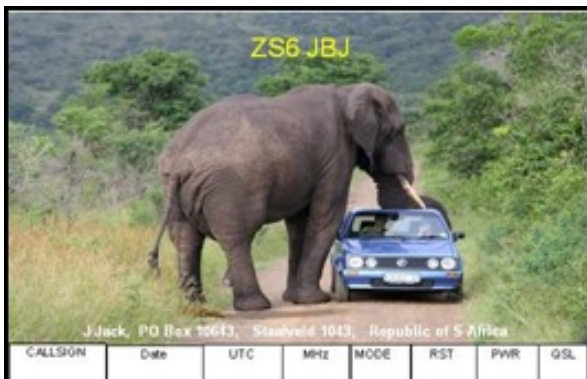
And icing on cake – am now a TX8 –Thanks Ron/Phil

73 all

SKCC 3808

Further Information on John ZS6JBJ

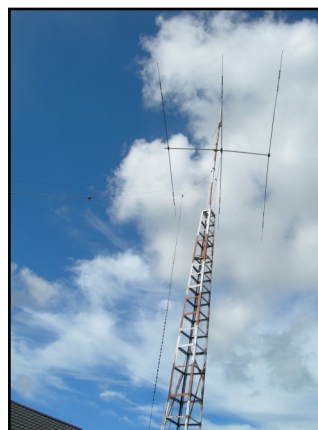
“Here is photo of my qsl card. It’s a genuine photo taken in our Kruger Park, S Africa. My friend deals with accident claims for Avis car rental company. She sent the photograph to me.



At a certain time of the year the bull elephant goes into musk, that plus the fermenting juices of the Marula fruit in his stomach probably caused an increase in testosterone resulting in a romantic desire towards the VW car.

To cut a long story short, the claim against the elephant was not successful. The passengers in the car although requiring change of clothing, were not injured. Suffice it to say the car 's aerodynamics were some what re-shaped.”

John has a fine station as these photos show:



Incoming sigs went from fair to extremely challenging as the month progressed. Regarding positive comments by others about my effort in K3Y events, I am just one among of many members who make SKCC and K3Y enjoyable to be part of and the roaring success it has become. Success relies on the tremendous planning and work done by the behind the scenes administration team.



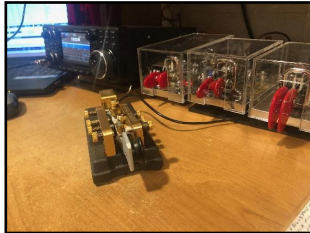
Thank you John for all YOUR efforts and being such a great addition to K3Y and SKCC! 73....de all of SKCC

SK CC
Straight Key Century Club

November Brag 2020



Good time. All the qso's were awesome. Thanks and See you in December. 73, Bud AA8CL



Good time. All the qso's were awesome. Thanks and See you in December. 73, Bud AA8CL



November was a fantastic month for my SKCC journey. I managed to get my C and T! I also had my first QSOs with both a bug and a cootie. Thanks to everyone for the QSOs and help/guidance throughout the month! 73, Jon



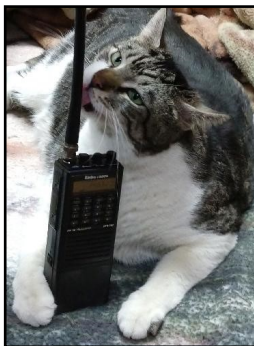
Hi everybody. Thanks you so much for the QSOs. Very good conditions and lockdown help to play with the radio. Good openings on 17/15 and 12m. Hopefully 10m opens soon. Thanks also to Rick N8XI for the brag bonus. 73 everyone and see you next month. Bert F6HKA



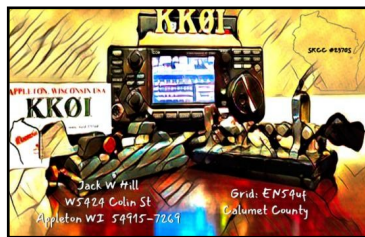
I always try to make a contact or two each day for the Brag. Mostly used my Kenwood TS-590SG running 75 watts to a vertical and Kent Str Key. 73, Curt K2CWM



Thanks to all who participated. Band conditions appear to be improving for the winter and new solar cycle. Hope everyone has a great Christmas Holidays. God Bless you and your family. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Again with the fun. 73, Tom KB3CVO



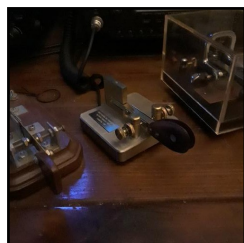
Another nice month...and the bonus was having some great marathon QSOs along the way. Thanks for all those brags folks and tnx N8XI, Rick for this month's brag bonus. 73, jack kk0i



November was a busy month for me with on-the-air activities. Nice to meet the new OP's and "usual suspects" again, hi, hi, on the air and on some new bands. My photo shows my current key line-up all wired in parallel and ready to go at any time. 73, Richard VA3RSA



Some good propagation days this month. Thanks for the QSOs! 73, Jo PG4I



Not a bad month. I was shooting for 70 and just made it the last day of the month. Got ITA and POL on 17 meters and NED on 20 this month for some DX. Look for you guys in December! 73, Allen KA5TJS



Again, not burning up the air ways. I am actually doing better in Dec. Thanks for QSOs and see you next month 72, Dave KB1WOD



Propagation is starting to pick up making things a bit more fun. Thanks for the Brags all. Take care es 73, SKCC, The KEY to Amateur Radio. Rick N8XI

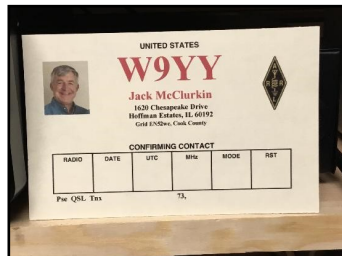


Slow month for me. Missed N8XI as well :(Holiday greetings to all. 73 de Al, N4ow

November Brag 2020 II



I made a few more contacts this month than last and they were all QRP this month. I wish I could have done more, but Covid has impacted my job. I hope December brings hope and good cheer for everyone. 73, Dan, W2DLC



225 total CW QSOs this month, including 120 brags. I had two marathons, back to back, so I have started a marathon journey. Also picked up 9 rag chews. Worked some DX, too - SKCC members in Mallorca, Japan, and Argentina all for the first time, Argentina on 10 meters. Worked special stations for KDKA 100th anniversary and USS Hornet. Running 100 watts to my long wire on the backyard fence, up 5 feet! 73, Jack W9YY



I am glad to have a few contacts to report this month. I haven't been doing as much CW recently but now am doing a bit more. Glad to see sunspot activity, and since nearly all of my operating time is during the day, you will find me up on the higher bands. I hope to hear more SKCC members up there, including Alaska! It's a challenge since I use only a mobile antenna attached to our mobile home here in Florida. 73, Wes WA1IOG



Bands improved throughout the month. I actually made some 15 and 10 meter QSOs. A really great month all around. 73, Les WB5JWI



73, Hanz YL3JD

De Facebook



Got my license 1970 did lots cw as a Novice and Technician..then came the General and good by cw.....now I'm trying to pick it up again. I'm up to the novice 5wpm....I'm just a little anxious about getting on the air. Pix of my 1st and only key. Been listening to W1AW practice. Thank you for letting me into the group. 73, Bernie WB3AXP



A combined ice/snow storm in New Hampshire on Saturday evening left this outdoor cat-6 line with about 4"/10cm diameter of ice over the width of a suspended section. You can imagine what the trees looked like - and how many came down during the storm.

As to my Optibeam 12-6, we'll be watching as the temps warm up to see if there is lasting damage, but you can sure tell it's carrying an ice load also.

73, Larry N1FG

December Slow Speed Saunter 2020

Slow Speed Saunter



Good turnout of new ops and veteran hams experiencing a renaissance in the world of cw! Six of my 19 qsos were with numbers higher than 20,000 - great to see you new members jump in. Very relaxing event. 73, Dave W1DV



Ran 50w from my 12 year old IC-7000 into a multiband vertical... really a fun radio for a fun event. Key was a Lionel J-38 that was recently gifted to me. Really smooth. Nice jump into the new month's Brag. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



TNX! to all I worked!!! Lights were out Monday eve so was on battery, head lamp, pad and pen. Spent most of Tuesday moving snow. Much appreciation to those who work to keep SKCC monthly events on the air73/72 Steve NQ8T



For my Ham Radio friends, here is one side of my QSL card..... 🙄 This is the Arecibo Observatory radio telescope. It collapsed today. A big loss for science. 73, Fernando KP4DX

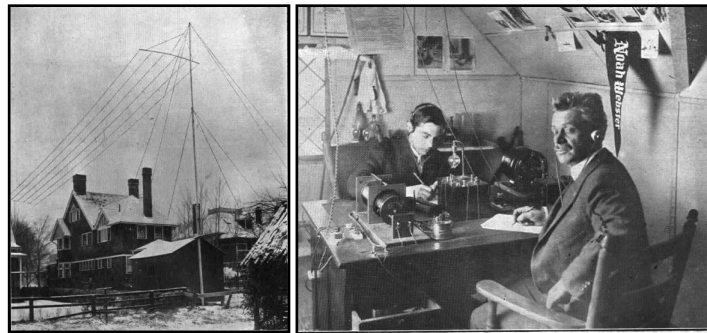
“The Old Man” Took Telegraphy to the Next Level

Published November 2013 in *The Printed Circuit: “Hamified History”*

I hope you may find the following interesting. I enjoy reading about the very early days of Ham Radio. There is so much history to our hobby that we sometimes lose perspective as to how everything started. Taking a look back and trying to see what it took to get to where we are today is the fun of it. I have to admit, ten cents and this information will not buy ya a cup of coffee. Yep, coffee at one time was ten cents a cup. Likewise an 8 oz. mug of beer was also ten cents!

For those not in the know; Hiram Percy Maxim [1869-1936] was co-founder of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and went by many callsigns including: SNY, 1WH, 1ZM, 1AW and later W1AW. Aside from being a founder of the ARRL, he was a radio pioneer, an inventor and even an accomplished writer. He also went by the pen-name “The Old Man.” Among the invention of the gun silencer and the muffler for combustion engines, he was also the winner of the first closed-circuit automobile race in the US. But to us, his greatest creation has to be the league’s over-the-air message handling system (the NTS,) a system of telegraphy that still operates in modern days. I present to you today a glimpse into “The Old Man’s” station and his system.

The photo on the right was taken from an article in *The Radiogram*, Vol. 1, No. 2, published in June 1915 is that of Hiram Percy Maxim's Ham Radio Station at his home in Hartford, CT. The large structure towering over his house is his “aerials” (or antennas.) I could not find any references to who the other person was in photo of Maxim’s station.

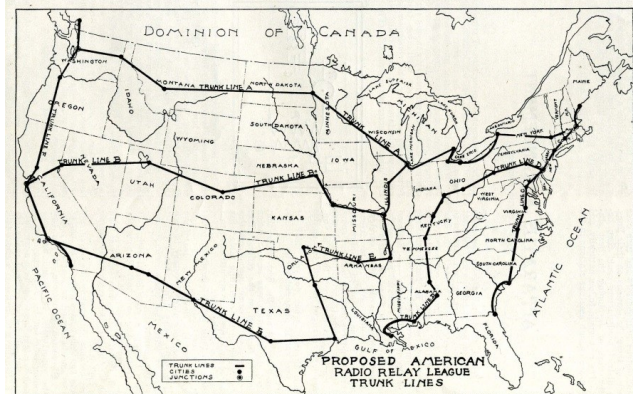


The following two paragraphs are paraphrased from an ARRL account of Maxim’s station... “Two aerials (antennas) were arranged; one for sending at the 200 meter wavelength for distances of less than ten miles, and the other for sending on the 495 meter wavelength for distances in excess of ten miles. Five plates of the condenser (capacitor) were used for the 200 meters and ten plates added to this five for 425 meters. The outdoor equipment consisted of a 60 ft. mast at one end and a 50 ft. mast at the other, 100 ft. apart. The spreaders (boom) were 18 ft. long and had 11 wires of stranded copper between them. The ground connection was carefully soldered and connected to ground at three places. This station could work points in southern New Jersey, northern Radio Station of H.P. Maxim, Hartford, CT Massachusetts and could even receive Colon, Panama and ships at sea that were two or three days out of New York. The station held a special license for the purpose of relay work in the ARRL NTS (National Traffic System) message handling network using the callsign: 1ZM. The receiving station outfit consisted of a large loose coupler which provided very accurate tuning, an Audion Detector (a special tube rectifier) and variable condenser (capacitor.) Two sets of headphones were usually connected in. The Transmitting sets consisted of 1 kilowatt specially made transformers, glass plate condensers, oscillation transformers and a ¼ horsepower General Electric Company motor running specially built quenched rotary sparkgaps. I could not find any references to who the other person was in photo of Maxim’s station. Also the “glass plate condenser” comment along with the “specially built quenched rotary spark-gap,” jumped out at me, wow!

Maxim presented a plan to the Hartford Radio Club for the organization of an "American Radio Relay League" (he had already decided on the name) to the club at its April 1914 meeting. The club agreed to sponsor the development of such an organization. Maxim and Clarence Tuska, the secretary of the Hartford Radio Club, developed application forms and sent them out to every amateur station they could think of. Although they limited membership to highly qualified amateurs only, the response was tremendous. By September 1914 they had over 230 stations on the roster. Maxim, in 1916, proposed these message relay trunk lines across the country Perhaps the start of the NTS

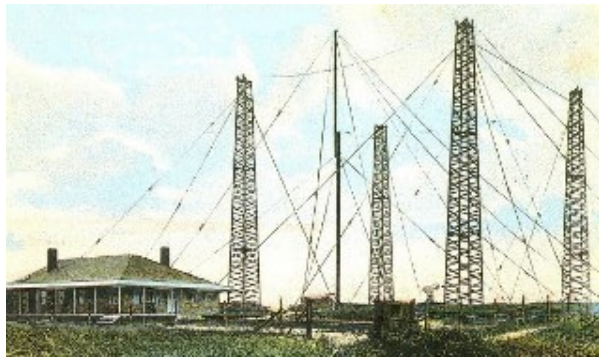
Trunk lines were set up across the country. Some of the first routes were from Hartford to Buffalo and from Boston to Denver. At that time each operator had their own schedule to be standing by for any messages. With this system messages were relayed across the country.

While H.P. Maxim spearheaded the efforts to pioneer the first reliable "wireless" communications network across the States, Marconi had done the same across the Atlantic, and the stations "WCC" and "WIM" where his workhorses. The Marconi wireless station, callsign: "WCC," see:



<http://www.radiotelegraphy.net/marconisite.htm>

was established 1906 in South Wellfleet, MA There is basically there is nothing left of this station now due to beach erosion by the Atlantic. Its sister station; "WIM" in Marion, MA was known as "Marion Radio." I seem to remember seeing a few of the Marion Radio towers off of RT 6 in Marion, MA as we drove down to the cape in the 1940's. I also



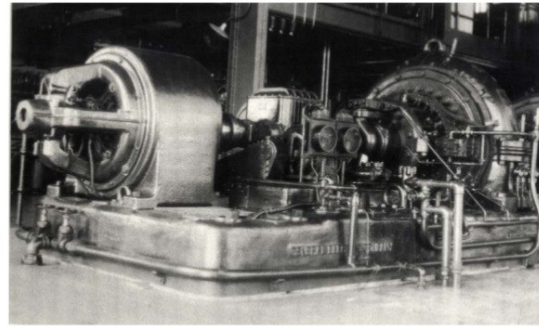
remember my Dad telling me stories about it and I remember him calling it the Marion Meat Chopper because of the terrible sounds it put out on the air waves. You can see its position on a map if you go to the following link:

<http://wikimapia.org/17198585/Marconi-s-1914-Transatlantic-Wireless-Station>

The Marion installation was once home to the world's largest and most powerful wireless telegraph station. Built in 1914 by the pioneering Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, the Marion installation boasted fourteen towers, each standing more than 400 feet tall. The station was designed to handle all trans-Atlantic radio traffic, communicating directly with another high-powered wireless plant in Norway. The station was so impressive at the time of its installation, it was referred to as "one of the wonders of the twentieth century" with the outside rim moving at 500 mph. A 600 hp motor drove the alternator. On site was housing for unmarried workers at the hotel and for married workers and employees there were several cottages. The site also had a tennis court among other amenities. The facility was inactive from 1947 until 1949 when it was leased by the Air Force. The Air Force used the facility to broadcast weather information generated by Andrews Air Force Base to planes and bases around the world.



The Tower Building, as it was known, contained administrative offices.



Another view of the station's massive machinery, which consumed tremendous amounts of energy. Monthly utility bills reportedly ran between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

Photo sources: Thanks to the *Sippican Historical Society* And finally, for another little known telegraphy fact: Annie Ellsworth had the honor of composing the first message to be sent by telegraph. She selected from the Bible, Numbers 23:23, "What Hath God Wrought". This and other very interesting facts about the early days of telegraphy (with a unique religious twist) can be found via the following link:

<http://www.reformation.org/what-hath-god-wrought.html>

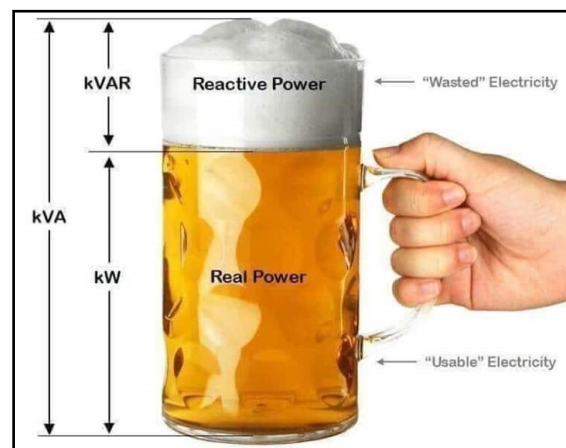
And to all of you living in this modern age of *Instagrams* and #hashtags; the age-old spirit of telegraphy and pioneering in the fields of radio and electronics still lives on. Each of you with ham radio licenses can still participate in that very thing that the likes of Hiram Percy Maxim, Samuel Morse and Marconi so conjured up; the message handling traffic nets of the ARRL still operate to this day! Even though the land-line telegraph is a thing of the ancient past and fiber-optic lines carry exabytes of data to all edges of the earth, when disaster strikes and "all else fails," Amateur Radio operators are ready for the task to get the message through. You too can still practice the fine art of sending messages by radio today.

Editor....This article was reprinted with permission from "And Don't Forget to Bring Y'all Dawg Along" by Art Marshall (SK) W1FJI and edited by Mike Maynard K4ICY. This and 120 pages of great articles is available "free" on the internet.

Enjoying Straight Key Night!



Working
Straight Key
Night with
Sam. 73, Curt
K2CWM...zzz



SKSE December 2020



I didn't make any Euro station contacts in December's SKSE. I first tried 15 m and then 20 m but no luck - I wasn't being picked up by Europe according to RBN. Later on 40 m I was contacted by a weak station ?5UQE but he was up and down in the QSB. I'm guessing I missed out on contacting DUC F5UQE because he was gone in the noise and QSB. I've been using my QRS Vibroplex bug lately for all my QSO's. My straight keys are ready to go if needed. 73, Richard VE3RSA



Gave it an hour but poor conditions. Only stations heard on bands were PG4I, ON7DQ, F5RDS, G0FTP. Hope the propagation will improve for the WES next week. Cheers all ! John G0RDO SKCC 2133s



20 m band was totally flat without any signal heard. Many thanks to F5UQE, ON7DQ, F6EJN, OS0S, PG4I, DM6EE, HA2ML (NM), G0DJF worked on 80 m and KF6C, K2FW, F5UQE, AC1GF, VE1AHX and VE3KZ worked on 40 m. The only station worked on two bands this month was F5UQE. I heard PG4I and ON7DQ on 40 m but sorry it was impossible to be heard by them. All my contacts were done with my MK-701 cootie key. 73 to all and see you next time ! 73, Bernard F5DE

Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 03-Dec-2020

Overall | QRP | QRO | QRO+ | SWL | By SPC | Soapbox

Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	VA3RSA	Richard	21258T	ON	27	20	16/3/1	815
2	VE3KZ	Bob	22804S	ON	29	19	12/4/3	786
3	K3EW	PHIL	10605S	MD	21	14	10/4/0	484
4	AC1GF	Bob	19399S	NH	16	11	6/4/1	311
5	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	14	11	8/3/0	304
6	F6EJN	Bob	508S	FRA	13	10	7/3/0	265
7	F5UQE	Duc	13468S	FRA	13	9	7/3/0	252
8	KK8X	SID	22911	OH	12	10	6/2/0	230
9	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	13	7	4/2/0	171
10	WA3AAN	Grant	22144	PA	10	9	2/3/0	150
11	OS0S	Leon	10688S	BEL	8	5	4/3/0	130
12	WU6P	Nian	18630C	CA	7	6	3/3/1	122
13	PG4I	Jo	11019T	NED	6	4	4/1/0	94
14	KF6C	Brian	3398S	NY	6	5	2/2/1	85
15	W15H	Mike	11770S	TX	6	4	2/2/1	79
16	DM6EE	Lutz	22780	GER	7	5	2/1/0	75
17	K2EKM	Bill	904C	VA	3	3	3/0/0	54
18	G0DJF	Paul	20600T	ENG	2	2	1/1/0	29
19	HB9CPS	Geo	20350	SUI	5	4	0/0/0	20
20	F4HSX	Patrick	23258	FRA	3	3	0/0/0	9
21	KC4UCT	John	22045	GA	2	2	0/0/0	4
22	G0RDO	John	2133S	ENG	0	0	0/0/0	0
22	AA6AC	BOB	6276S	CA	0	0	0/0/0	0

Participants and QSO's by SPC

BEL 2/21	CA: 2/7	ENG: 2/2	FRA: 4/43	GA: 1/2
GER: 1/7	MD: 1/21	NED: 1/6	NH: 1/16	NY: 1/6
OH: 1/12	ON: 2/56	PA: 1/10	SUI: 1/5	TX: 1/6
VA: 1/3				



"When I want to enjoy myself, I operate in the SKSE event...you should enjoy yourself too."

World's greatest operator

As conditions are getting better and better and European membership increases, activity is beginning to grow! Time to join the fun!



North Dakota DXpedition

Dayton has been canceled for 2021 so..... rather than sit home and weep, Jeremy KD8VSQ #13072T and Ted K8AQM 1629S with the help of members of the Red River Radio Club will mount a large QRO DXpedition near Fargo, ND. The plan is to be on the air late **May 20th and operate until late after-**

noon May 23rd. We will be mainly using the call K8AQM/0 to provide that much needed ND "S" for those working on the SKCC WAS-S. The operation will include hopefully several operators from the Fargo area and Red River Radio Club. Equipment will include at least:

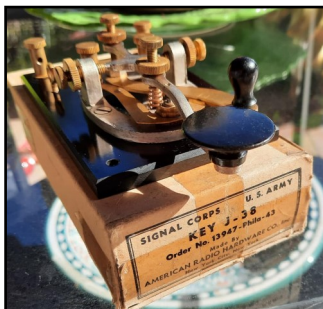
- three transceivers (K2, K3s and TS-590)
- three amplifiers (2 KPA-500 and a SB-200)
- a 20m mono bander (on a 32 ft tower)
- 2L wire 40m ZL Special
- 2L wire 30m ZL Special
- 2L wire 17m ZL Special
- 80m 1/4 wave sloper
- 160m 1/4 wave sloper



We will try to keep operating as much as possible and may even do a bit of FT8 for those needing ND. Keep an eye out on the sked page as we begin our operation. QSL K8AQM/0 and KD8VSQ/0 **via the SKCC bureau only please.** Make sure you have a bureau envelope on file, directions how to use the SKCC bureau can be found on the SKCC home page.



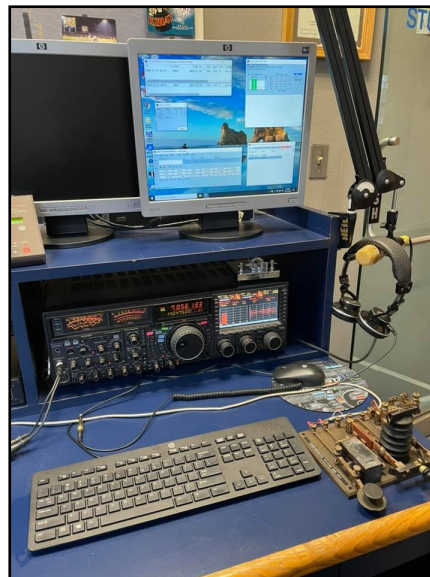
De Facebook



J38 new old stock in the box...73, IZ0EHW



2020 did well, and has since been put away until the next vintage radio event. Looking forward to the SKCC "bug/cootie" weekend event next month. 73, Jay WSØY



Getting ready for SKN. Hooked up the straight key, turned the beam SW then searched 40m for a CQ. There he was - WB2U from MD. He was surprised "WOW" to work W1AW. NQ1R will be on tonight and I'll be on tomorrow from 1500Z-1900Z. See you on the air. And Happy New Year! 73, Dave NA2AA @ W1AW

December WES 2020



Fantastic WES. I read that the poem "Twas the night before Christmas" was first published in 1823. So to get into the spirit of the season I got out my camelback key, made in the 1800's by the New Haven Clock Co. CT. Used it for all contacts except when hearing a CQ from a bug user, then I used my 1924 Vibroplex blue racer. Worked Santa, Scrooge and all the Reindeer Thanks to all who participated and my wishes for a happy and safe holiday season. 73, Frank AA2XB



Got an early start on Saturday morning, and to my surprise my first contact was on 20m and later to 40 and 80, instead of the other way around as usual. Got a bunch of elves, reindeer and Santa! Hope he brings more sunspots! Thank you so much to everyone, see you in the next event. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 73, AC2RJ Ruben.



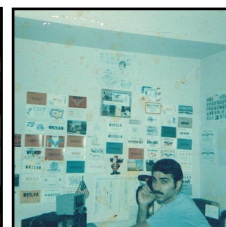
This was the first WES I've participated in years. I enjoyed the laid back nature of the contest, and the friendly ops. I had fun switching between my Navy Flameproof and Bug for contacts. 73, Rich AA4OO



Thank you all for the great qos! At this "most wonderful time of the year...", the bands were filled with many great cw signals. For this reindeer, pulling Santa's sleigh was very enjoyable, especially with all the kind encouragement from my fellow SKCC operators. Equipment was my Yaesu FT-450d, 40m doublet, 160m doublet, and 160m K2AV over FCP inverted L. Key used was my (new to me) E.F. Johnson straight key. To help celebrate the December WES, I created a qsl card for my operation in the WES. If anyone I worked would like this qsl card, let me know via email or send me your qsl card and I will be glad to send you a return qsl card (my email is on qrz.com). SASE's are appreciated. 73, Merry Christmas, and a blessed new year to all of you! de ac9ez Prancer



Preparing and Operating this WES held many surprises for me that drove me to have not one but two chances to apply for a reward I imagined would never come my way. From the beginning, my preparations on Friday were met with my FT-450 driver throwing a clinker into using the ALS-600 amp for the WES. I had to dig out my FT-817 and have a QRP WES. I gave myself a quick study of the manual and got it up and running. Early on Saturday F6HKA answered my response and started my dream of a QRP Miles Per Watt award. That evening I checked the SKCC Rules. Oh dear! I hadn't sent my power to him other than to say, "I'm QRP". It's not likely I will QRP France ever again. But Sunday AM F6DKQ and I connected and I did all the rules pronto. So that made a great WES for me using QRP with a R8 Vertical. I hope it went as well for all of you. Conditions on 40 and 20 were good as well as moderately busy. 73, Herb AA7XP



That was fun. Good time. Got to work many new stations. Nice to meet you. Also the 5w really got out again, from AF8A Gary 2.7miles (4.3km) to F6HKA Bert 3951miles (6359km) and F6EJN Bob 4058miles (6531km). No offense, but Gary was louder, hihi. 73,



Wow, that was quite a contest! Running 1W is a whole different ball game. It calls for a different strategy and a lot of patience. Your usually the last one to eat in a pile-up. Mostly hunt and pounce, but 41 guys answered my "CQ". My received signal reports were generally 3 "S" units lower than the ones I sent. . For DX I worked F6HKA (3 bands), KP3W, PG4I, and KH6ZM (15M). Think my favorite QSO was with KH6ZM on 15M 10W output from Yaesu FT450D goes into the attenuator, 1W out. 73, Bob AC1GF

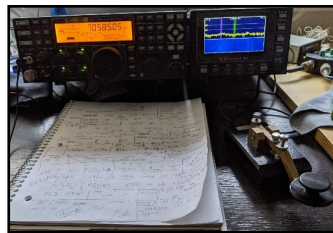
December WES II 2020



A fantastic WES! I really enjoyed chasing all of the "characters" (elves, reindeer, santa and scrooge) so thanks to all who volunteered their time to be available all weekend! I managed to make my Tx2 goal and got a chunk toward Tx3. Got a new state (HI, thanks Max!) and worked on 15m some which I hadn't really done too much before. I used my Navy Flameproof for all contacts this WES. 73, Jon AD5RX



2nd WES for me. Hope to see you next time. It's an amusing game. Mny TNX. 73, Dido EA1CN



It's been a couple of years since my last WES and my sending shows it. Thanks for patience the qs. 73, Phil AF6GA



73, ORESTES CL3OR



Again lots of fun ! some nice openings on 15 m. Hope to see you all in K3Y event 2021. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year !! 73 es stay safe Joerg DL9YCS



Good evening, Big thanks for this Week-end Sprint. I thank all the stations contacted. Merry Christmas and happy holidays. See you soon. 73, Patrick F4HSX

ACHZ	Prancer	10658T	CL3OR	Orestes	22215T
K3MSB	Mark	5965S	CT1DGH	Joao	13987C
K9FW	Comet	20492S	DL9YCS	Joerg	7150S
K8L	Olive	19133S	EA1CN	Dido	19236
K0W2DY	Cupid	18155S	F5DE	Bernard	6247S
K8YTS	Doug	18564	F5JWH	Phil	8069S
KURT	Blitzen	2442S	F5UOE	Duc	13468S
NKRI	Scrooge	7559S	F6EUN	Bob	508S
V9GT	Rudolph	21099S	F6HKA	Bert	6069S
W9HT	Vivien	7474S	F6HNY	Jean	9423T
W9RK	Dunder	18021T	G0DJF	Paul	20600T
W9TE	Santa	20000T	G0RDO	John	2133S
W9RBN	Dasher	17763S	G4PVM	Paul	17810T
W9EAD	Dancer	12021S	K0CFD	Graziano	22069C
W07JS	Russ	11465T	KH2M	Max	727S
VE2KM	Tony	18420T	KP5W	Joe	14267T
VE2KZW	Rob	18248T	RSB	Jim	11019T
VASNU	Larry	5215T			
VE5SIF	Ron	20819T			
VE5UEE	Wink	23289			

A great way to spend a cold, wet, gray week-end - indoors on the radio with both new and familiar callsigns. Propagation was decent for a change - no RTTY to contend with - though I am always amazed at 20 meters, how I can work 3 Europeans, across the pond, then a few ops in the next state, only a few hundred miles away. I guess you could call that an 'all purpose band'. Thanks to all of the bonus stations - I found about half of you. Until next time - CW exuberantly! 73, Gary AF8A



Hi guys, thanks to every contacts. It was funny on 15M and 20M Bands. Merry Christmas and hope a Happy New Year to all. Stay Safe 73, Phil F5JWH



I had a lot of fun chasing Santa, his reindeer, and his elves! (I didn't know Santa had a reindeer named "Olive"...(lol!) Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Joyeux Noel, Fröhliche Weihnachten! 73, Larry AH6AX



Greetings from Spain. MXS es HNY. 73, Luis EA3WX



Being an Elf for this Christmas WES edition I expected to do almost 100 contacts to give a few bonus points but bands were so noisy and signal levels so little, in addition to a bad cold I caught two days before, I made only 50 contacts. I am sorry about that but the pleasure to meet SKCC friends was nice as usual. Happy Christmas and a Happy New year to all of you and your families. Take care and see you often during next year ! 73, Bernard F5DE

December WES 2020 III



Thank you all for these good contacts. Conditions were good during the strip openings. Several difficult pile ups and sorry for the calls I lost. In the photo, on the right, my Christmas present arrived early for the WES. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone. Take care of yourself. 73, Bob F6EJN



Portable on WY NE line. Chilly set up at sunrise, 5 degrees with wind and fresh snow. Solar powered, G90 trncvr, Princeton Antenna's 53' EF, Palm Key, Acepc for logging. Frustration with cell phone coverage, wouldn't stay connected for more than about 15 seconds. So posted where I was as I could. Read PMs, but couldn't respond via cell well, but tried to post on main page where I was for those requests. Tnx for QSOs, and all the volunteers that make SKCC an excellent organization. 73, John K0FTC/7



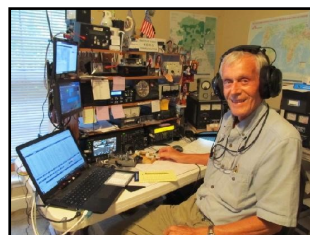
Hi everybody. Thanks you so much for these nice contacts. Had fun as usual. Bands conditions were not too bad. The openings of the 15m over the two days was a bit short. Unfortunately, 10m despite the ARRL contest stayed dead at least with the NA. I worked a bunch of new members. Thanks to Jerry K6III for his spread sheet which was very useful. Have a happy holiday season and above all, stay healthy. 73 and see you maybe next month, Bert F6HKA



Very fun event,, I had a little bit of difficulty in 40 because of the 40-80 national contest only 9 Qso's in the bag on this band,I tried to distribute as many points as possible alternating the calls with S&P. The sked page was fundamental for many of the Qso's including my best DX with VK4TJ John. Many new connected friends, thank you for your patience in looking for me in frequency. Thanks to Santa Claus and his Staff and to Jeff K9JP for organizing this beautiful event. I wish everyone good health and Merry Christmas. 73, Graziano IK2CFD



Great fun, but disappointing conditions on Sunday when 20m dropped out. Signals were just not getting to me from across the pond. Rig TS-440s, 100w, vertical antenna, Marconi PS No213A morse key. 73, John



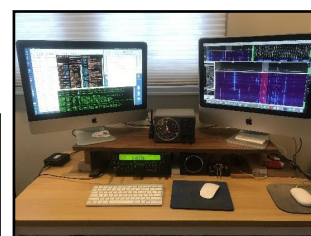
The December WES is always fun. I changed my tactics this year by spending my early operating hours searching and pouncing on Santa, reindeer, and elves. That was great sport. I wasn't able to find Rudolph, despite his nose beacon. After getting most of them, I settled on a frequency and called CQ. That kept me busy. Thanks to the SKCC organizers and the Indiana club for a great theme and a fun weekend. 73, Ralph K0RO



Really a fun WES, and many thanks to those that helped make this one so much fun. Used my TS-590SG running 75 watts to a vertical using my Kent Straight Key. Merry Christmas! 73, Curt K2CWM



Nice to do for the first time WES. Thanks for all QSO's. Bad conditions but very good ham and CW spirit. I used the G0NVT # 2 I won in the HK Test many years ago. 73, Juan HK3CQ

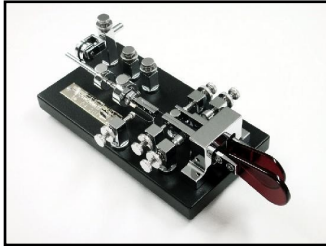


Thank you Wes team for a great Christmas 2020 WES. 73, Bob K0VVV



Conditions on 40 and 20 were good here for some QRPP, 900 mW, contacts. A contact with F6HKA was good for a 3851 mpw QSO ... tnx Bert. Happy holidays to all and may you find a lobster under your tree too. 73, Gary K1YAN

December WES 2020 IV



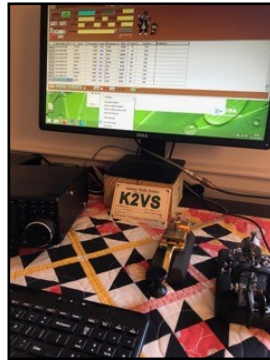
Merry Christmas to all of my fellow SKCC members! 73, Steve K2FW



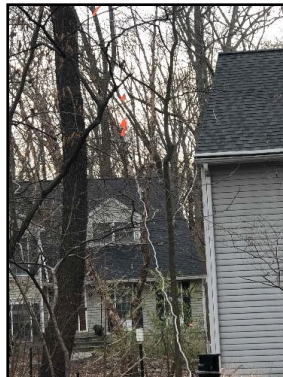
Started chasing Santa and the gang and kept going now and then. Spent some serious time in the ARRL 10 meter contest as well. Activity seemed very good, especially the bonus stations. Missed just 2 elves. 73, Chas K3WW



This month I ran my Dad's Drake TR4, a 1959 Vibroplex original and a Nye straight key. The TR4 and straight key were used for my first QSO back in 1976. Great for a 16 year old kid to receive his ticket in the mail and already have a station ready to go. Didn't have a lot of time this month as work intruded on Sunday. Lots of good signals this time around and very good to hear all the raindeer and elves. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and will see you next month. 73, Noel K8NB



Enjoyed working Santa and his elves! 73, Carol K2VS



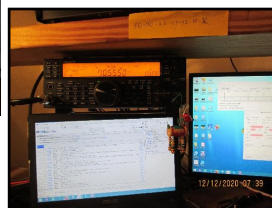
For a variety of reasons, I have been AWOL, but good to be back. SKCC members always courteous. I tossed an endfed in the trees (see image) -- rated for 25 watts. Ran 10-20 watts. Bands were quiet and could hear tons of clear sending. Good CW practice. Tnx to all who responded to my call. 73, Jim K1YMI



Limited to 20m band only. Operating portable from Mesa, Az. QSOs with following bonus Stns: F6HKA, KP3W, W9TE, N8KR. TS530, J38 key to a modified Gotham vertical mounted on car port of park model. Fun event 73 Daryl K9QEW



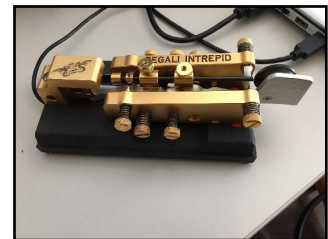
Great contest. Lots of participants, lots of Bonus Stations, fairly good conditions, Lots of European Stations on for this one. First time I made WAS during this contest. Alaska was the toughest- Thank you to WL7WH for persistence. New Chair, New Computer, New 22 Inch HDTV Monitor, SKCC Logger configured with the 590S. Made band switching much quicker. Some RFI problems with new computer and monitor setup on 10 and 15. Went out and got the Ferrite chokes from Local RF Connections. All in all new setup worked fine and new chair aided in extended BIC for this one. Happy and healthy Holiday wishes to all. See you all in 21 and expect to operate many hours as K3Y/3 during the month. 73, Phil K3EW



There is Comet hot on the trail of another qso. As always a fun activity. 73, "Comet" K9FW



Thought I'd try QRP this month with my 1960 E.F. Johnson Speed-X Bug keying Elecraft K1 @ 5 watts to my (HOA) wet string antenna up over the garage roof. HOA hasn't approved my 300 foot tower with stacked Yagis yet. (Dreaming). 72, Don K3RLL



Fun contest! Thanks for Qs. Kudos to all the members who served as Bonus stations. Happy Holidays all! IC-7300 at 100 watts into a vertical 40 meter delta loop. Keys used were Begali Spark and Intrepid and J-38. 73, Bob K3ZGA

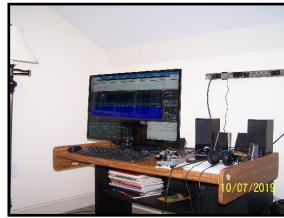


Thanks to all who participated in making this another great WES. Family responsibilities prevented more radio time, so my main focus was helping others on their goals. Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas & God Bless you and your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC

December WES 2020 V



Great fun, lots of stations on this weekend. Worked 6 with member numbers over 20K. Good to hear the new guys on the air. Used the IC 7410 at 70 watts and an 80 meter doubler at 30ft. and my WISFR cootie. 73, Allen KA5TJS



This was an enjoyable WES. I didn't have to work around any con-testers this month. I was also able to make progress on some awards. Next month is K3Y. Hope to see everyone then. 73, Dave



Thank you everyone for the great WES this month. Have a Merry Christmas and God Bless. 73, Eric KB3NSK



Always fun to chase the Christmas characters. Not much time to play but had fun. Glad to see Max, KH6ZM in the mix and lots of our French members in the WES. Stay Well and see ya in the K3Y event. 73, Randy KB4QQJ



Great fun! Decent band conditions. Happy holidays to all. Stay safe. 73, Al KC4ZA

Call	Power	Mode	Band	Time	Score
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:00	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	10:55	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:00	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	11:55	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:00	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	12:55	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:00	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	13:55	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:00	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	14:55	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:00	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	15:55	1000
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73	100W	SSB	10M	16:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	16:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	16:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	16:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	16:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	16:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	16:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	16:40	1000
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73	100W	SSB	10M	16:55	1000
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73	100W	SSB	10M	17:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	17:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	17:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	17:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	17:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	17:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	17:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	17:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	17:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	17:55	1000
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73	100W	SSB	10M	18:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	18:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	18:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	18:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	18:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	18:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	18:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	18:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	18:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	18:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	18:55	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:00	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	19:55	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	20:00	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	20:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	20:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	20:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	20:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	20:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	20:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	20:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	20:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	20:45	1000
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73	100W	SSB	10M	20:55	1000
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73	100W	SSB	10M	21:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	21:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	21:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	21:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	21:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	21:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	21:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	21:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	21:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	21:55	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:00	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	22:55	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:00	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:05	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:10	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:15	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:20	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:25	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:30	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:35	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:40	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:45	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:50	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	23:55	1000
73	100W	SSB	10M	24:00	1000

I always think I'll have a nice, relaxed time, and then get caught up! I spent too much time hunting Bonus stations and Elves, but it was fun, and I only missed four. I'm like K6III, too, and always have a spreadsheet ready. Here's mine, at the



Picture of Cupid's Modest station. Lots of fun! Thx to all the Elfs, Reindeer, Santa and Scrooge. T U fer all the QSO,s everyone. Best Wes (time) of the year for me. Merry Christmas all! Hope to hr U in the K3Y. 73, Cupid (Jim) KD9GDY



Alternated between my J-38, Navy Flameproof, and Chech Military RM31 keys. Also split time with the ARRL 10 Meter contest. A fun CW weekend. 73, Randal KG5IEE



It was a fun weekend with SKCC WES and ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Worked on both. Xiegu G90, Running 20 Watts into the attic fan dipole antenna at 25 feet. Flame proof navy key. Thank you all. Happy Holidays! 73!, Serey KD9EBS



Good fun this holiday WES. Got to poke around a little using my recently acquired G5RV ... sweet little wire antenna. Season's greetings and happy holidays to all. 73, Bill KE3O

December WES 2020 VI



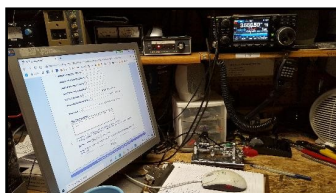
Had a great time looking for Santa's helpers and elves. Didn't start off to well though, logging folder kept closing as if it had a nasty virus, turned out to be a magnetic arm band worn to minimize muscle strain for bug overuse! Took that off and started to concentrate on just the elves and helpers to minimize bug use. Many of the elves hiding in Europe were easy to find with just a few exceptions. Those in Canada proved a lot more difficult and those in the USA were making a serious job of hiding. Finding Santa was easy in the four hiding places I found him. Most reindeer didn't take much finding in many of their places, with Vixen taking quite a while, but, he was found two places in the end. Donder took a long time but was found. This SKCC guy kept popping up everywhere. I saw a Louisiana guy calling out loudly from his lonely hiding place and called him just so he wouldn't be lonely. That set-in motion a strange idea to put a general call out to see if I could get some elves that were in that hideout. That was fun, got some results, but was a bit hard on bug hand with extra work answering questions from onlookers. Thanks to Santa and all his helpers, by the way I think you left one of your reindeer recruits in our yard 73, Brian KF6C



Another December SKCC WES in the books. Thought the storms rolling thru Dallas was going to be an issue but they blew thru very quickly. I want to thank all the operators everywhere that makes this happen and to all the folks that looked for this TEX-AS ELF. Been a great 2 days of radio and fun. Merry Christmas to all, be safe and look for the next one. 73 from The Lone Star State, Doug KG5YTS



Socially Distant multi-multi operation from stations in OH and MI...11 different station logging with N1MM and a VPN to give us "real time" logging. Great fun and a pretty darn good score and QSO total for the "Official" SKCC call. Thanks to everyone who called us. 73, "SKCC" KS1KCC



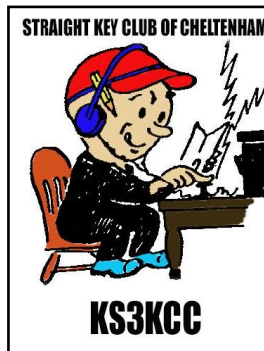
Was a lot of Fun working all the stations, my best score ever!!! 73, Tom KU8T



Had a great time! Thanks to everyone who helped me make Tribune! 73, John KJ4KPW



Not a lot of time to play, but still fun. Merry Christmas to all 73, Mike KK7H



Not much operating time as the club. Spent most of the time operating as WA3GM this time around. Thanks to all we worked. 73, DAH KS3KCC



A fun event as always...guess I was on at the wrong time (or the wrong band) missed two reindeer (Comet and Donder)...oh well. Still was great to get on the upper bands for a few QSOs...hopefully, won't be long now. :) Merry Christmas all and the best of the New Year also ...gotta be better! 73, jack kk0i



I used my newly acquired K2 this time, running about 10 watts. Recently I was doing less CW and more FT8, now I want to be more active for CW again, that's why I gave myself the K2 for the Christmas gift! Merry Christmas and happy new year to everyone! 73, Yoon KM6KJI



FUN TIME! 73, Bob KN4UCN

December WES 2020 VII



Happy Holidays! Have Fun & Take Care BCNU 73, Walt LW3EX - ... ZUT!



Used my Bug for most all contacts this WES. Great time and lots of fun. Hope all had fun! 73, Jason N3YUG



I worked two contests this weekend! When 10 meters was open I worked the ARRL 10 meter 'test and when it wasn't I worked the WES using my newly built QRP Labs QCX+ 40 meter QRP transceiver at 4 watts. Antenna used was an OCF dipole at 30' which was covered up with wet snow Sunday requiring the use of a tuner. But it went great - the QCX+ is a fine little rig. I didn't chase the bonus stations so I'm sure my score will suffer but I did find I was able to hold a frequency and run stations at 4 watts which is my preference. Thanks all for hearing my QRP signal! 73, Bill NZ0T



Lots of fun. I could hear Scrooge on 20m & 40m but we were too close. Missed Dasher also.... Great practice for me. 73, Dennis N0SMX



Only limited participation for me, due to Friday car accident (broken ribs). First WES for almost 4 years. A little rusty on the old brass hammer, but it was fun. Glad to be back. 73 es Merry Christmas! 73, Jim N4EES



Great to be an elf. Had some nice runs on 20 meters but the band was open only a couple of hours every day towards NA. 40 meters was really bad, high noise levels and weak signals, so no DX at all. Had some great fun with my 3 friends below... 73, Jo PG4I



Had a great time. Used IC-7300 and a J-38 type key but used bug part of the time. I really enjoyed working the reindeer and other characters. 73 and cul...Bill N0UMP Outlaw P.S. The picture is of looking out the window of the shack with a reflection of station in 2015. 73, Bill N0UMP



First WES, didn't have a lot of time due to other commitments, but enjoyed the pile ups on 80 meters. I learned a lot and thanks to SKCC for being kind on the newbies. 73, David N8GZ



K2 5wts g5rv 35ft n/s inv vee.. tnx to all, and skcc crew.. as usual, hams running too much power illegally.. another good bunch of new mbrs.. I didn't get to work area 6 and 7.. hi no qrm there. Hi.. I worked 3 PC's, and KP3W.. so, tnx to all and I'll create more QRM in January ..hihi..so far this yr worked abt 1700 qso's..hi nothing new and mainly qrp..c u all January.. pix is a new design hr, a cootie and st. Key, sideways for cootie and just push down for st key.. just another key hr, nr67 for me.. hi..too many.. 7three Dave Larsen n9zxlqrp@gmail.com. 73, Dave N9ZXL



Great fun. Just put up new marginal antenna (40-20-15 meter sloping end fed wires low to ground - see picture) day before. Good test of performance. 73, Chuck N0CW



Santa, reindeer, and scrooge from the Fort Wayne Radio Club was honored to serve as special bonus stations along with the world-wide elves! Like everyone who participated, we had a blast! December WES is most fun! Was hoping for better upper band conditions for our DX friends who worked extra hard to add to the bonus count! Merry Christmas... see you all in January for K3Y! 73, Ken N8KR

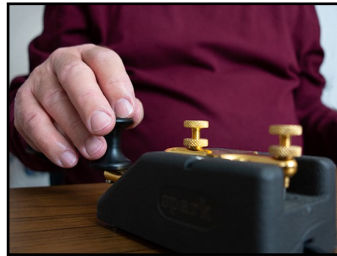
December WES 2020 VIII



The December WES was a very fun event! Santa and his reindeer and a troop of elves descended on the air waves on the weekend of December 12-13 and they left me these nice cards (see photo). Thanks to Jeff, the WES manager, for organizing this event and to all the operators who took on the rolls of Santa and his reindeer and helping elves. Also thanks to Randy, the membership manager, for updating the membership list to show the names of Santa and his crew, and to Jerry K6III for sharing his bonus spreadsheet. Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and good health to all! 73, Richard VA3RSA



73, HanzYL3JD



Wow, what an experience! 80 QSOs in 13+ hours with the Begali Spark; my previous WES record was 36 QSOs. Propagation was generally good, but lots of noise on 40m in late afternoon Sunday. It was fun to be an Elf and I was rewarded with many new numbers towards my TX5, and four new states (HI, AK, IA and AR), only missing ND, NM and NV. My ears are still buzzing. Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to all. 73, Robert VE2KZW



Great WES, tried a bit of ARRL 10M CW but WES was way too much fun to miss. Great job by all the bonus OPs and thanks for your efforts. Merry Christmas to all. 73, Bill W0EJ



Good weekend. Seemed like a lot of activity - was amazing propagation on 40 meters late Sunday afternoon to/from Europe. Looking forward to the next one(s). And yeah ... I really do need to change my shack photo!! 73, Dave W1DV



I really didn't intend to work the whole WES running 5 watts but the station was set up for QRP the previous day while searching for 2-way QRP QSO's. After a few quick contacts I decided to go for it, QRP all the way! I used SK, that brass key in the picture. As usual an event like this is an adventure and despite the higher powered "competition" good things happened regularly throughout the WES. Only missed one of the reindeer and a few of the elves, managed 4 KS1KCC bands, KH6ZM on two bands and 19 European QSOs on 40, 20 and 15m. it was 95 percent S&P with lots of repeat calling, lots of low reports. I think 219 was the worst, but many 599 from stations that were S9+20 with me. The antennas on 160, 80 and 40 are pretty garden variety but yagis on 20 and 15 were a definite asset. I want to thank all those operators with the keen hearing. Sorry for the extra work at your end. I'm sure on occasion you were wishing that my weak signal would just go away, but I didn't! Thank you to the organizers and bonus station operators. Great Job! 73, Bob VE3KZ



Most fun I've had in a while. Started out with the bug but switched to the key. Need to practice more off-line :) Thanks to all who helped. 73, Wink VE3UEE

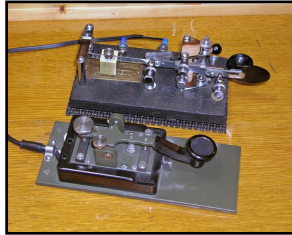


Only was able to work a couple of hours over the whole contest. Sounded like a lot of activity, and good use of the Sked Page. Best DX was KH6ZM -- great signal. Thanks to all. 73, John W1TAG



After dealing with all of the reindeer and elves I feel like Santa on Christmas morning! It went well but occasionally frustrated by limiting me to 5 watts. I did power up to 100 watts to work KH6ZM in Hawaii on 15M. That was the last state I needed for all CW WAS. Thank you for being there Max. Of course I removed that QSO from my WES QRP score. I enjoyed seeing all of those familiar calls again. Happy holidays. 73, Peter W2SKY

December WES 2020 IX



The most time I have been able to spend on a WES in a very long time. A great turn out for this one. I got all of the sleigh crew and all the elves but 2. Nice activity on 160 Sat eve. Lots of EU stns with good signals..esp on Sat, Max KH6ZM was strong on 15 and 20. Avi 4X1WQ had a good signal as well. Gave my neglected Vibroplex Standard Lightning bug from 1953 a good cleaning & adjusting and used it for all but the very QRS Q's. Junker straight key for QRS. First time using my Optibeam yagi in a WES. Overall, condx were pretty good. 73 de West Vir-



Donder doin' his thing on CW. Great time this weekend. I hope everybody has a great Holiday season! 73, Bill W9SA

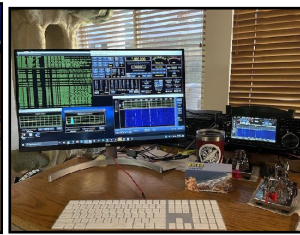
Great time working the Dec WES. Worked also as KS3KCC later on Sunday. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. 73, Greg WA3GM DAH KS3KCC



I ran my new FlexRadio 6400M, which is proving to be a really cool rig. The was good propagation and a lot fun. 73, Roger W6LAX



The Bands Were In Great Shape And Participation Was Even Better. Worked A Lot Of Stations I Had Not Heard For A Couple Years Or More. Thanks For All The Q's. Looking Forward To K3Y In January. Happy Holidays To All And Stay Safe. 73, W9BM Jim



Busy weekend prepping for the holidays. Only got on for little over 4hrs on Sunday aft. I decided to bypass S&P for bonus stations and just run for a count. Got 97 and a couple bonus stations even stopped by to say hi. Always lots of fun! Thanks to everyone! -73 and see you at K3Y, Ted W6TED



I had loads of fun, I think that several stations that I worked thought my name was really Rudolph Hi Hi. I also played Santa for two hours, so I'm worn out! MERRY CHRISTMAS to all!!! 73, Rudolph (Jack) W9GT



Dancer, at the computer, dropped by to help with WES! 73, Dancer (Joe) WB9EAO



Hey great to QSO with some SKCC OMs and some new members also. Thanks for the contacts and Merry Christmas! Rig Kenwood TS 590 - 100w to 1/4 wave 80 m vertical with 60 each 65' radials. Key: Vibroplex straight key or Original bug. 73, Mike W8MDE



Great WES and thanks for all the DX elf's. Merry Christmas and Gods Speed. 73, Ray W9GHX



W9TE is the official club call for the Fort Wayne Radio Club. Santa comprised members of the club and included these ops: W9GT, K9EA, W9GOO, K9LA, K9FW, AC9EZ, KD9GDY, W9WN, and KU8T. These ops plus the Reindeer (minus the 5 that did double duty) Made over 3000 contacts during the event! We all had a great time and were proud to represent the Fort Wayne Radio Club in WES . . . as we are equally proud to represent SKCC in the FWRC! Merry Christmas! 73, Santa W9TE

December WES 2020 X



Rig is Yaesu FTDX-3000 running at 90 watts to either inverted vee or inverted L wire antennas at 40 feet. Bencher straight key. Lots of activity for WES with 40 Meters being the most popular. Missed many of the usual EU DX stations with mixed conditions on 20M Saturday and Sunday. Lots of noise on 80M. Thanks to KS1KCC, Santa, the elves and reindeer for extra bonus points. Always fun! Stay well & 73! Mike, WB2FUV



I operated QRP-portable from a local park for a couple of hours on Saturday. WES is always a fun time. 73, Craig WB3GCK



Meet Bob, VE3KZ



Several months ago I wrote a note on our IO Groups reflector about VE3KZ, Bob Nash. I just couldn't believe that a station 250 miles away from me could hear me on open high bands no matter what direction my fairly high (105 ft) log periodic antenna was pointed! It just seemed unlikely that "off the side," "off the back" or "pointed to Europe" that Bob could hear me well enough to work me. I'm not vain enough to think it was "my big" signal...because no one else in 60 years at that distance has been able to work me on the high bands! It has to be his station! Of course I received many "possible" (impossible) answers on the reflector and even one from Bob himself:

"I gotta confess. I have this bunch of wire and aluminum connected directly to the ionosphere from a location expressly chosen to be close to said ionosphere..."

So what is Bob's secret? My friend David VE9CB provided a plausible answer:

"I've been to Bob's place, just once, about 40 years ago, it was a pseudo-religious experience. Bob lives right on the top of the Niagara escarpment. About 200m from his back yard, there is a drop-off to the south, south-east and east like you wouldn't believe. You can see most of Lake Ontario from there. It's amazing."

Yes, that partly explains it, but as Paul Harvey use to say, "And now for the rest of the story...." Bob Nash VE3KZ, is a very good operator. We have many good operators in SKCC and Bob is among the best of them! In only eight months Bob has become a "Senator" (took me nine years!), you can find him regularly in our SKS, WES, SKE and Brag events. Not only does he participate, he amasses some very impressive QSO counts.

Oh yes, I am not the only one who thinks he is a great operator, in 2012 Bob was selected to the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame by his fellow Canadian amateurs!

My original theory as posted on the reflector that he has a "T" connector in my antenna coax fell apart; Bob is just a very good operator... and I am very glad he hears me... and he is a member of SKCC!

73, Ted K8AQM

The First Six Months of a SKCC Convert

De Bob VE3KZ

With Contest Club Ontario I had spent the last 17 years busy in the CCO Executive and presiding over the “sCCOre” club lifetime contest challenge. The details of this aspect of CCO can be found at VA3CCO.com. On the CCO Home Page you can find “CCO Beginnings” and “sCCOre” which tell the story. “sCCOre” is a stepped system which takes an individual from the first milestone of 5 million points through 6 more steps to 100 million points. The most talented in the Club did it in 11 years. It took VE3KZ another 6 years to cross the “finish line” in fourth place!

It was time for something different. I tried CWT but I just couldn't find a way to be competitive. I then came across SKCC. With my recent background I couldn't help but admire the ingenuity of the three layer C-T-S system and the many embellishments that were added! After 67 years on the air, the idea of “Back to Basics” was very appealing. In my 80's, a little reprieve from high speed contesting seemed to fit. On July 20th I signed up and dove in! By the 4th of October I was 22804S. After that it got complicated, heading off in multiple directions like WAS, WAC, QRP, DXQ/C, PFX, and QRP MPW, as well as expanding the three main awards. Of course, after 67 years of contesting, I could not resist SKS, SKS E, WES and Brag each month, and of course, most recently K3Y!

What has helped me to enjoy my six months at SKCC? My present station is the remnants of a station that started in 1974 when I moved to the top of the Niagara Escarpment on the west edge of Milton, Ontario, west of Toronto and north of the west end of Lake Ontario. This is a unique location, with antennas 850 feet above Lake Ontario looking over the water all the way to the Thousand Islands in directions from Europe through South America, some of New York State touching the horizon in that last direction. You would find it hard to believe what the terrain analysis tells about antenna performance. Want to have a single Yagi with 21 dBi gain into South Africa and the Indian Ocean? Just hire a good real estate agent.

As well as being my personal station I also hosted a number of Multi-Op weekends including one where the OVHFA took down all my antennas on three towers and replaced them with their own to run 50MHz to 1296MHz high ERP. Yes, they did put my four Yagis for 10m to 40m back in place! What remains to this day are Yagis for 10m, 15m and 20m. 40m is now serviced by a HB vertical while 10m was replaced by a HB 5element that is my pride and joy. The other two Yagis are suffering from age, surviving the ice storms of the last few years. To finish the complement of antennas is a dual band 80/160 inverted Vee.

I want to try to explain what was important to achieve some success in these six months. At the top of the list is Receiving Ability. For a CW beginner this means a whole lot of listening followed by judicious selection of any slow speed stations to call that seem to be within your copy capability. For those of us with a lot of CW experience, there are other problems with which to deal. Hearing at advanced age can be problematic. If it isn't a physical hearing problem it's your mind that can make copy difficult. In my case I have trouble getting a call typed fast enough to remember it all. I often have to hear it twice. I have to avoid “Pile-ups”. I have been known to reduce power to thin one out. Incidentally all this is even worse on Phone. I'm at a total loss at a cocktail party!

SKCC has provided a very handy tool that enables identification of a station. The SKCCLogger by Ron, AC2C, provides such help. If you hear a CQ and can copy only part of the call, the Logger will take any three parts of the call and provide a list of possible SKCC members when you push “Check”. If you select one of these choices the screen will fill up and you then have to confirm all that information by copying the other station. Of particular importance are the received RST, the State or Country and often the Name. I do a great deal of “S&P”, Search and Pounce. If you come across a likely prospect who is sending the latter part

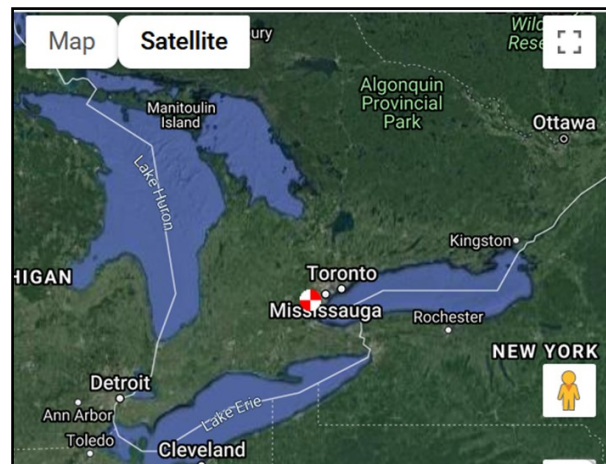
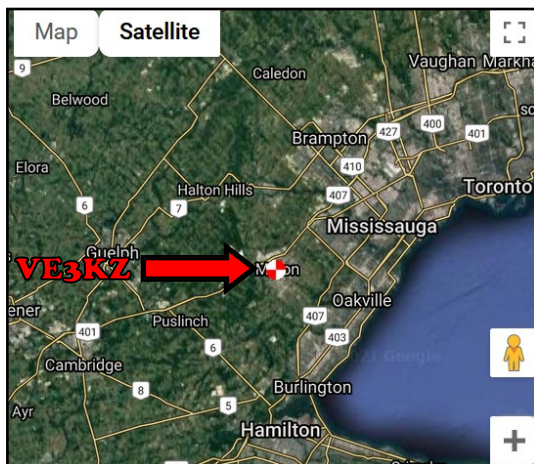
of the required information a quick identification can be obtained by copying his/her SKCC then pressing “Check”, again providing the call and data. When you “hit the air” keep up the momentum. Practice will get you everywhere!

Thanks to all the great Award Administrators at SKCC, and to the founders of this fascinating club. I’m looking forward to many more SKCC QSOs!

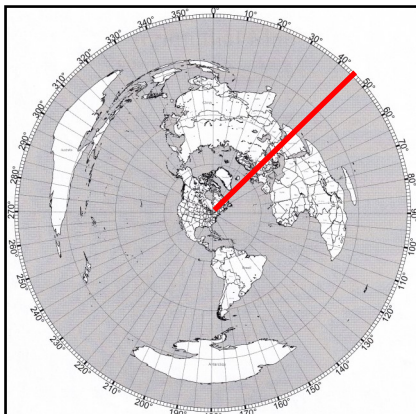
73, Bob VE3KZ

Editor.....A few more facts on VE3KZ’s location and some geography.

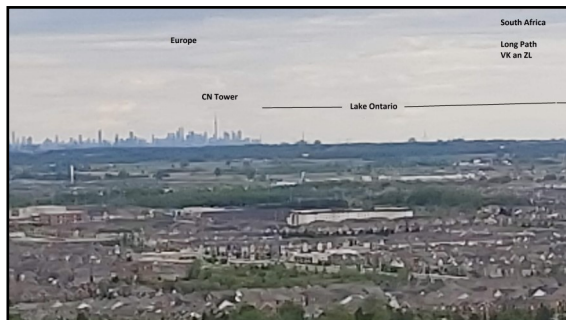
I have been in amateur radio for 60 years and recognize how import geography is to your QTH. I convinced my wife this was our perfect forever-house 40+ years ago as we were house shopping when I saw this QTH was on a 90+ foot bluff that dropped off from N thru SE (Europe and the east coast). Bob’s QTH is even better, check this out:



Not only does Bob have a high bluff, he has at least a near-perfect first bounce reflector of RF leaving his antennas! Another factor helping his transmissions to Europe and the east coast; if you plot a great circle map from VE3KZ (used to point your beam), you see that “near perfect reflector” becomes dead-centered on the headings to Europe and the east coast! But remember, all this geography only “helps,” it is still up to the operator to develop operating skills and it’s very obvious that Bob VE3KZ has skills in abundance!



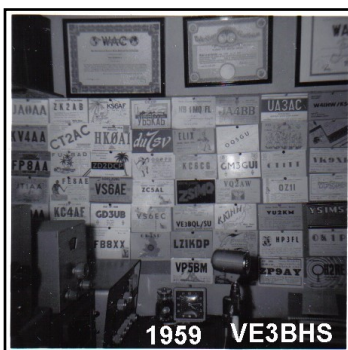
VE3KZ Info and Photos



The grand view from the Niagara Es-carpment at the VE3KZ QTH.



Bug, straight key and cootie...."what wiring mess?"



"State of the art" vfo, a VF-1 and what is that funny "stick" thing?



"Where's my "smoking jacket with patches on the sleeves and my pipe?"....Only "OTs" will understand this reference.

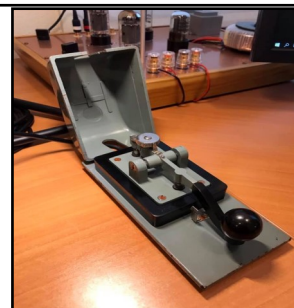
De Facebook



Hi, I'm Fred, F4DBD SKCC #23588 and I'm very happy to join you with my Speed-X straight key. Today first QSO with K3Y/8 on 20m with my Speed-X and SKCC #23588



W7RLT...Found this Thursday in a over stock store. Merry Christmas to me.



Hi all, thanks for letting me join this group! Still learning morse code, but determined to get on the air soon. I do have a question though: does anyone know what kind of key this is? Bought it as the seller said it was a Junker, but having now seen a couple of Junkers I don't think it is. No brand-name on it anywhere, but it's well built and works just fine. All replies are appreciated! 73, Marc PA1DMG



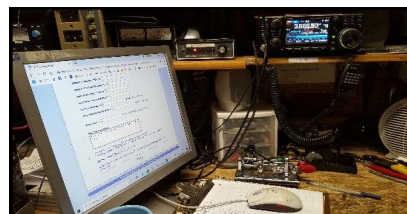
Almost have the old buzzard station up and running, most of the gear is restored... Want to do some SKCC and CW for relaxation (use CW mostly for DX in the past.) de W1BR ex K1ZJH

FWRC SKCC Members Provide 3106 Bonus QSOs in the December WES

The dust has settled and the 15 Fort Wayne SKCC stations who acted as Santa and his reindeer were successful in providing the sought after bonus points for the hundreds of ham operators world-wide participating in the weekend event in December. Santa was multi operated by 10 different club members utilizing our club call, W9TE. Those 10 ops made over 400 contacts with Dan – N8EA leading the charge with 101 contacts! Other Santa/W9TE ops included W9WN, W9GOO, K9LA, W9GT, KU8T, N8KR, AC9EZ, KD9GDY, and K9FW. Many of them did double duty as both Santa and reindeer. Each of Santa's reindeer counted as bonus points.

Olive, Santa's "other" reindeer was Don – K9LI who did an unbelievable 389 contacts! Don's station includes an Icom 7300 and an 80/40/20 fan dipole. He has a great signal evidenced by his great score! YEA DON!!

Blitzen, Tom – KU8T, was dominate throughout the WES. His 361 contacts as a reindeer was in the top 10 of the more than 350 submitted logs. His easy to copy fist on his straight key and Icom 7300 was obvious to all who worked him. Tom also, like Jack, did double duty as W9TE-Santa making and additional 33 contacts. WOW- 394 contacts! Well done Tom!



KU8T



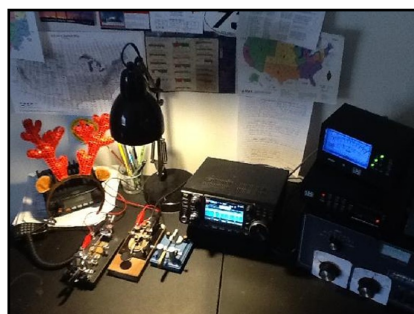
W9GT

Rudolph, Jack-W9GT, led the reindeer charge with his shiny red nose and his ever big signal. Cranking out 325 contacts as the lead reindeer, Jack also went in disguise as "Santa" and made an additional 43 qso's as W9TE! While Jack's station has undergone some major antenna changes, Jack still makes his presence known on the bands!

Dancer, Joe-WB9EAO overcame HOA restrictions and erected some stealth antennas and turned in a whopping 240 contacts! Joe has mastered the art of throwing end-fed antennas over TALL trees! Joe is also a master in sending with his special *bug* and loves his Yaesu FTdx3000 when not playing with his old Drake station.



WB9EAO

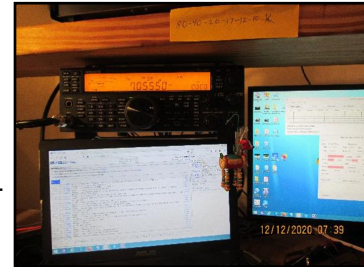


KD9GDY

Cupid, Jim-KD9GDY, did a stellar job in handling the pile-ups that come when you're a bonus station and have a big signal. His 14 contacts as Santa complimented his 235 contacts as Cupid. Jim has a variety of antennas, loves his Icom-7300, and is mastering his skill as a bug user . . . and Jim is a "lefty" so has a hard-to-find left handed Vibroplex bug next to his straight key.

Dasher, Ed-WA9BBN, was a dominate force during the weekend working a WES high of 235 contacts. His low to the ground endfed attracted signals as far away as France and Alaska! Way to go, Ed! Ed has a good ear in pulling out weak signals with his Icom 7300. His fist is so smooth, you don't know if he's using a bug or straight key!

Comet, Al-K9FW, did double duty as both Santa and a reindeer. Turning in more than 200 contacts is a testament to his operating prowess. We know that AL is a force to be reckoned with every SKCC event as he's always one of the top scorers. Al has a nice antenna farm and a variety of rigs to choose from. I think he probably used his preferred Kenwood TS-590SG.



K9FW



AC9EZ

Prancer, Jim-AC9EZ, literally pranced around the bands making lots of contacts! Jim did double duty as both Santa and Reindeer with 215 combined contacts. Jim is enjoying his newly acquired E.F. Johnson straight key with his Yaesu FT-450D. Jim has a bunch of antennas and always a good signal. A special qsl card was created by Jim for anyone who worked him as Dancer. Cool!

Thundering *Donder*, Bill-W9SA, made his presence known during the event with over 150 contacts. Bill has a great station running Elecraft equipment. His K3 was busy as he switched between his bug and straight key.



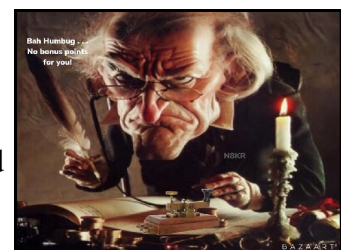
W9SA



W9HT

Vixen, Josh-W9HT had a busy weekend with a variety of activities including getting packed for his early Monday morning trip to Florida! Josh cranked out 125 contacts as a reindeer and operated at both his shack and N8KR's shack. Josh also is handling all of the requests for the special FWRC Santa certificate offered to those participating in the WES. Josh enjoys his Kenwood TS-590SG and wire antennas.

Scrooge, Ken-N8KR, spent the WES in his shorts and T-shirt operating from his temporary Florida qth. Ken made 331 contacts as Scrooge and 22 as Santa. His Kenwood TS-590SG and Vizkey bug fed his 40-20 dipole up 28 feet. Ken worked all states but Alaska and North Dakota and worked several European stations. You'll find Ken in all SKCC events along with all of the members mentioned in this article.



N8KR

Congratulations to several club members who did not participate as bonus operators but chose to look for us and work us. They include Jay – W9LW, Bruce – N9DGL, Steve – W9SAN, Dave – N9FGP, Bob – KC9UR, and Terry – K9FMX. That is a lot of cw activity!

Confessions of a Casual Contester

from the shack of David VE4DL

I am not now, nor ever have been, a Contester. I don't see myself becoming a Contester either, if one defines the term to include round-the-clock operations, intravenous fluids and diapers, and frequent relays of cold, one-hand meals. Not my thing, at all. BUT.....

At the end of May comes WPX CQ World Wide CW contest. One of the REAL contests I like to enter. Once again, I do use N1MM and the WinKeyer to send code at 26wpm, but I still have to copy what they're sending to enter it into the logging software. I was a little out of sorts, so I needed more time to copy the exchanges before throwing my call in the ring. Suffered multiple power failures during the first day, eventually traced to my power distribution block that runs everything in the shack. Still managed 26 contacts in under 3 hours total operation. Not what I wanted, but happy with it otherwise.

The Sunday evening after the CQWW I fired up fldigi for the first time in ages, first time with the Kenwood TS-590S. Easy as pie to set up the new rig and be on the air in only 15 minutes. I started my HF career in digital mode back in 2012. Not CW or SSB, but PSK31! I was mic-shy and slow with the key, so HF 'texting' seemed like a safe way to start. I really liked it too, making hundreds of contacts with at first the TS-520S by hand, and then the TS-430S with a TNC (much easier). Once I moved into phone and code contacts, I stopped the digital for a couple of years. Until a couple of weeks ago.

What a change! Very few signals compared to 2018. Lots of new types not seen before. Still, I made a few PSK31 contacts. The very first one was, strangely, with the same ham who was my last PSK31 contact in 2018. Still enjoyable, still a rag-chew mode that I like. Watching the waterfall between contacts, I noticed a signal that was strange to me. I put a vid on the Facebook page and got the answer that it was Olivia. Well, okay. Fldigi does a dozen kinds of Olivia, so up I go and answer the CQ. This is a fun mode. Capable of decoding ridiculously low signals well below the noise floor. In this mode, lots of ops use RSID, so the software can warn you there is a signal you can't hear or see, and tunes it in for you too. Made several contacts that evening. Then, nothing since. Nada. Zip. Like all the Olivia ops took vacation. Ah well. It's only one a couple dozen modes fldigi will handle.

Then comes a RTTY signal. That's fun too. Much faster than Olivia (about 6min per exchange), indeed at my typing speed it's essentially live. So I knock off a few contacts that way too. And behold, there is a RTTY contest on the following weekend. I'm the 3rd most successful contester in Canada! (there WERE only 3.) Again, assorted software issues prevented me being a "serious" contester but didn't stop me having fun. N1MM is supposed to be RTTY-friendly, but I could not get the connection to work. None of the help advice comes from TS-590 ops, so their settings didn't work for me. I ran it all off fldigi and though clumsier and less 'helpful', it is certainly workable. I'll be in the next RTTY contest Fathers' Day weekend.

I'll step on my soapbox for a moment, and suggest that if you DO operate any of the digital modes, that you enable RSID or TxID (depending on what your software calls it.) This lets other hams find you, even if they aren't familiar with your mode. Even if your signal is below the noise floor, the software will find and act on the RSID tag being sent. I guarantee it will lead to more contacts than NOT using it will.

But it isn't REAL contesting. Nope. Not at all.

Multi Multi Operation “at” KS1KCC...Well, “sorta”

When you think of a multi-multi station you think many operators at many rigs in someone’s super-station, at least that’s how I picture it. The Covid virus has made that type of operation dangerous these days until this virus is under control. But, “technology to the rescue”... well, “sorta.” Using a “virtual private network” (VPN) and N1MM+ logging software, a “real time socially distant” multi multi gathering can be achieved.

Using the club’s official call, KS1KKCC, a group of 11 operators from the “Dit Dah CW Gang” (KS8KCC) used the VPN and N1MM+ logging program to collect 765 QSOs in the fun-filled December WES. Jeremy KD8VSQ, our resident computer guru, got everyone willing to try the VPN and N1MM+ on line and it proved to be a great success. We were able to log QSOs on one log visible to all and the best part was the ability to “chat” (“heckle” actually) with either all or between just one-to-one operators. It wasn’t too difficult to get everyone up and running and it was a great experience for all.

Operators from both Michigan and Ohio were involved and the SKCC roster was sent to leave the SPC entry “blank.” This insured that those stations working us had to copy the correct SPC rather than rely on the “auto fill” feature. Working KS1KCC gave the possibility of gaining two SPC multipliers!

KS1KCC is the official club call and is available for use upon approval from the club trustee. In the WES events KS1KCC is a “bonus” station.

Operators for the December WES “at” KS1KCC were:



Jeff K9JP



Lee N8LJ



Steve NQ8T & Mary KE7CJ



Rick N8XI



Tony KD8BBK



Randy N8KQ



Mark NU8Z



Ted K8AQM



Curt (Mr. Viz Key) KU8L



Kurt W8IQ
(65+ years a ham!)



Scott (aka “Stumpy”)
N3JJT

Swisslog

Editor...Recently a poll was conducted asking what logging program member used. Swiss log was not really mentioned and Bob F6EJN sent information about this all-encompassing log he uses and is available free for downloading. Information was provided in both English and French.

Good morning all

I guess the majority of radio amateurs now use a Computer Logbook. I used LOGGER 32 for years, then I switched to Ham Radio de luxe which is a very nice program but which has been paying for some time.

I tried for 30 days the latest version of HRD and then you receive an email saying if you want to continue using it you need a registration key the price is 99.95 dollars which is no small amount.

Anyway, I tried this version, but it doesn't do everything, good question, it's still installed on my PC but I don't use it a lot.

We are currently ringing the bell during the Covid 19 period and I made an overview of the various computerized logbook programs available on the internet and I stumbled upon a very nice logging program called Swisslog which is complete.

This Program does everything, I say everything, I wanted to know more about this program. I have seen a lot of videos are on YouTubes
Here is the history of this complete program:

Swisslog...English

INTRODUCTION

The SWISSLOG story started in 1986, at which time Walter was working for a very large computer company. One day at lunch time, he was browsing one of the company bulletin boards and spotted a message posted by another Ham looking for someone to write a logging program. He was interested so he met with Ernst, EA8BGN (now HB9RXQ) and they discussed the project. Ernst created the first specification for the program and also came up with the name.

The first version of SWISSLOG for DOS was released in 1987 and many Ham's are still using the DOS version today. After the initial release, he worked several years improving the DOS version by adding functions that were requested by users. At the same time, PC performance was increasing dramatically and he was finally convinced that a Log-Program with acceptable performance could be developed for Windows. While continuing to improve the DOS version, he started to develop a Windows version. During the development process Walter learned a lot and had to restart three times; it took four years before the Windows version was ready for release in 1997. SWISSLOG continued improving every version, but keeping the original concept which would require the program to be flexible so that Ham's could adapt it to their individual requirements. Now you can define and characterize just about any data in your log – you can view your log sorted by callsign, date, band, mode, or whatever criteria you choose, you can view statistics for tracking your DXCC or grid square count, create and print custom reports, prepare award forms and applications, print QSL card labels, and control many other practical functions. This flexibility does add complexity to the program which is true for most complex programs like word processors and spreadsheets. Typically, these programs have many advanced functions a casual user doesn't need and may not understand, yet they can still use the basic program productively. The same is also true for SWISSLOG for Windows – using the program in the default mode is fairly easy and as you become familiar with the basic functions, you can explore the more advanced features that are available. Fortunately, there will al-

ways be a group of 'power users' and we hope they will share their secrets with others by providing "Tips and Hints" in the forum of the SWISSLOG Website.

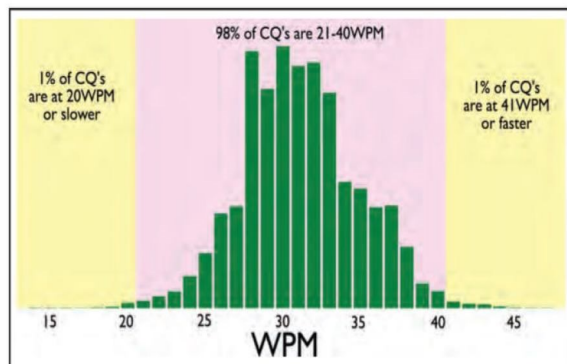
As many of you know, in June 2006, just before the official release of Swisslog for Windows version 6, a car ran over Walter while he was riding his bicycle. After some weeks in deep coma he finally woke up and during these years he has been recovering well of the injuries suffered. Now he can have an average life but this accident left him a strange and important side effect: he lost all his computing and programming skills. After some years without recovering his programming skills he decided to make Swisslog free of use to everybody. Everybody in the Swisslog team were searching for a programmer to continue his creation with no much success. However, Christian Aymon, HB9DBC, a professional programmer and friend of Walter and Pascal, HB9IIB, could take a copy of Walter's computer and created a virtual machine to at least have the source code and the tools to develop Swisslog. That way he could release some versions correcting some important issues as the new QRZ access. He kept Swisslog alive and useful. But developing Swisslog is a very difficult task that even professional programmers would need a lot of time to simply try to understand how Walter programmed this huge program with nearly a million of code lines. Christian didn't have such huge time and for personal and professional reasons he had to leave the Swisslog team.

I have been involved in the Swisslog team since 1990, first translating Swisslog into Spanish and later as distributor in Spain and giving support to all users who need it. Two years ago I created a patch updater to keep Swisslog updated. I focused mainly in the country table (maintained by Hardy, DL5SBA, who recently passed away), and I updated the statistic file and some other files so that Swisslog could be still useful and updated. But one year ago approximately I decided to get the source code of Swisslog and try at least to learn a bit of Delphi language with the only intention to correct future small issues. I asked permission to Walter and he given me full rights to do whatever I could do to continue developing Swisslog. Christian sent me a copy of the virtual machine of Walter's computer and he gave me some valuable instructions to compile and create the main program. I have the source code of version 6 but it's full of compiling errors and Walter can't help me to solve them. So I'm focused in version 5 which is stable and still powerful.

Swisslog is currently still one of the best and powerful logging programs in the world. I will try to keep Swisslog alive the best I know, trying to solve future issues, administrating the Swisslog forum and website, giving support to everybody and implement new things if I'm able to. Walter and this excellent program deserves it!

73 from Jordi Quintero, EA3GCV
December 2014

CW Speeds



Here's why the CQWW contest is so daunting to those of us with *ahem* modest CW ability. CQ Magazine's contesting columnist, N3QE, analyzed RBN spots from the 2019 contest. The "sweet spot" for calling CQ TEST is right around 30 WPM, which anyone listening during contest weekend can hear. Look at how fast the amount of calls drops off below that speed, though. This chart doesn't show how many stations will slow down for slower ops, but it does say that you need good ears to compete!

73, Wes AC8JF

Swisslog

Bonjour à tous

je suppose que la majorité des radio amateurs utilise maintenant un Logbook Informatisé

j'ai utilisé pendant des années LOGGER 32 , Puis je suis passé à Ham Radio de luxe qui est un très beau programme mais qui depuis un certain temps est devenu payant .

j'ai essayé pendant 30 jours la dernière version de HRD et ensuite vous recevez un email comme quoi si vous voulez continuer à l'utiliser il vous faut une key d'enregistrement

le prix est 99 , 95 dollar ce qui n'est pas rien .

Bref j'ai essayé cette version , mais il ne fait pas tout , bonne question , il est toujours installé sur mon PC mais je ne l'utilise pas beaucoup .

Nous sommes actuellement en période Covid 19 et j'ai fait un tour d'horizon des différents programmes de logbook informatisé disponible sur internet et je suis tombé par hasard sur un très beau programme de log qui s'appelle Swisslog et qui est complet

Ce Programme fait tout , je dit bien tout , j'ai voulu en savoir plus sur ce programme . J'ai consulté pas mal de vidéos sur YouTube

Voici l'historique de ce Programme complet :

Swisslog...French

INTRODUCTION

L'histoire de Swisslog commence en 1986, époque à laquelle Walter travaillait pour une très grande entreprise d'informatique. Un jour, au moment du repas, il parcourait les bulletins d'infos de l'entreprise et il détecta un message posté par un autre radio-amateur qui cherchait quelqu'un pour écrire un programme de LOG. Ceci l'intéressa et il rencontra donc Ernst, EA8BGN (maintenant HB9RXQ) et ils discutèrent du projet. Ernst créa les premières spécifications du programme et trouva également son nom .

La première version de SWISSLOG pour DOS fut publiée en 1987 et beaucoup d'amateurs utilisent encore cette version aujourd'hui. Après la première publication, il continua pendant quelques années à améliorer la version DOS en ajoutant des fonctions demandées par les utilisateurs. En même temps, la puissance des PCs augmentant de façon considérable il fut finalement convaincu qu'un programme de LOG avec des performances acceptables pouvait être développé pour Windows. Tout en continuant à améliorer la version DOS, il commença à développer une version Windows. Pendant le processus de développement, Walter apprit beaucoup et dut recommencer 3 fois; il lui fallut 4 ans pour que la version Windows soit prête à sortir en 1997.

SWISSLOG continua à s'améliorer à chaque nouvelle version, mais en gardant le concept d'origine qui s'efforçait de donner au programme assez de flexibilité pour permettre aux radio-amateurs de l'adapter à leurs besoins individuels. A présent, vous pouvez définir et caractériser à peu près n'importe quelle donnée de votre log – vous pouvez afficher votre log trié par indicatif, date, bande, mode ou tout autre critère de votre choix, vous pouvez voir les statistiques pour suivre la progression de votre DXCC ou votre bilan de carrés locators, créer et imprimer des compte-rendus personnalisés, préparer des formulaires de diplômes et leurs soumissions, imprimer des étiquettes de cartes QSL, et contrôler de nombreuses autres fonctions pratiques. Cette flexibilité ajoute bien sûr de la complexité au programme, ce qui est vrai pour de nombreux autres programmes complexes comme les traitements de texte et les tableurs. Typiquement, ces programmes disposent de nombreuses fonctions avancées qu'un utilisateur moyen peut ne pas comprendre et dont il n'aura pour ainsi dire jamais besoin. Néanmoins celui-ci peut utiliser le programme de façon basique à son plus grand profit. Ceci est également vrai pour SWISSLOG pour Windows – utiliser le programme en mode par défaut est assez facile et quand vous êtes familiarisé avec les fonctions de base, vous pouvez explorer les fonctions avancées qui sont disponibles. Heureusement il y aura toujours un groupe d' "utilisateurs experts" et nous espérons qu'ils partageront leurs secrets avec tout le monde en fournissant des "Trucs et astuces" dans le forum du site web SWISSLOG.

Comme beaucoup d'entre vous le savent, en juin 2006, juste avant la sortie de la version 6 de Swisslog pour Windows, Walter s'est fait renverser par une voiture alors qu'il était à vélo. Après quelques semaines dans un profond coma, il se réveilla finalement et durant toutes ces dernières années, il s'est bien rétabli de ses blessures. Il peut à présent mener une vie normale mais cet accident eut un effet secondaire étrange et important : il perdit toutes ses compétences en informatique et programmation. Après quelques années sans retrouver ses compétences en programmation il décida de laisser Swisslog libre d'utilisation pour tout le monde. Tous les gens de l'équipe Swisslog cherchèrent un programmeur pour continuer sa création sans grand succès. Cependant, Christian Aymon, HB9DBC, un programmeur professionnel et ami de Walter et Pascal, HB9IIB, purent sauver une copie de l'ordinateur de Walter et créèrent une machine virtuelle pour au moins récupérer le code source et les outils pour développer Swisslog. Il purent de la sorte sortir quelques versions corrigeant quelques problèmes importants tels que le nouvel accès à QRZ.com. Ils ont maintenu Swisslog en vie, et utilisable. Mais c'est une tâche très difficile de développer Swisslog et même pour des programmeurs professionnels cela prendrait beaucoup de temps pour simplement comprendre comment Walter a programmé cet immense logiciel d'environ un million de lignes de code. Christian n'avait pas tout ce temps et pour des raisons personnelles et professionnelles, il dut quitter l'équipe Swisslog.

Je me suis impliqué dans l'équipe Swisslog depuis 1990, en traduisant d'abord Swisslog en espagnol et plus tard comme distributeur en Espagne et en apportant mon soutien à tous les utilisateurs qui en avaient besoin. Il y a deux ans, j'ai créé un "patch updater" pour maintenir Swisslog à jour. Je me suis concentré particulièrement sur la table des pays (maintenue par Hardy, DL5SBA, qui est décédé récemment), et j'ai mis à jour le fichier de statistiques et quelques autres fichiers, de telle sorte que Swisslog puisse être utilisable et à jour. Mais il y a un an approximativement, j'ai décidé de me procurer le code source de Swisslog et d'essayer au moins d'apprendre un peu de langage Delphi avec la seule intention de corriger de futurs problèmes mineurs. J'ai demandé la permission à Walter et il m'a accordé tous les droits pour faire tout ce que je pourrais pour continuer à développer Swisslog. Christian m'a envoyé une copie de la machine virtuelle de Walter et il m'a donné des renseignements précieux pour compiler et créer le programme principal. J'ai le code source de la version 6 mais il est rempli d'erreurs de compilation et Walter ne peut pas m'aider à les résoudre. Je me suis donc concentré sur la version 5 qui est stable et toujours aussi puissante.

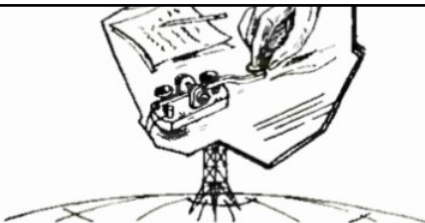
Swisslog est toujours actuellement un des meilleurs et des plus puissants programmes de LOG du monde. Je vais essayer de maintenir Swisslog en vie du mieux que je peux, en essayant de résoudre les problèmes à venir, en administrant le forum et le site web Swisslog et en assurant le support pour tous. Walter et cet excellent programme le méritent !

A Little Help Please?

60 years ago Dad gave me a picture of a ham shack with the notation 1KK. I have never been able to find out anything about the operator.

Our family goes back into the 1800's in Burlington NJ so this ham may have been in that area.

I did find the call in a 1936 publication and it looks like he (she) worked 20 meter phone. Another old timer I actually met was Herb Brooks K2BG back in the '60's. Herb could copy 70 wpm as he was an old railroad guy. He was probably born around 1890. Lived in Beverly NJ. May have had original call of 1BG but not sure. I think 1KK was probably a friend of my grandfather (Walter Leo Parker 1891-1956). Just wondering if any members would remember or know. 73, Mark WB2ZEU



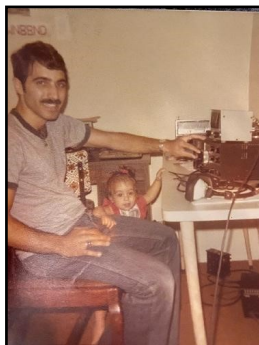
AND
DEPART

Numeral suffix indicates "R" strength. Send Calls H

*Donald W. Morgan, BRS1338, 15 Grange Road,
Kenton, Middlesex, England
August 1 to September 6
(All stations heard were between R6 and R8)
(14 Mc. phone)*

W 1ADM; 1AXA; 1BLA; 1BLO; 1BQQ; 1BR; 1CCZ; 1CND;
1COJ; 1DLO; 1FLH; 1FNL; 1FZ; 1GE; 1GED; 1GR; 1IAS; 1IRO;
1JJ; 1KK; 1MX; 1ZE; 2AKK; 2BFB; 2BLO; 2BUX; 2CCA;
2CJJ; 2CPA; 2CPT; 2DC; 2EDW; 2ELO; 2EUG; 2FF; 2FHI;
2FPB; 2GFH; 2GKO; 2GN; 2HCE; 2HUQ; 2JEH; 2JNT; 2MJ;
2OJ; 2OX; 2PJJ; 3ACX; 3AKE; 3BBB; 3CBT; 3CC; 3CKT;
3DE; 3ELP; 3EOZ; 3EWW; 3EXC; 3FIH; 3MD; 3OX; 4AEZ;
4AKA; 4ASR; 4AVI; 4BAZ; 4BMR; 4BYY; 4DBC; 4DCI; 4DCR;
4DV; 4EDC; 4EF; 4FF; 4FM; 4FW; 4TJ; 5BAT; 5CEN; 5DCP;
5ECL; 5SH; 8AKG; 8BQN; 8CMA; 8CNA; 8DLY; 8DW; 8EFW;
8FHW; 8GCF; 8GLY; 8GOY; 8HIA; 8IKE; 8IYM; 8JID; 8JYU;
8LQI; 8QBC; 8RRK 9ATP; 9CB; 9CJC; 9CLH; 9DYH; 9EMS;
9FEE; 9GES; 9UHA; 9ZW; 10XDA. — C02HY; C02QQ; C07CX;
C08BZ; C08WB; CT1DT; CX1AA; CX2AK; EI8G; HH2B; HI1W;
HI5X; HI7G; I1KF; I1KS; I1SAA; KA1ME; IA17; LU3DH;
NY2AE; OH2NE; OK3VA; ON4VR; PK1MX. — PY 2BA; 2CK;
2DK; 2EJ; 2EQ; 2QA; 8AB; 8AD. — PZ1AA; SM5SX; SU1AA;
SU1AK; SU1CH; SU1KG; SU1SG; SU1KG. — VE 1AR; 1AW;
1DA; 1BC; 1BH; 1BG; 1BR; 1CF; 1CN; 1CP; 1DC; 1DR; 1EA;
1X; 1FG; 1IF; 1IN; 2CA; 2CF; 2HN; 2LQ; 3HC; 3NF. —
V01I; V01J; V04Y; VK2AC; VK2AP; VP3DG; VP6YB; VP9R;
YV5AA; YV5AM.

SKS December 2020



It was a good couple hours. I don't rack up big numbers, but qrp signal was heard with good reports on a consistent basis all night. Worked some old friends and made a few new friends. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all, and to all, see you down the log. My second daughter found the picture of her now 45 year old sister (am I allowed to say that?) from back in I think 1976, with WB8SDA/4 DP2 Labba-to in the Dining room shack Apt just outside Ft. Belvoir Va, with my trusty Swan-350 with the 130 ft. long wire scotched tape to the bedroom wall using a pretty simple home brew antenna tuner. Worked 49 states and some dx with it. My x-yl's novice call is on the wall. 73, Bud AA8CL



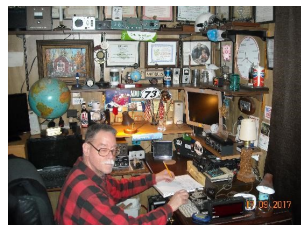
Had a great time. Good signals on 80 meters tonight. Merry Christmas to all. 73, Terry KE5YUM



A grand total of 3 contacts, hi hi. All of them on 40m. Very high noise, it has been like this for a week at least. Thank you everyone. See you in the next event! 73 de AC2RJ, Ruben.



I worked about an hour this time around, and only found takers on forty meters. Thanks to all who participated, and to the folks who administer all this fun, out of love for the hobby. My setup was an Elecraft K2 at 5W to a 20m EDZ up 50'. Here's a scene from the last night of Chanukah. Happy Holidays to all! 73, Lloyd K3ESE



20m. was nil but 40m. & 80m. were good here in WNY. Lots of SKS QSO's tonite. Rig: IC-7000 at 100w. into G5RV up 25 ft. w/ old WWII German Junkers straight key. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year & 73, Tom KA2KGP



A great way to wind up 2020, 40 was the place to be here for the first hour. Just B4 heading to the station I stopped to capture the beautiful sunset. Thanks' for the contacts 73 Rick K0KEX



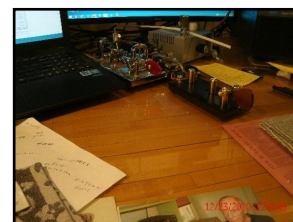
The people of Amherst Ohio (That would be me) would like to thank the people of Amherst, NY (That would be you Ken - KD2KEH) for participating in the 2Hour Sprint tonight and we wish for everyone in SKCc to stay safe and enjoy the Holiday Season... 73, Larry K8TEZ



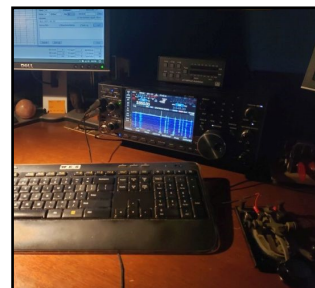
20M was dead, 40M noisy & difficult from WA. 1st time doing an SKS for about a year. Also gave me a chance to try out the shiny new FTdx101MP. Nice to be back! 73, Vic KB7GL



Set my goal at a dozen contacts but 80m and 40m were exceptional here this evening so I managed 23 contacts and found John our Bonus Station on 2 bands, so I think I set a personal best for myself! (hi hi). Ran my old IC-7000 at 50 watts to a vertical, using an old Lionel J-38 key. Here's wishing all a very Merry Christmas and a 'happier than 2020' New Year. 73, Curt K2CWM



Just received a Cootie yesterday, so thought I'd take it out for a spin. Really got the blood flowing. Some Fun. 73, Al K9FW



I thought this would be another 80m event, but 40m was great and I only hopped up to 80m for a few. 65w on 40m does better on my 80m EFHW than 100w on 80m! Lots of fun, as always - thanks, all! 73, Steve KC5F

December SKS 2020 II



40 was open everywhere! Just S/P for the first hour. I like the earlier start with the time change. To bad we can't do that all the time. IC 7410 and doublet at 30ft and used the Begali cootie. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Nice sprint! Split my time on 40 and 80. Used my new W1SFR Fat Boy Cootie. (Christmas gift to me from me) Very nice key. Also split my operating up on 3 rigs, TS590, TT Eagle and FT891. Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy New Year. Let us hope 2021 will be better! I will be on the multi multi Team for KS8KCC on the first weekend of K3Y. 73, Scott N3JJT



Fun Evening reaching North to New Hampshire, New York, Ohio and West to Texas and Missouri on 40 and 80 meters. Always good to Work John K4BAI who always has a strong QRP signal. Merry Christmas and HEALTHY New Year !73, Rich W4RQ



A record number of QSOs in an hour for me! It was fun to work a few pileups, I think it increased my operating skills. Thanks everyone! 73, John KJ4KPW



Thanks to all!...Had a ball!...73 es Merry Christmas Jim N4EES!



First ever SKS I think. Tons of activity, tnx to all for contacts. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. 73, Bill W0EJ



Great SKS, bands conditions are improving. Merry Christmas and HNY. 73, Ray W9GHX



Thanks for all the QSO's. Ran 80M the whole sprint and the band was descent up to the last 1/2 hr when it got a little noisy.. Merry Christmas all and will see everyone in January for K3Y.. 73 CW/Randy KS7KCC



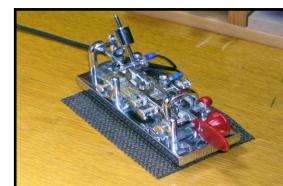
One of the things I enjoy about SKS and WES is using different rigs. For SKS this time I used my circa 1977 Heathkit SB-104A at 100 watts with an OCF dipole or a low 160 meter full wave horizontal loop fed with window line. The old girl performed well! The key I used was my first key purchased new for \$15 in a Topeka, KS Radio Shack - one of those Japanese made J-38 looking keys. Bought it to practice code while working on my novice and then used it for a couple of years after getting that first ticket. Not a good pic of the 104 - I tried to take a pic of the rig and key together and that didn't work out. Thanks all for another fun SKS! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! 73, Bill NZ0T



It was a lot of fun as usual. Thanks to all those good ops that pulled my qrp signal out. I was running my Elecraft KX2 at 5 watts an NYE key. 72 all and to all a Merry Christmas. 73, Bill N0UMP



Here's wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I only worked 80 meters and could not answer some weak calls because of the QRN & QSB - I just could not make out the call sign. 73, Rich VA3RSA



40 was very good here as well. Stayed there most of the time...short and long skip. Ended up on 80. K3 Line into 160m horizontal loop @ 50'. Good to see some newer members participating. My key for the event was the Vibroplex Blue Racer Deluxe circa 1963. Merry Christmas & 73 Dave W3NP West Virginia

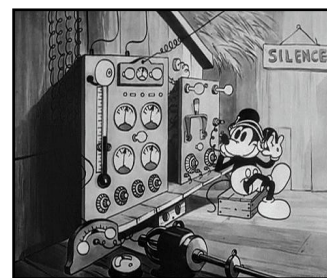
December SKS 2020 III



Thanks and 73 for the contacts. Ed W6KSR



I haven't worked a sprint in a couple months and I could tell my fist was rusty! Got a late start and had to end early so only operated about 90 minutes but it was fun! Good conditions - no need to move off 40m as I only called CQ twice :) 73, RJ WF4W



Famous "OO" monitor? Better keep to the rules!

Meet Jim K5BZH #447t



Jim, K5BZH

If you're like me then you have worked Jim K5BZH in many, many SKCC operating events. It's always nice to put a face to the call. For an enjoyable bio-read, check out K5BZH on QRZ.com. Here is a bit of that enjoyable read....ed

"My first rig was homebrew, it was made out of cardboard, hung under my handlebars. The knobs were also cardboard, cut in triangular shapes, held on the "front panel" with bent straight pins from my mother's sewing basket. I was about 5 years of age and living with my parents and brother at the Shell Pipeline Station near Eldorado, TX in the late 40s. There were 5 kids living in the housing area. Apparently one of them had been exposed to ham radio, probably a mobile station. Most of us had "handle bar rigs." Wish I had a picture to show off. Move forward to the 21st century, at least 3 of those 5 kids have ham tickets, all extra class. One we know didn't develop an interest. The other, a YL, we don't know about.

My "real" interest in amateur radio developed when I was a youngster in the fifth grade after my father had retired and we had moved three miles east of Goldthwaite, TX, to a 151 acre farm. Max Donnell, W5HSE, of Brownwood, TX, administered my "mail order" exam. The ticket with the call KN5BZH was issued by the FCC in July of 1955. I was 11 years of age. Don Fox, KN5BBM, of O'Brien, Texas, provided my first on the air contact on 80 meters at 8 a.m. CST on 02 AUG 1955. Most likely my code was the sloppiest he had ever encountered, I was a pure case of nerves. It was his QSO #207. Don's transmitter and receiver were both homebrew. His QSL card (now framed) is now more prized than any of my DX cards."

RCC WAS WAC DXCC	
K5BZH	
First Licensed as KN5BZH IN 1955 Navy Veteran NAVSECCRE	
Jim Musgrove 13108 Eldorado Drive Amarillo, TX 79111	
Pse QSL <input type="checkbox"/> Fax QSL <input type="checkbox"/>	Putter County Grid: DM95df
CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY MONTH YEAR UTC Mhz BY MODE
If you don't know Morse, you don't know DIT	

Right off the old Route 66	
WD5DCZ	
Carol Musgrove 13108 Eldorado Drive Amarillo, TX 79111	
Pse QSL <input type="checkbox"/> Fax QSL <input type="checkbox"/>	Putter County Grid: DM95
CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY MONTH YEAR UTC Mhz BY MODE

K5BZH/QRP	
AMARILLO, TEXAS USA Randall County Grid: DM95	
Jim Musgrove 4802 Capulin Lane Amarillo, TX 79110	
SK & CC Straight Key Century Club #447	#11526
"QRO can lead to ED, QRP keeps it exciting!"	

Confessions of a Casual Contester

from the shack of DavidVE4DL

I am not now, nor ever have been, a Contester. I don't see myself becoming a Contester either, if one defines the term to include round-the-clock operations, intravenous fluids and diapers, and frequent relays of cold, one-hand meals. Not my thing, at all. BUT.....

Well, that's exciting! Two certificates to hang on the wall this month. First in the mail, and totally unexpected, was an award from RAC for the 2019 Winter Contest. Apparently I beat out all contenders in Manitoba for my category. (Maybe I was the only one in the running???) So that one's destined for the wall. And then 2 weeks later, I realized I'd made QSOs with over a hundred different SKCC members over the last few years, so I submitted my log and presto – I'm a Centurion (whatever that is.) More wallpaper. It's pretty silly, really, but fun, nonetheless.

This week I'm trying to work the ARRL School Club Round-up. I do this every year, it's a no-pressure exercise that flexes flabby contest skills. This year has been tough, only one school a day so far, phone or CW. Not trying digital modes, there are too many possibilities to cover. I am using new logging software for it – ALog – and so far I like it a lot. I may review it at a later time when I have more experience with it.

I had a good time in CQ World Wide SSB last weekend, put about 7½ hours in over the 3 days. Last year I worked mostly Europe. This year it was mostly Latin America and Oceania. Different rig, different antenna, different ionosphere. Still using N1MM+ to log contests, but I'm going to try the N3FJP log for Sweepstakes next month, see how I like it. The SCR logger was dead easy.

Continental Africa continues to elude me, but I picked up the Azores and Canaries.

Japan! Finally on SSB. Have one JA in CW logged too. Things are looking up to the west. I have a friend in Osaka, he's limited to 20W and a wire. Maybe by next year??

I was heard CW on 20m in New Zealand last week, that's promising.

I've been neglecting my paddles and CW Academy difficult character exercises again. Having too much fun with the straight key, but I have to force myself back to daily practice if I ever hope to improve.

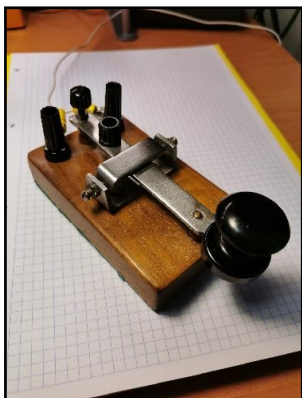
I spent tonight going through my log, now that I have it running in new software and everything from everywhere combined, removing duplicates. Found about 130 since 2015, which is not bad. Most are obviously from combining multiple logs various ways and times. Some singles that didn't belong, that were “auto-save on close” errors. Gave me a chance to look back at what I've been up to.

I heard this week of the passing of K6ELQ, who is my first SKCC number in the log. I'd worked him a total of 6 times over the years, it seems. RIP Tony. I logged 555 QSO between Jan 2015 and Jan 2019 as VE4DLA. From March of that year 'til now I've added 1240 as VE4DL. See? A shorter call equals more QSOs. Just stands to reason, don't it?

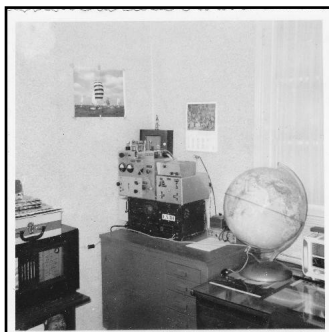
I've been running several logging apps for various purposes. SKCC Logger for, you know, SKCC contacts and contests. Fldigi for most digital modes. JS8Call for JS8 work. QRZ and eQSL. Now, all but the SKCC logger automatically update to eQSL and LoTW and ALog, which is my new master log. I also run N1MM+ for contesting, and have to manually upload that after each contest. (That reminds me, back in a second.) There, done. QRZ.com was my first computer log - I started with and still maintain a paper log. I added eQSL when I discovered I like QSL cards, but few people send them anymore (I do. Don't you?) Cary VE4EA got me to add N1MM+ when he started me down the contest road. That's when I signed up with Log of the World, too. It's like phylogeny – first there's a few stumbling, weird experiments, then explosive diversification, followed by long, slow selection winnowing the field to a few fit survivors.

But it isn't contesting. Nope. Not at all.

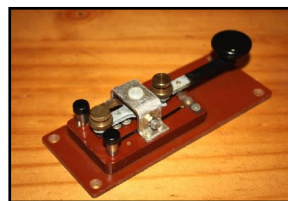
January SKSE 2021



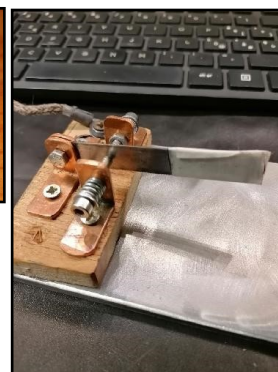
My first SKSE; listening very hard on 80 m, strong QRM. My key was a CUBAN STYLE KEY, manufactured by my friend Angel, CM8CZ. 73, Luis EA3WX



No contact on 20 m. Eight on 40 m : G4PVM, W0VTT, Z32GJ (NM), WD9Q, K1EEE, W4TMW, K3Y/3 (K3EW) and KT4UE ; six on 80 m : ON7DQ, PG4I, IZ2XAO, G3ZRJ, EA4BW and G4PVM. Sorry not heard G0RDO. I heard ON7DQ on 160 m but sorry I have no antenna for this band. Got two new members EA4BW and KT4UE. Rig here : 80 watts into a multi-band GP antenna, key was a cootie. Thank you all for a pleasant event and see you soon ! 73 and HNY to all. On the photo, my novice station in 1967 ! 73, Bernard F5DE



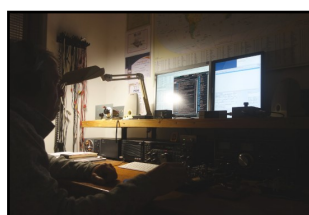
No QSO's at all, but did try ON7DQ, PG4I, RA4PBE, K3Y/3 (K3EW), G4PVM. Hope for a QSO or two in the WES. 73, John



Hi guys, just one hour of activity, low propagation just a littel of EU in 80 just I got just 8 contacts but, a lot of fun! as usually! Every time, also when I meet a new contact, seems to know It since ever! Very nice! THANKS. 73, Luca IZ2XAO



My first SKSE Eurosprint. Ran my Yaesu at 90 watts barefoot. Propagation was poor but always fun to operate. Worked F6EJN on 20 mtrs and G4PVM on 40 using a straight key ... tnx guys for the QSOs. Will do better next time. 73, Bill KE3O



80 meters only this time, 40 meters was pretty much closed. Nice to have a few QSOs with fellow Europeans and work a few new members. Looking forward to higher sunspot numbers so we can contact some DX during the SKSE. 73, Jo PG4I



Only heard F6EJN from EU worked BOB at 599 both 40 and 20. 73, Brian KF6C

“Amateur” Music...Enjoyable

Bill, VA5CW, and Tom K9DAC put together this little song some years back. Bill VE5CW did most of the work on the lyrics and Tom K9DAC sings the song: “Do You Hear Me Tonight”



20201228_161646_Normal.m4a

Copy available via email from “K8AQM1629t@comcast.net”

Buggin'

De Frank W1ZAH

My dad (W1NZM SK) got me started in ham radio when I was 13; he helped me study and learn Morse code so I was able to pass the Novice test. I don't remember there being a lot of choice about keys back then; he handed me a straight key and that is what I used.

Flash forward 50 years and I decided I wanted to get back into the hobby. Since the Novice ticket was LONG expired I studied up and passed my way up to the Extra in February 2019 and eased my way back on the air. When selecting a key I of course went with something I was familiar with and bought a \$15 straight key from DX Engineering.

I used this key for about 3-4 months until my right arm seized up. Evidently the endurance of my 13 year old arm far exceeded that of my 65 year old arm, so I looked for an alternative. I bought a side swiper from W1SFR and after a couple of weeks I got the hang of it and put away the straight key.

I love the cootie (except the name), it's easy on the wrist and very quiet. But every once in a while on the SKCC Sked Page I'd see someone chasing a TKA award. Looking into it I realized I had plenty of SK and SS QSOs, all I needed was 100 QSOs on a Bug and I'd get a TKA as well. How hard can getting 100 QSOs on a bug be?

What's a bug?

Reading the SKCC policy on keys I understood that the Bug could not be electronic or it wouldn't pass muster. I read about bugs on the Internet and learned that a single stroke on the dit-side made a string of dits, but a single stroke on the dah side made only a single dah. Is that what they mean about it being "semi-automatic"? That really didn't clarify anything but I decided to buy a Vibroplex Original Bug Deluxe anyway. Being totally unfamiliar with a bug I was still confident I could figure it out. I'm a reasonably intelligent adult so I'd just watch a few YouTube videos and I'd be good to go.

Unpacking the bug after it arrived I was surprised to NOT find any directions, per se. There was a copy of an old QST article called "Semi-Automatic Key Adjustment" and that was it. Looking at the diagram of the key I was surprised there were so many parts. Dash and dot lever stops? Dash and dot lever tension arms? Springs? Whatever happen to plug and play?

Realizing that this was going to be more of a project than anticipated I resorted to YouTube and finally found a video that made sense to me. Watching the mechanisms work as I manipulated the key I was reminded of a Rube Goldberg cartoon where the alarm clock goes off and 5 minutes later the dog has been let outside and your coffee and toast are ready. The mechanics seemed a bit complex considering the desired outcome.

Another small problem was that in teaching myself the cootie I never established a dit-side or s dah-side of the cootie. My approach on the cootie is more chronological; on whichever side I end a letter, the next letter starts on the opposite side. I never strike the same side consecutively.

Consequently, when I started practicing with the bug I realized that my cootie style was a definite problem. Starting a dah with my thumb unleashed a string of dits at a rate of 25 WPM. It took me quite a while to re-learn how to send a "CQ" correctly. The first few times, instead of sending CQ, the rough translation was:

"C T 5 T 5"

When I started sending CW on the bug I would randomly slip into my “cootie fist” and the resultant code emitted did not even closely resemble what I had intended. To resolve this I had to really concentrate and send CW more slowly. The problem I found is that the slowest dits I could make were at about 20 WPM. I soon realized that sending dahs at 10 WPM while the dits went on their merry way at 20 WPM was absolutely unreadable. Briefly I thought I should just use the dah side of the bug for both dits and dahs; kind of a straight key on its side. It’s only 100 QSOs, right?

I spent hours driving the cootie style out of my hand and being militaristic in my method. Thumb is dots only; forefinger is dahs only! Do not vary! Sending numbers was the hardest for me. I decided that, for at least the first 100 QSOS, every RST I gave had to be “579”, or it would be bedlam.

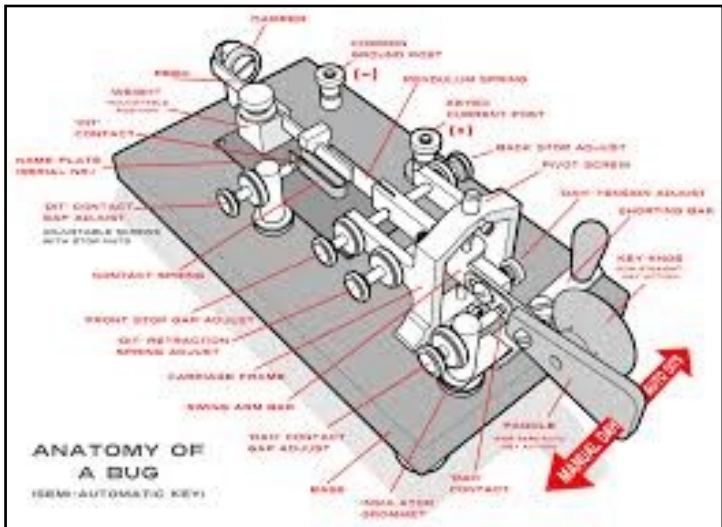
I got to the point I felt less panicked about actually trying to make myself understood with the bug and decided to give it a go. I figured it would be better if I started by CQing first; then, if someone actually understood “C T 5 T 5” they would at least know what they were in for.

After a couple of CQ calls I got a response and actually got through the basics of the QSO relatively unscathed in my response. But then my QSO partner told me about his rig and the weather. Holy crap, I hadn't thought about actually having a conversation!! To me it was a victory to get the RST, State, name, and SKCC number done without error. I did the only thing I could do – I can't hear you, the QSB is terrible! I know I gave his RST at 579 but you know, that pesky QSB just rears its ugly head whenever it wants.

So far I have around 30 QSOs on the bug and it's going OK I guess. I've had a couple of equipment malfunctions mid-QSO that have made things interesting. Once the cable somehow worked its way into the damper so the dits stopped. Another time the dash stop lever loosened up and the dahs went away. I actually have used the "straight key on its side" concept to save a QSO or two during one or another malfunctions. I've also learned to make a few dry runs with the bug before getting on the air; tightening the screws, adjusting the weights. The bug reminds me of the 1967 BSA motorcycle I used to own; it works best when you continually tinker with it.

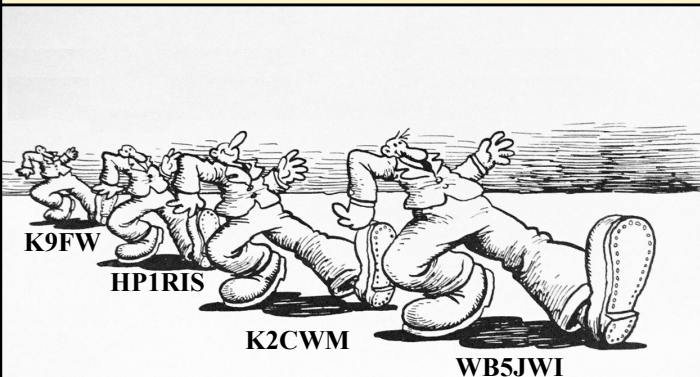
At this writing I am making another adjustment to the bug by adding a non-polarized capacitor across the outputs, which allegedly reduces or eliminates dit chatter. I never knew what dit chatter was before I owned a bug. I guess that's progress.

Frank W1ZAH



January 2021 Slow Speed Saunter

Slow Speed Saunter



SKN and the Slow Speed Saunter combined for lots of activity this month. The SSS has become the “go-to” event for meeting new members, those new to cw and those that just like to “rag chew.”



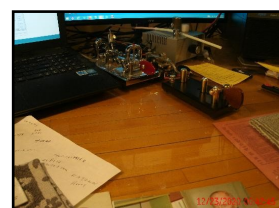
I made 15 contacts today but 5 of them were just SKN contacts (no SKCC exchange} so I just counted the 10 where there was a complete SKCC exchange. Always a fun event, but my number is down for this one. Used my TS-590SG at 75 watts to a vertical and Kent Straight Key. Better luck next month (hi hi). Wishing everyone a very Happy New year! 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Only 4 QSOs but the first one was my second marathon. It is dangerous to try new things around the end/beginning of a year; you can get hooked! Oh, one warning; NEVER start a marathon QSO at 0600 with a new key type (cootie for me) until after you have consumed enough caffeine to allow you to actually use the new key! For me, that is a two cup minimum. 73, Les WB5JWI



Hello everyone, a few contacts on the 20 meter band, great fun with my J44 key, Happy New Year 2021. 73, Ric HP1RIS



Finished TKA during SSS. Some Fun!! 73, Al K9FW

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
N4API	Brian	11673	GA	1
K9FW	AL	20492S	IN	85
W9GOO	John	21474T	IN	6
WN4KPG	Rick	4093C	KS	4
K3YMI	James	16055T	MD	5
AC1GF	Bob	19399S	NH	30
K2VS	Carol	1051T	NH	12
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	10
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	4
NJ8L	Vern	13613T	OH	7
HP1RIS	Ric	16370	PAN	8
WB5JWI	Les	5013S	TX	4

Participants and QSOs by SPC

GA: 1 / 1	IN: 2 / 91	KS: 1 / 4	MD: 1 / 5	NH: 2 / 42
NJ: 1 / 10	OH: 2 / 11	PAN: 1 / 8	TX: 1 / 4	

Editor...Empty nester, thinking about retiring and moving with the XYL? Well, be sure to read the following article as W5XX searches for that new QTH. The article appears with permission from the author and "Solid Copy," the newsletter of CW Ops.

Locating the "Dream DX QTH" for Suburban Retirement (or maybe for any Ham moving to the 'Burbs)

Mal Keown, W5XX

Now the children's college is funded, the job is secure, no car notes, the 1200 square foot QTH on a quarter acre in the city is nearly paid for, and the XYL is a happy camper. Despite the good life, maybe it's time to start looking for that ideal "Dream DX QTH" for retirement. How about 100 acres along the Maine Coast with a nice home and a finished outbuilding for a shack, and for the XYL a few nearby relatives and a mega shopping center in the vicinity.

Keep dreaming! There is not a 100-acre plot available in Maine, no mega shopping areas, and your XYL doesn't have any close relatives within a thousand miles of Maine.

Now for plan B. How about a rural QTH close to the XYL's family, and within an hour of a mega shopping area? No way. The XYL doesn't want anything to do with living the rural life.

Now for plan C. After negotiation, it looks like it's going to be the suburbs. After an extensive search under XYL supervision (and sometimes daughters), her dream retirement home is located with 2500 square feet with a patio for entertaining, close to relatives, and five miles from the local mega mall. However, guess what? Out of view of the XYL, the QTH has three acres on a lot sloping toward a lake in the direction of Europe with a mortgage only twice what the DXer is currently paying. Wow! Things are looking better.

Time passes. Now the XYL and the DXer are considering asking the real estate agent to start drawing up the closing papers on the "Dream Retirement DX QTH." Hold it!!! There may be some considerations to be dealt with.

How about line noise? It may be a wonderful QTH but not so wonderful if all the DXer hears is S9+20 from 160 to 6.

How about an HOA? Nothing but a Florida Flagpole in the front yard. No way!

How about hostile neighbors? Surely you don't want to deal with an army of belligerent seniors yelling insults as they push their walkers into your Dream QTH's front yard.

Is there any possibility that the land could be conscripted for a highway? A pipeline? A shopping center? industrial development? low cost housing?

Is the area susceptible to hurricanes or wildfires?

Is there a large mountain between the Dream QTH and Europe or JA?

Will there have to be a major cut/fill or logging operation to make room for towers and four squares.?

A lot of grim thoughts.

Assuming after several visits to the potential QTH with a portable RF Sniffer, the DXer finds no substantial line noise, the HOA is Ham Friendly, and intel reveals good news neighbors, plus all of the other bad news wickets noted above have been jumped or compromised. Now it's time for an antenna farm survey.



Are there obvious locations for towers? Can the towers be located far enough away from power lines and surrounding structures to avoid a big problem if one of them failed? Can the towers be positioned such that they could be used as a phased array for 80 or 160? And most importantly, would the proposed tower locations interfere with the XYL's view of the Lake?

And the potential problems go on. Is there a problem running power to the shack site? Are the potential shack and tower locations subject to mud, snow, flash flood, or drainage problems?

Is there enough room between the tower bases and the tower guy poles to stay away from property lines? Did you say guy poles? Yes, guys wires must be considered in a suburban environment for tall towers. Ideally, the guys need to be above ground to avoid grass cutting and pedestrian and forest creature traffic. Nothing will arouse the ire of the XYL or female neighbors more than finding a strangled Bambi hung up in guy wires ready for gutting.

What will the Antenna Farm look like in ten years? Will little trees become large monsters that may have limbs hanging over guy wires?

Will grass cutting be a problem for the radial field? Nothing is more aggravating than wrestling with a pair of pliers trying to cut wire from around a lawn mower blade.

Will furry creatures be a problem chewing on transmission lines? How about snakes or other vermin coming into the shack via transmission lines?

Are there any Cable TV lines close to the antenna farm?

Is the ground around the proposed tower and guy pole locations stable?

Are there buried utilities that might cause problems with tower bases, guy poles, or radials?

All of this looks grim. It looks like the DXer will never have a competitive antenna farm. Is he doomed to 100 watts and a 14AVQ until he goes on to his QTH in the Sky? Not so? He says adamantly "This is my competitive Dream Retirement DX QTH, and I intend to have a devastating signal into Europe and JA. "

Obviously, there will have to be some rule bending and compromises, but keep in mind how warm and fuzzy the DXer will feel when he knows his buddies are complaining about him consistently being the first though in a pile up into Europe on a cold February Day.

What to do? The key here is to identify the problems before the situation develops. Be prepared to diplomatically compromise and bend some rules as you work your way through the "Dream Retirement DX QTH" challenges.

How grim it would be to move into the "Dream Retirement DX QTH" without any "DX planning" and find out that there is 20 over 9 lines noise, a hyper active senior citizen HOA squad with nothing better to do that torture DXers, or there is no room to fit in a four square.

Think carefully before you buy!

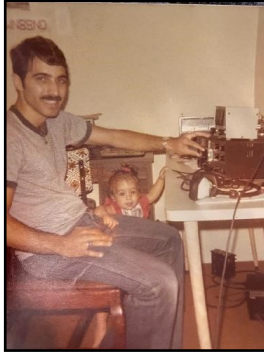


KE8AQW Mike

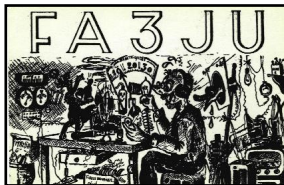
Mike, KE8AQW #22304 was recently featured in the ARRL Contest Update for February 2021 as one of the new up-and-coming contesters. Mike score very well in the North American Collegiate Challenge operating at W8UM, the University of Michigan club station.

*Ed....I also like his call "almost" perfect!....de
K8AQM*

WES January 2021



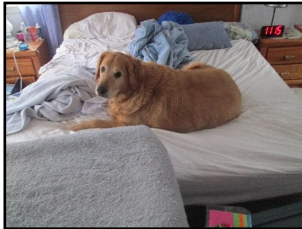
Tnx for all the contacts with my 5 watt signal. Not a big score but was a lot of fun regardless. Met several for the first time, as well as old friends. 73, Bud AA8CL



Many thanks to all for nice contacts. F6EJN and K3WW on 3 bands. 5 new members on the log. Not a huge result points but always a pleasure to be here for some friendly contacts ! On the photo is the QSL of one of my two Elmers Gaby FA3JU (SK) when I was SWL in 1960 ! 73 and HNY to everybody and see you all soon ! 73, Bernard F5DE



Thanks you very much to all contacts around the world. Happy New Year. 73, Phil F5JWH



Conditions were generally pretty good except during early afternoon hours. No contacts above 20m. Was lucky to catch a 30 minute window to Europe on 20m Sunday morning, around 9AM local time. Best QSOs were with SV8ANW (40M), K6TTT (80M), and VE6CCM (40M). The NAQP made 20M pretty useless Saturday afternoon. I live in NH, but missed RI and VT multipliers. Happy to get VE1AHX for another multiplier towards the end of the contest. Heard "KL7" on 20M, but way too weak to attempt the QSO. I had 29 multi-band QSOs. Another cool QSO was with EA4BL on 40M at 2:49PM local time. Thanks for all the QSOs and the great SKCC team. Photo shows "Zack" my big 130lb golden retriever. He's not happy WES weekend, because he misses his daily walk. He shows his displeasure by messing up the bed and stealing clothes, HI HI. 73, Bob AC1GF



73, ORESTES CL3OR



I had very little time for this one. 73, Ron AC2C



Thanks for all the Qs, It was a lot of fun. HNY. 73, Jim AD0AB



I put in more time than usual this WES. I was hoping for more top band action. Nevertheless - always a joyful time. I started out on bug and went to SS for the remainder. Thanks everyone and HNY. Stay safe and healthy. 73, Rich AE4OK



Happy New Year everyone. No bonus this time, no antenna on 160m and a doublezepp for the 80m but oriented Europe only. Some QSOs on 3 bands and on 2 bands. Always interesting and fun to participate despite little spread. Take care of yourself. 73, Bob F6EJN



Another fun WES! Operated a few hours on Saturday and Sunday and activity was great. Most contacts on 40m followed by 80m and 20m. Somehow the noise in the bands at this location subdued from the last few months. Yay! Enjoyed very much when 40m went long on Sunday evening, my antenna is optimized for 40m. Contacted F6HKA on 2 bands. Thanks, Bert! Its being a great month of radio-activity. Thanks to all of you that put all the good work in organizing the events and running the club and to everyone that participates. See you in the bands! HNY ES 73,



Made my first DX contact into Europe with F6HKA, a 5,245 mile QSO with just 1 watt! Pictured is my QRP kitchen counter shack. 73, Casey AI7NN

WES January 2021 II



Hello everyone and Happy New Year. Conditions on 20m were not very good. 40m was in great shape on Sunday evening. Unfortunately, no opening on 15m and of course above. Due to a very strong local QRM (permanent noise level at S8/S9) on 160 and 80m I could only contact stations with a strong signal. I contacted a bunch of QRP stations including W4ELP and AA7IN running 1W. Thanks for the QSOs, I had fun as usual. 73 to all and see you next month. 73, Bert F6HKA



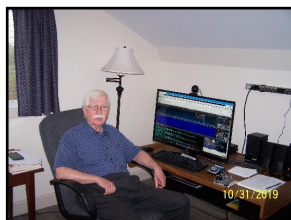
Good fun and nice to hear a few stations with good sigs mainly on 20m during daylight hours. 73, John G0RDO



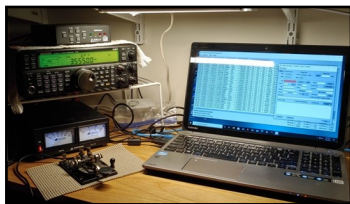
Couldn't participate as much I would have liked, but I was there for awhile. Ran 75w from my TS-590SG into an elevated HF6V Butternut Vertical, using a Kent Straight Key. Always nice event. 73, Curt K2CWM



Good fun! I got 17 on 80 meters. Great to hear you guys down there. Thanks to Luk ON5UK for the only DX this month. IC 7410 @ 70 watts, 80 meter doublet @ 30ft. and used the Begali SS this month. CU all later. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Had a lot of fun this weekend. Was able to chase some more K3Y stations. I also did some CQ WES along with S&P. Thanks for all the contacts and will see you next month! 73, Dave KB1WOD



It was great to see all the CW activity this weekend, with WES and NAQP. It was also good to hear lots of new CW ops making QSOs. My thanks to all the volunteers that make these events happen! 73, Bob KC9UR



Hello friends, my first WES, thank you all, I worked in 20 meters and 40 meters, with a J-44 key, Ten Tec Jupiter pushing 100W and a Comet H422 antenna, a lot of fun, 73, Ric HP1RIS



ONLY WORKED LIMITED TIME DUE TOP NAQP, AND OTHER DEMANDS ON TIME . THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE QSO'S CONDITIONS WERE VERY GOOD, EVEN GOT A FEW ON 15 IN SA. 73,



Just a few minutes with the latest vintage receiver refurb to catch a few more K3Y's and to get within 30 of TX8. Thanks to the guys putting K3Y on this month and HNY to everyone. 73, Scott ka9p



Good trip to ND. Roads icy and slick getting up there, but found temperatures and wind were moderate when I got there, and no SNOW (ND in January!) on the ground. Was at Bowman-Haley lake, Bowman County, grid DN85. Using a 124' Princeton antenna EF, TS-480SAT powered by generator for about 100 watts out. Czech military straight key. Ice fishermen kept me company in their huts on the lake, even through most of the night - tough breed those North Dakotans. Tnx for the QSO's, it was fun! 73, John K0FTC



Always a fun event. Thank for the Qs and thanks for the organizers of WES! I got to try out my new 1948 Vibroplex Original. It's fun having a bug from the year I was born! Rig was an Icom 7300 at 100 watts to a 40m vertical delta loop. Keys used were a 1948 Original and a 1950 era J-38. 73, Bob K3ZGA

WES January 2021 III



I took the opportunity to use my Racal RA17 and Kenwood T-599 I plan on using for the boat anchor WES. I had a lot fun working 146 Qs on 80 and 40 with this 65-year-old receiver and 44-year-old transmitter. The T-599 does not cover 160 so I used the K3s for a total of 5 Qs. It turned out the RA17 has a sensitivity fault on 20 meters. I am glad I took this opportunity to test it under WES conditions. 29 of 40 20-meter contacts were made with a K3s. Great fun, I am excited about using the RA17 with fixed 20-meter sensitivity in the next WES. 73, Brian KF6C



Use the Czech Military RM-31 for this WES. 73, Randal KG5IEE



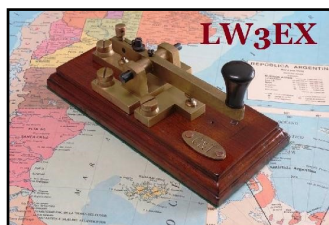
Another WES in the logs, Did not get to spend much time on this one due to doing some needed work around the house plus spent some quality time outside Saturday night around the fire pit, grilling some food and doing Smore's. Still was as always a great time on the radio.. And we even got snow on Sunday... First in 2 years... 73, Doug KG5YTS



Spent most of the time operating as K3Y/9. I don't have a decent antenna for 160 and while I was there it was pretty much a bust. Anyway, Happy New Year to all, and may you have a safe, happy, and healthy one! 73, jack KK0I



Not too focused on WES - just looking for K3Y stations - TNX to all who contributed! 73, Russ KK3WX

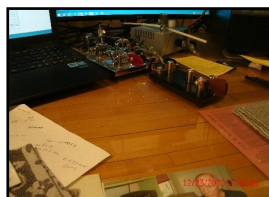


Congrats SKCC for the 15th Anny and a new K3Y Event! I was in for a short time but had fun

QSO Stats: 1 > 14MHz - 5 > 21MHz - 2 > 28MHz (FB Bob's K5ZOL & VE3KZ) TA33 - 20W - Home Made DSK + Centennial GPO Elliott Bros SK Happy and Healthy New Year to all TU everyone for the QSOs. Take care & Stay safe BCNU 73, Walt LW3EX- ... ZUT



In and out of the shack all weekend, but, still managed to make 41 contacts...73, Jim N4EES



Finished TKA then worked WES. Some Fun. 73, Nee NE9EE



I had all but 6 contacts on 80 mtrs. Ten Tec Eagle at 100w and my W1SFR Fat Boy Cootie. 73, Scott 255S



Operated on 160M only using a new antenna, first time on SKCC. Worked a few NA stations. 73, Dave NE5DL



See you next year....73, Dennis N0SMX



Still fighting high line noise. Repair is slow in coming. Happy to hear many "20000" numbers. Best QSO K0FTC/0 in ND on 15 ! No other stations heard on that band. 73 de AL, N4ow 11375s

WES January 2021 IV



Interesting and fun week-end between WES and hunting K3Y. Used my old Ten Tec Scout 5-50W, TFD dipole or 5BTB vertical, and 1938 Mac key. Worked WES QRP and some K3Y with my blistering 50W. Think I got all my QRO QSOs removed from the QRP WES log. Worked quite a few on 3-4 bands. Only 9 QSOs on 80M; no 160M. Did I mention I had fun? CU next month and in between on the bands. 73, Paul NA5N



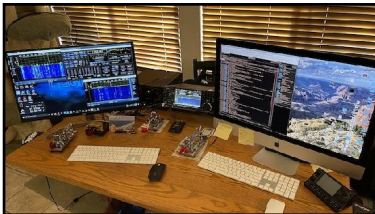
I could think of nothing more fitting than to post a copy of the winning QSL card for K3Y 2021. As the YL in the card says "I have a Wireless for you". And that message is Happy 15th Anniversary to the SKCC! And being able to operate in WES and K3Y at the same time helps to spread the message of Happy 15th SKCC. 73 to all, Richard VA3RSA.



Theme this month great. Still lots of top band ops around. Thanks for all the K3Y stations also. 73/72 Ray W9HGX



Hello.. kx2 10wts g5rv at 35ft n/s inv vee..VA3NU on 80mtrs.. 5 asos 80 mtrs..6 on 40mtrs.. 4 on 20mtrs..this WES was a short one for me..but still was fun.. I hope my number helped other hams to raise up on their skcc situation.. it is fun.. it's my only type of contest I work on..usually on QRP freq areas.. ha-no key making project right now.. ha -I only have 67 keys now and they all create QRM..haha.. 68 will be coming in 2021..haha. so, tnx to SKCC board members..on their list of WES frequencies, for 20 mtrs, 14014 area should also be listed, it helps when major contests are on. So, tnx to all, agn.. pix is a COOTIE key and straight key I designed.. just push DOWN on the paddle and you have a straight key contact.. ha.. so what'ss NEXT.. haha.. tnx to ALL.. 73, Dave Larsen
n9zxqlrp@gmail.com



Lots going on this weekend with WES, K3Y, and the NAQP-cw. Lots of great radio. Best this from WES was Sunday morning at grey line here in San Diego. Europe just opened up and with my 71' random wire antenna I was getting 559+ reports from 5 European countries. Some were not even SKCC folks. That was unexpected fun! As always another great WES. Thanks to all for the contacts. 73 & HNY Ted W6TED



The Vibroplex Lightning Bug on Saturday and then the Sideswiper on Sunday - I apologize to all of those that had to suffer through the transition. The bands seemed cooperative for the most part and I had a good time. I look forward to the next edition. 73, Glen NK1N



Since 80 and 160 were bonus points, I decided to only do 80 and 160 meters this time. 160 was disappointing, but 80m was good until almost 9am each morning. It amuses me to make 80m QSOs in the day time, for some strange reason. Also, in a fit of insanity, decided to use only a straight key. My arm is sore but it was fun. 73, Mike W0VTT



Greetings all- been awhile and enjoyed 80m! 73, Pete WH6LE



I used my newly acquired Heathkit HW-16/HG-10B/J-38 rig for but a few of my contacts at 50 watts into an OCF dipole at 30'. The old gal did great considering her 50+ year age and being designed as a Novice rig back in the 1960s. I used my K3 to work a couple of 160 contacts and some K3Y stations I needed but it was mostly a trip back to the '60s with the HW-16! Thanks to all I worked - hope to see many of you in the NRR in March. 73, Bill NZ0T



Operated as K3Y/8 for a few hours on Saturday. 8 Q's on 80 & 7 on 160. The higher bands were not that good this weekend but did wrk KL7 on 15 & 20 on Sunday. I have been using my long neglected but newly cleaned up Lightning Bug from 1940 for all K3Y/8 ops as well as the WES....going through and cleaning/tweaking my key collection is a goal for this winter. Rig: K3 Line....Ant: 160 meter full wave horizontal loop @ 50' and new Optibeam 3-10w @ 50' for 20, 15, and 17. The NA or whatever "contest" took some of the fun out of our nice low key operating event...my opinion of course. 73 & HNY de West Virginia Dave W3NP

WES January 2021 V



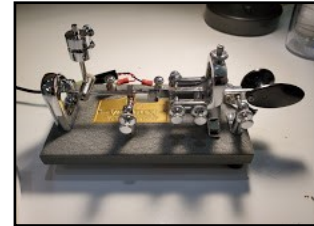
Limited time operating this weekend but always fun. Heading to Florida for the winter in a few days so I will have some kind of a station set up there but nothing like home due to antenna restrictions in the winter condo. 73, Greg WA3GM DAH KS3KCC



This weekend's station consisted of my Flex 3000, dipole at 30 ft and 1940 Vibroplex Champion bug. 73, Kerry WD5ABC



Only worked Sunday as I entered the NA QSO Party CW Saturday evening. The photo was my setup for the NAQSOCW Party, the SKCC WES and the K1USN.SST contest. What a weekend for CW. 73, Tom WA8ZNC



Great sprint! 20 and 40 were wide open Sunday afternoon. Lots of European stations, thanks. Hope I didn't hurt anyone's ears. My bug still has training wheels! 73, Lane WK4WC



Activity from the island of Ameland, IOTA EU-038 with a Kenwood TS-520 and 80m dipole. 73, Joe PG4I

ARRL on the Purpose of Amateur Radio

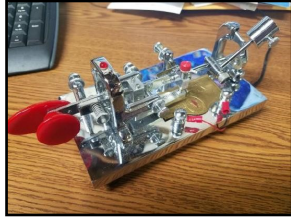
For over 100 years amateur radio and ARRL — the National Association for Amateur Radio® — have stood for the development of the science and art of communications, public service, and the enhancement of international goodwill. Amateur Radio's long history and service to the public has solidified the well-earned reputation that "Amateur Radio saves lives."

Amateur Radio Operators, due to their history of public service, their training, and the requirement that they be licensed by the FCC have earned their status as a component of critical communications infrastructure and as a reliable resource "when all else fails."

Amateur Radio is about development of communications and responsible public service. Its misuse is inconsistent with its history of service and its statutory charter. ARRL does not support its misuse for purposes inconsistent with these values and purposes.



December Brag 2020



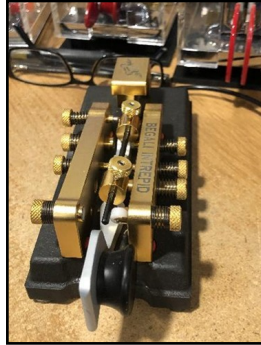
Good time again. Worked lots of new stations again this month. In total worked 117 qso's between non skcc members and multiple band contacts. Great to hear all the activity and thanks to all for your contacts. 73, Bud AA8CL



Pretty good Dec for me. Tnx for all the QSO's and hope all have a great NY. CU in 2021. 73, Allen KA5TJS



I started using the bug this month. Thanks to all those who put up with my learning curve (which is continuing, BTW) - Also, thanks to all the QRP stations for helping me cross the finish line for the 2xQRP. 73, Glen NK1N



It was a busy month, so I didn't make many SK contacts. I did get two marathons this month. All of the contacts this month are with a Begali Intrepid. 73, Billy AA8KY



Thank you all for your brag QSO I really appreciate it 73, Dave KB1WOD



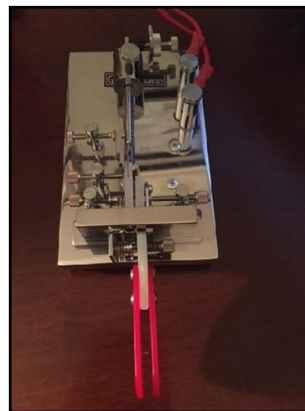
Have a Peaceful, Prosperous New Year everybody. Thanks Donna, WB9TFF for the Bonus. 73, Rick N8XI SKCC, The KEY to Amateur Radio



Another great month, but to be honest I will be happy to see this year of 2020 disappear into the history books. Here's wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Still fun even when I don't make a lot of contacts. 73, Tom KB3CVO



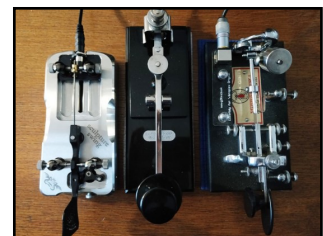
Enjoyed making brag contacts this month. Band conditions were fairly good at times but poor at the end of December. Mostly used a VIZ vertical bug but also the straight key and cootie. The XYL gave me a GHD bug for Christmas and it was on the air for some contacts late in the month. Happy New Year to all and 73, Dick N5KIP.



Thanks for the QSOs this month. Merry Christmas to all and I'll see you again in the New Year. Stay safe and well. 73, Bob K3ZGA IC-7300 into a 40m vertical Delta Loop.



Many thanks for all the new brags out there. Sorry I wasn't able to find WB9TFF last month. Catch you all in the K3Y next month. Happy New Year! 73, Jack KK0I



Logged the bonus station for the very first time, thanks Donna for calling me! 73, Jo PG4I



Brag December 2020 II



December was a busy but fun month for me. I spent a lot of air time chasing QSOs for my first "S" and I made it. In November I decided to start work on my Triple Key award (TKA) and that's when I began using my Vibroplex bug (right side of photo) and by mid-December I made more than 100 bug QSOs so it was time to start using my sideswiper (cootie) key. My cootie key is a Vibrokeyer (middle of photo) which is a single lever paddle wired as a cootie key. I enjoy using the Vibrokeyer because it is very similar to my bug. In fact it is almost too similar because sometimes when using the bug I will grab for the nearest key which is the cootie in the middle. This makes for some interesting CW code, hi, hi! All the keys are wired in parallel using old phono-plug audio cables plugged into a junction strip at the back of my Japanese J-38 key (left side of photo). I home-brewed the cables to look like old cotton covered cables by slipping the cables inside some long shoelaces. A fun filled month of operating! 73, Richard VA3RSA



Pretty good month; band condx all over the place but decent WES, some non-member QSOs, a Marathon, lots of thunderstorms - took down my vertical for a few days but no real damage. I never could connect with Donna, WB9TFF; she tried but the bands didn't cooperate. I got a good start on my TKA cootie-tnx to all who listened to my cootie fist. I think it's getting better. 73, Les WB5JWI



Ready for SKM! 73, Hanz YL3JD



Head copy vs paper copy

FCC ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

WARNING: AMATEUR AND PERSONAL RADIO SERVICES LICENSEES AND OPERATORS MAY NOT USE RADIO EQUIPMENT TO COMMIT OR FACILITATE CRIMINAL ACTS

The Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission issues this Enforcement Advisory to remind licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as licensees and operators in the Personal Radio Services, that the Commission prohibits the use of radios in those services to commit or facilitate criminal acts.

The Bureau has become aware of discussions on social media platforms suggesting that certain radio services regulated by the Commission may be an alternative to social media platforms for groups to communicate and coordinate future activities. The Bureau recognizes that these services can be used for a wide range of permitted purposes, including speech that is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Amateur and Personal Radio Services, however, may not be used to commit or facilitate crimes.

Specifically, the Bureau reminds amateur licensees that they are prohibited from transmitting "communications intended to facilitate a criminal act" or "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning." 47 CFR § 97.113(a)(4).

Likewise, individuals operating radios in the Personal Radio Services, a category that includes Citizens Band radios, Family Radio Service walkie-talkies, and General Mobile Radio Service, are prohibited from using those radios "in connection with any activity which is against Federal, State or local law." 47 CFR § 95.333(a).

Individuals using radios in the Amateur or Personal Radio Services in this manner may be subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and, in some cases, criminal prosecution. 47 U.S.C. §§ 401, 501, 503, 510.

Attention European Operators...and Others

Ed....Gleaned from CW Ops newsletter "Solid Copy" and with permission to reprint from authors, Tim Gennett K9WX, Stew Rolfe GW0ETF and Jerry Weisskohl; K1USN will now run a SST (Slow Speed Test) timed for Europeans.

Plans are underway to roll out a second weekly K1USN SST which will benefit Europe. These will run each Friday at 2000 UTC beginning on the 5th February and will follow the same rules as the existing Monday events. CWops would like to thank K1USN, the N1MM team and Bruce WA7BNM.

Chuck, WS1L: We've made it through our first real snow-storm (12-18 inches) with all antennas intact. Guess they need to be higher! I've been putting the club call K1USN on the air Sunday nights in the SST, running about 13 wpm on 40 meters. I recognize many of the stations calling from the CWT's, so many thanks for slowing down! This Slow Speed contest is all about attracting the newcomer to CW and exposing them to some regular contesting practice.

Finally, I've started volunteering in the Radio Gang on the museum ship USS Slater in Albany, NY. They haven't had any regular operations for at least a year. Equipment is an Elecraft K2/100 and the original ships wire antennas for now, but there is an operable RCA TBL-8 400W CW transmitter I hope to learn to use in time for Museum Ship Weekend in June. Anyone else doing anything?



Excellent Excel Data Base Available...Free!

Here is an excellent data base available and updated on a regular bases which list members fro CW Ops who are also SKCC members. Barry K2MF (both a member of SKCC and CW Ops) updates the data base every 25 additions. One view of the data base also lists SK members who are in both clubs.

Here is Barry's history of how the data base was developed:

"I am a bit of an amateur Excel programmer and very much enjoy using { array } formulas to build sub lists from master lists. I am a firm believer that it is most efficient to keep only one set of data, and then if you need sub lists of that data in other formats or for other reasons, use { array } formulas with the criteria necessary to build them. They are very powerful functions and fascinating to use.

I happen to also be a member of the SKCC as well and realized early on that there was a considerable membership crossover between CW Ops and SKCC. So I set about to identify all those who had membership IDs in both organizations and create a list for it. I started it more as a programming exercise than anything else.de Barry K2MF"

This is the link to the date base:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/j7myn8gqf2uor76/AACmDo66P1-IbHrG32iep1U2a?dl=0>

It is well worth the look!

January SKS 2021



What a good night. I won't win the category but I actually got to work the famous AC2C-Ron and the ever present K3WW-Chas & W5ZR-Bert, who both always answer my QRP signal with their big signals into OHIO. And can't forget Cross Town DX for AF8A-Gary, very literally. Maybe 3 miles apart? 20 over s9 Gary. Like you right next door. Well, you almost are. Started on 40m the switched to 80m an hour in. Didn't do as well there as I expected. Did I mention I had a good time? Thanks for all who gave me great reports and answered my 5w call. 73 and back to the regularly scheduled program. Bud AA8CL



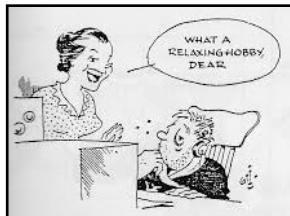
Spent most of my time on 80 meters tonight. Fun night! Thanks to all! 73, Rich W4RQ



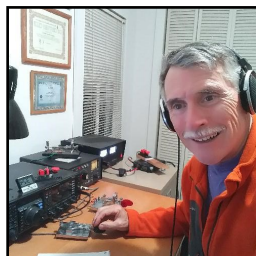
got a late start - 0000 UTC in the winter is too early (7pm EST) - I'm still eating dinner! At least I got on the air even if it was just for an hour. Thanks for the contacts, everyone! 73, RJ WF4W



Had a wonderful time as the BONUS station. Ran CQ for a while on 20,40, 80 and then did S&P. Some did not know what the Bonus station was. Bands were very good here with some static crashes. A very good Sprint. 73, John Paul AB4PP



It's always great fun to run as Multi-multi. Randy N8KQ, is great on 80m. Bands were good, 40m great for first 30minutes then deep QSB. TKS to Rich W4RQ for managing a great event. 73, Ted K8AQM



Noisy bands made the going tough sometimes. Worked KP3W on 80 and 40M. Got to chase John-Paul AB4PP, for a change; he often chases me on SOTA. Also glad to work some other low numbers on tonight. Always fun to work the Bencher straight key for SKCC events. 73, Mike, WB2FUV



Just 10 for me, 5 on 40m, and 5 on 80m, but I did find the bonus station. Ran my old IC-7000 at 75w, vertical antenna. Lionel J-38 key. Everyone stay safe and lets hope for a better year in 2021. 73, Curt K2CWM



This was my first SKS. I had a blast. I've been an SKCC member for some time, just never did anything. I'm in CW Academy working on my CW and greatly appreciate the patient operators tonight. I'll definitely do this again and keep trying to improve my CW. My rig is a Yaesu FT891, Ant is DBL Bazooka. J38 key. 73, Doug KB8M



I think this is the first time I've worked SKS. Although I only worked one station it was a new adventure. HI HI My Inverted Vee was snow bound. 73, Jim W1RO



As always, this was a delightful diversion, particularly as I'm recuperating from a broken ankle, and confined to a couch. My in-home portable station is a SW-3B, an Elecraft T1 tuner, a 20m EDZ up 50', and a VizKey cootie. 73, Lloyd K3ESE



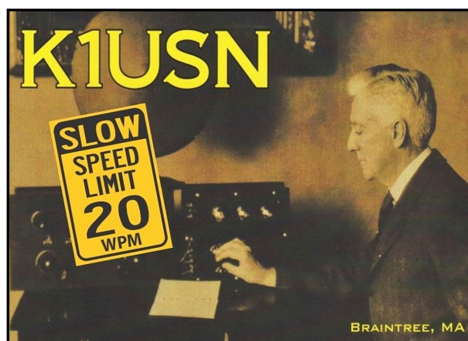
Was rolling right along then at 8PM est the bands went flat in NE IN. Fun was had. 73, Nee NE9EE



Dinner interrupted SKS here so didn't get the full 2 hours in. Used my QRP Labs QCX+ 40M rig and J-38 so was on 40 meters the whole time doing S&P. Band wasn't great here but managed a few contacts and even worked AB4PP! Not bad for 4 watts and a fairly low OCF dipole.

Thanks to all who dug my tiny signal out of the noise! 73, Bill NZ0T

Do You Know About K1USN SST?



K1USN SST

Weekly CW **Slow Speed** [Con]T**est**

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Several members of the K1USN Radio Club, who are also members of the [CW Operators' Club \(CWops\)](#), have started a one-hour *slow speed* CW “contest,” the SST.

For those who prefer a more leisurely CW pace or are new CW operators or testers, this just might be what you're looking for!

00:00-01:00 UTC Mondays
which is: 19:00-20:00 EST Sun-
days
(this is 7-8pm Eastern Standard
Time)

Here is a club of CW enthusiasts who have developed a one hour event (they call it a “Slow Speed (con) Test” or SST for short. The purpose of the event is stated as:

“K1USN's Slow Speed Test is designed to encourage and assist those who signed up for the CWops CW Academy to learn CW or to improve their CW skills but are not yet copying 25 WPM. The activity has an upper limit of 20wpm but we encourage participants to use any slower speed they are comfortable with.

We welcome everybody to join in the SSTs including new ops making their first attempt at completing a CW QSO. In addition to SST's 20 WPM upper speed limit, we ask all to be patient, supportive, and willing to slow down as necessary to match the other op's speed. The objective is a no pressure event that provides “on the air” CW practice. Using paddle keyers, bugs, side swipers and straight keys is fine.”

Although 20 wpm maximum might be high to many SKCC members, they do encourage ops to slow down. For many SKCC members who are fast becoming more and more comfortable at the 15-20 wpm ability, this seems like a very good place to practice and improve. The use of straight keys and cooties is certainly allowed.

Complete rules for those who wish to submit an entry are maybe a bit complicated, but who says you have to submit an entry? The rules may be found at:

<http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>

BANDS

160, 80, 40 and 20M.

Recommended frequencies 1.812 – 1.828, 3.528 - 3.545, 7.028 - 7.045, 14.028 - 14.045

CLASSES

Academy Single Op and Single Op (QRP / Low / High) QRP: 5 watts, LP: 100 watts, HP: > 100 watts

EXCHANGE Work each station once per band

Call CQ SST or simply answer stations calling CQ SST. The exchange is your NAME and STATE for USA stations, NAME and PROVINCE for Canadian Stations and NAME and COUNTRY for DX Stations. Using abbreviations for States, Provinces and Countries is acceptable.

The OST Morse Box DG

In the September 2020 Rag Chew, see page 45, I reported about a nice club project we made during the first Covid lockdown: **The OST Morse Box**.

Since the Covid crisis is not over yet ... we had more time to spend, thinking about what else we could come up with. So I sent some ideas to my good friend Gilbert, ONL12523, and he started programming and designing again. The result is an expanded OST Morse Box, we call it the **DG** version.

So what's new in 2021?

We now have an **extension** of the original OST Morse Box with a **CW Decoder** and an **AF Generator**, but it is fully compatible with the existing hardware, no need to build a new Morse Box. Of course, if you haven't done already, you will need to build the basic OST Morse Box first, see <https://github.com/on7dq/OST-Morse-Box> (if you're in the UK, my SO-TA friend **Vic G14ONL** probably still has a few PCB's for the basic project, contact him at his QRZ address for more details and availability). Send me (ON7DQ) a mail if you need more info on how to order PCB's locally or in China.

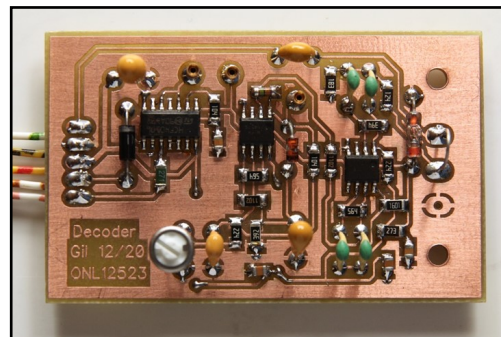
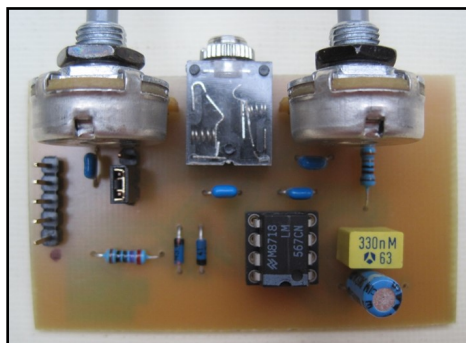
Decoder

Some people are against any form of decoder, and will tell you the only way to do CW is to decode it with your brain. Good for them, but some of us don't have such a brain (hi) or it isn't working any more like it used to do ... and in any case, the decoder can be switched ON or OFF, whatever you prefer. The decoder can be used for received signals, but also to check your own sending, it decodes both ways (lower case for sending, upper case for receiving, or with colors in the Windows program). The extension is mainly done in software, so all you need to do is to put the new firmware in the Arduino.

Only to decode the received signals, you will need to add a small piece of hardware, which connects to the Arduino pin D2. And as if we had foreseen this extension (honestly, we didn't!), there is the "Paddle Test" jumper, where you can easily make this connection on the existing PCB.

The hardware decoder even exists in two versions:

1. One is based on a simple circuit with an LM567 Tone Decoder, and can be built with through-hole components. If you can't make a PCB, you can even build it on a piece of perfboard (easy).
2. This decoder has to be tuned to the correct CW pitch, it is very narrow banded. The second one is based on a bandpass filter and level detector, and is only available in an SMD version (something for advanced builders). This decoder is best suited for VHF/UHF, where you normally only receive one tone, and this decoder does not have to be tuned, it decodes any tone between 450 and 1000 Hz. The circuit file is available (using the PCB program DipTrace) if you like to make your own PCB for through hole components.



Generator

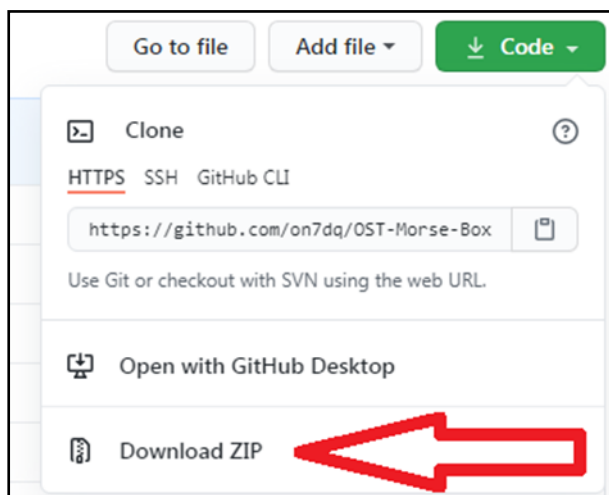
For alignment purposes, the OST Morse Box now also contains an **AF Generator**, which can provide a test signal for general use (sine wave only, range 50 Hz – 2000 Hz). It can be set to the exact frequency per Hz by AT-commands, or it can be set with the WPM potentiometer in a bit more coarse steps, and limited range 450-1450 Hz.

Software

Besides the new Arduino code, also the **Windows program** has been updated with the necessary extra functions, and some other improvements. There is now also a quick and easy way to program the firmware into the Arduino Nano, using the program XLOADER.

Support

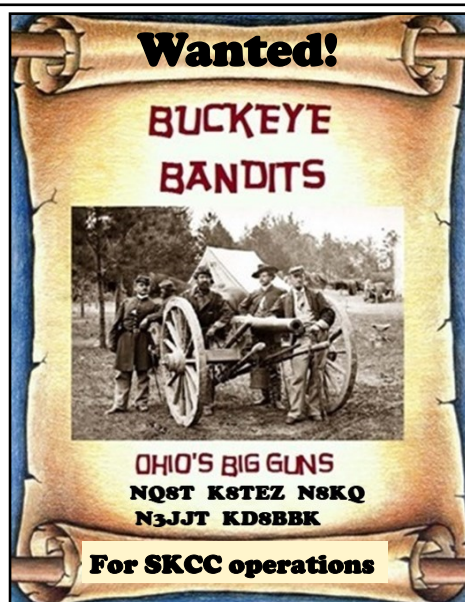
An 18 page English manual describing the new functions is available. All files for this new version are here: <https://github.com/on7dq/OST-Morse-Box-DG>
You can download all files in one go by using the green “Code” button, then selecting the “Download ZIP” option.



We hope you find these extensions useful and fun!

73 de Luc - ON7DQ/KF0CR

(e-mail address is on QRZ.com)



Wanted... by everyone!

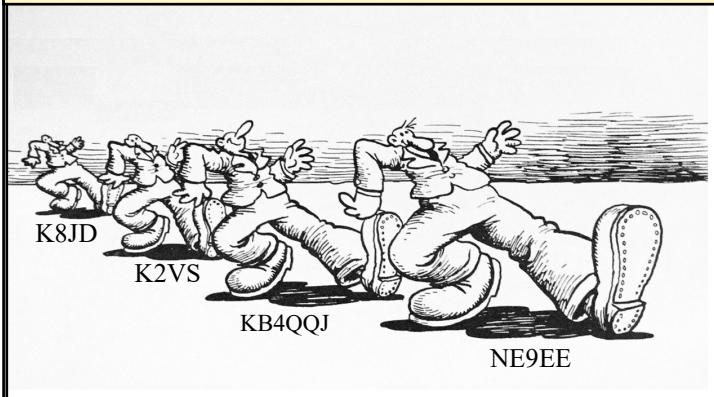
This group of “Buckeye Bandits” are some of Ohio’s “big gun” operators and are found throughout the amateur bands robbing SKCC operators of their need for “Ohio” in search of SKCC awards! They operate all hours of the day and night and are found in just about every SKCC member logs!

Beware...these operators will work you at whatever speed you wish and are extremely courteous! Should you run across the “Buckeye Bandits” on the bands be sure to post their frequency on the SKCC Sked page so others may become aware of their presence and may quickly QSY!

***This message is provided by
the editor for your quest of QSOs!***

Slow Speed Saunter February, 2021

Slow Speed Saunter



Fighting "burn out" from K3Y operations, 24 ops submitted scores for this month's Slow Speed Saunter.

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
KL5AF	Meghan	23581	AK	1
WL7WH	Bob	2940S	AK	2
KN4UCN	BOB	21227T	AL	5
WJJC	Steve	22847	CO	1
N8KR	Ken	7559S	FL	6
W4RQ	Rich	8699S	FL	1
N4API	Brian	11673	GA	5
N9KJU	Ken	19964T	IL	4
KD9GDY	Jim	18156S	IN	4
NE9EE	NEE	22000S	IN	30
W9GOO	John	21474T	IN	4
WA9BBN	Ed	17763S	IN	3
WN4KPG	Rick	4093C	KS	1
KBJD	John	1395T	MI	11
KB4QQJ	Randy	3508S	NC	13
W1DV	Dave	1433S	NC	11
AC1GF	Bob	19399S	NH	8
K2VS	Carol	1051T	NH	12
W2NR	Randy	1050S	NH	5
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	12
AA8CL	Carmen "Bud"	2339S	OH	1
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	6
NC8T	Steve	5919S	OH	1
WA8ZNC	Tom	22868T	WA	3



Ran 50 watts from my old IC-7000 into a vertical, using a Lionel J-38 straight key. Always a fun event. 73, Curt K2CWM



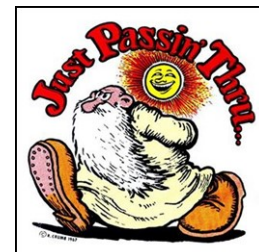
Very short time to play but got to meet several new members. Really nice to see some of the LICW members participating. Rig was an MTR4b-V2 into a doublet at 33 feet. See ya next month! 73, Randy KB4QQJ



The noise level was a bear. I spend at least two hours calling CQ and have 4 QSOs to show for it. I've been off the air recently and it was nice to get back on there. 73, Ken N9KJU



Another fun activity, lot of new numbers. 73, Nee NE9EE



This Just in From ARRL

The FCC has adopted a decision in the matter of Amateur Radio licensing fees — in a remarkably short time in comparison to other FCC NPRM proceedings. **The FCC, based on input from the ARRL and its Members, agreed to lower the "Personal License Application Fee" that applies to Amateur Radio licensees from \$50 to \$35.** Unfortunately, it did not accept the ARRL and its Members' argument that due to the services provided by Amateur Radio that the fee should be \$0.00.

How I Got My SKCC 1000 Miles per Watt Award

Not that I think that “Life’s too short for QRP”, but more often than not, I’m lucky to make any QSO at all with my 100W and a wire. With QRP I can work all over Europe, but getting over the big pond is something different.

Now I am also an avid homebrewer, and so couldn’t resist ordering one of the first thousand kits for the new QRP Labs QCX Mini transceiver . I have already TWO classic QCX rigs, one for 40m and one for 20m, so for the Mini I ordered the 17m version.

My package arrived in time for Christmas, and I built it in three days, slowly and carefully following the sublime instruction manual. You can read more details on my blog, see many pictures, and learn some tips and tricks that I used.

<https://on7dq.blogspot.com/2020/12/some-notes-on-qcx-mini.html>



After I saw that everything worked as expected, I measured the output power: 4.5 Watt at 12 V DC. Not bad, but I hadn’t done any tuning on the Low Pass filter or the Class-E inductor yet *.

Now I had used my other QCX rigs on the “one lower” band before, so I also tried that with this Mini.

Without any change in the circuit, I still had 3.5 Watt out on 20m, and the receive sensitivity had dropped some 6 dB , so just one S-point. Note that the harmonic suppression will probably not comply to the FCC rules, but I have a few solutions

for that on my blog as well, see:

<https://on7dq.blogspot.com/2021/01/even-more-fun-with-qcx-mini.html>

And now for the real test !

I made a few QSO’s with European stations on Dec 21 and Dec 23, with good reports. But then came Christmas Eve, Dec 24th ... I put my rig on 17m, posted my frequency on the sked page, and started calling CQ SKCC ...

To my big surprise I got called by **Dave W3NP**. He was 579 with me, and he gave me a 349, and we exchanged the info for a valid SKCC contact.

Using the **N9SSA Distance and Miles Per Watt Calculator** (<http://www.hoffswell.com/n9ssa/mpwcalc.html>), the distance from my station (JO11kf) to Daves’ (FM09om) is 3838 miles, so with 4.5 W not good enough for the 1000 MPW Award (only 852 MPW).

I still was very happy with the QSO of course, but after I couldn’t work anything more on 17m I switched back to 20m, and started calling, now using a monoband groundplane, this one gives some extra harmonic suppression (high impedance at 28 MHz), and also radiates better for DX than my 100 ft random wire.

Can you guess I was surprised to be called by no one else than ... **Dave W3NP** again ! And this time I even got a 449 report, with only 3.5 Watt, WOW!

This time the QSO was at **1095 miles per Watt**, so this is how I got my 1000 MPW Award ... what better XMAS present can one desire ?

73, de Luc ON7DQ

* PS : later I tuned the toroids in the rig and finally got 5.6 W on 17m, and 4.0 W on 20m, which would not have resulted in the award ... lucky that I made those QSO’s first, hi.

SKSE February 2021

As more and more DX stations join SKCC there are more and more stations joining in the SKSE. There are 11 countries represented in the February SKSE (2 more mentioned by others), maybe you should work on the various SKCC DX Awards by joining in the operating fun?

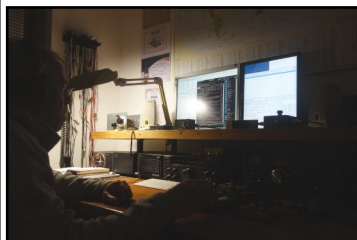
There has been much discussion led by Jo PG4I on the reflector about 7.038 MHz +/- as a very good frequency for EU operators to meet and for others to find EU stations in the SKSE. This frequency avoids SSB above 7.050 MHz and net traffic in the CW portion of the EU 40m band. See Jo's com-

Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	AA2MX	BILL	5071	NC	21	13	6/6/1	428
2	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	18	12	3/7/0	331
3	W6WU	Steve	20314T	MD	15	13	5/3/2	310
4	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	16	10	3/4/0	245
5	OS0S	Leon	10688S	BEL	10	10	2/7/0	200
6	VE3SIF	Ron	20819T	ON	8	7	5/2/0	151
7	HB9CPS	Geo	20350	SUI	11	9	0/5/0	149
8	PG4I	Jo	11019T	NED	11	6	3/2/0	131
9	K1NV	JON	2609-S	NV	7	6	2/3/1	107
10	YU7AE	Kare	5790T	SER	8	5	2/3/0	100
11	F5UQE	Duc	13468S	FRA	5	5	2/2/0	75
12	YL3JD	Hanz	21931T	LAT	4	4	3/1/0	71
12	K1LEE	Lee	7246T	CT	4	4	3/1/0	71
14	DD2AW	Kami	21630	GER	6	6	0/3/0	66
15	GM3ZDH	BOB	6027T	SCO	6	6	1/1/0	61
16	IW1BCO	Marco	8669	ITA	4	4	1/2/0	51
17	G0DJF	Paul	20600T	ENG	4	4	1/1/0	41
18	KA9GKE	Rose	17764T	IN	2	2	2/0/0	34
18	KF6C	Brian	3398S	NY	2	2	2/0/0	34
20	G0RDO	John	2133S	ENG	2	1	1/0/0	17



As usual, it was nice to meet SKCC friends during this little monthly event. Nothing done on 20 m. 11 contacts on 40 m, 7 contacts on 80 m. Many thanks to EA7EGU, F8DTU, YU7AE/qrp (2 bands), PG4I (2 bands), F5UQE, YL3JD, DD4WK (NM), SP9TTT, G0RDO (2 bands), ON7DQ, GM3ZDH, G4LNA, IW1BCO/qrp, KA9ERV (the only contacts outside Europe) and G0DJF. All the best everybody, 73, see you soon and take care! The photo shows me using a big key at the F6KKE radioclub in 1995! 73, Bernard F5DE



7.038 and around worked quite well for EU contacts. Thanks for QSOs! 73, Jo PG4I



F5DE Bernard saved my bacon this SKSE with QSO's on 40m and 80m for my total of 2 QSO's HI. TS-440s, 100watts to a small 20ft vertical and a Marconi PS No213A pump key. 73, John G0RDO



Only worked Leon OS0S and Duc F5UQE on 40, no EU heard on 20 to early for 80. Bands did not seem to good. Using Racal RA17 RX with start of new HB SDR based on PiHPSDR and Hermes as panadaptor connected to 100kHz IF out. TX Kenwood T-599.3. Brian KF6C



Al QSOs on 80m tonight. Did hear W0VTT on 20M with a reasonable signal but think I was too slow to get rig going to call him. Don't like doing 40M at the moment because it sets my neighbour's touch lights dancing! Rig IC-7300 to 80m half wave end fed sloping from about 20m. Picture is my 70th birthday cake from yesterday - but that radio is too good to eat!! Lockdown birthday yesterday, Covid vaccine jag today, SKSE tonight!! 73, Bob GM3ZDH

ments be-low.

It was great fun hopefully a bit better conditions next time. Thanks you ops for the qso's. 73, Hanz YL3JD



A Man and His Station! N5NSN

They say things in Texas are big...well that is certainly true for Jimmie N5NSN. Maybe you had better sit down before viewing this station!



Jimmie N5NSN SKCC 10741T at his station.



The N5NSN "shack!"



Jimmie's bug collection.



Jimmie's "all" band vertical antenna and awesome "antenna tuner."



So, is this a typical Texas big station? Have you recovered yet? Whew!



Remote switching for "each" band and the a "bypass because the tower is resonant on 75/80m

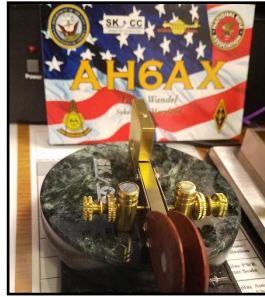
January Brag 2021



What a great time. I didn't work as many as I had hoped, but everyone was special. THANK YOU for allowing me to be the Brag Bonus Station. Could not run the full 100 watts this month. We bought a new S...g stove/oven and I am now dealing with interfering with it, turning it on/off and changing settings. So kept reducing power to make it work. But...what worked yesterday doesn't mean it will work today. Always a Story to Tell. So, I had 251 qualifying Brag QSOs. I don't get 25 points for being the Brag Bonus station. 325 total contacts for the month, 21 of them did not have Skcc numbers, 304 were Skcc members but...53 were members I worked multiple bands or just multiple times, Puerto Rico, 6 countries, Belgium, Canada (4 Provinces), England, France, Italy & Netherlands, 45 states, top seven states in contacts made: 23 from NC & PA, 20 from OH, 16 from FL, IN & MD, 15 from TX Thanks again for all the contacts. 73, Bud AA8CL



What a great month! Love all the January Activity. HNY all. 73, Bob K3ZGA



Wow! K3Y was great... thanks to all who helped make it a success. 73, Larry AH6AX



The K3Y 15th Anniversary event from No. West Mo. was awesome. It was great to work old friends and meet the new operators handling all the pile-ups that makes the event fun. Two Ice storms in the area kept us busy with antenna problems. My sincere Thanks to all "K3Y" operators for a job well done. To the SKCC staff behind the scene. Thank you 73, Rick K0KEX



Wow, Jan. is always a great month for brags! Had luck on 17 and 15 some this month with the K3Y event as well. Got JAP, GER, FRA, ITA, AUS, NED and of course Canada. Thanks to all who pulled my 70 watts out of the noise and CU next month guys. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Hello everyone. Thanks for the QSOs during this busy month. K3Y is a very great event. Thanks also to Carmen AA8CL for the Brag bonus. 73 everybody and see you next month. Stay safe. 73, Bert F6H-KA



Beautiful days and lots of fun during the month of the K3Y event that I managed to dedicate at the beginning of the new year. I also had the thrill of participating as K3Y-Eu. Thank you all ! 73, Graziano IK2CFD

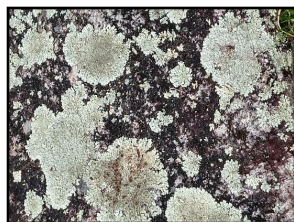


What a fun month! Probably my busiest SKCC month I've had. I also did several shifts as K3Y/2. Used my TS-590SG at 75 watts into a vertical the entire month in the Brag. Kent Straight Key. Look forward to next year. Stay safe all! 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Awesome month! It has been awhile since I had so many Brags. This had a lot to do with the K3Y event this last month. I worked over 100 K3Y ops which accounts for most of my brags. Also, thanks to Carmen AA8CL for being the bonus brag! 73 and CU next month!! 73, Dave KB1WOD

January Brag 2021 II



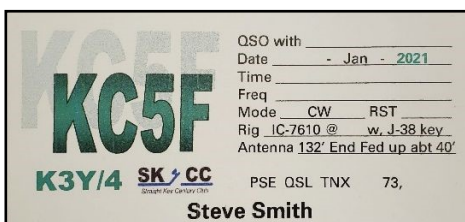
all in good fun 73, Tom KB3CVO



I would like to express my appreciation for all the K3Y operators. This has been my first time participating in this event since joining last summer. What an enjoyable time I had working all the stations. I was able to move up from C to Tx1, Tx2 all in the month of January. I am really enjoying this group, fine bunch of operators. I want to tip my hat to all, especially the K3Y op's for all their time and patience, dealing with QRM, poor band conditions and pile-ups. I am looking forward to the next January as I move up the long but fun road to Senator. 73, Bill N6YMZ



It's been a great month. Thanks everyone for the QSOs! 73, Jo PG4I



Second year as K3Y/4, and this year I wasn't out of town for three weeks of the month. I missed K3Y/AF for the Area Sweep, but did much better than last year, and had a ball handing out the not-so-rare K3Y/4! QSL cards in multiple colors have been sent for all using the SKCC Bureau. For anyone else who wants one, I return-QSL 100%. Thanks, all! 73, Steve, KC5F



Really enjoyed the SKM as K3Y/8 again this year. It was a blast hunting for all the SPC's. Missed OC & AS last year but picked up all 6 Continents this time. Thanks to all that participated. 73, Rick N8XI



Some amazing scores this month! K3Y was a lot of fun. Pretty much the ideal activity for retired folks. Have to improve the antenna situation here at home in MA, though. My thanks for the patience of many of you under marginal band conditions. 73, John W1TAG



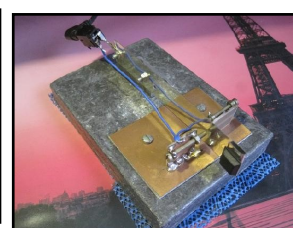
I know 3 does not seem like much, but these were my first QSOs since mid-Sept. Stress at work made the idea of working to copy code a challenge. Very glad to be back. 73, Ken N9KJU



Great to participate as a SKM station, looking forward to next year. Thank you all for the qso's. VY 73, Hanz YL3JD



What a fantastic month! The K3Y 15th anniversary helped just a little bit. Great seeing new numbers in the log, both new and "new" older members coming out of the woodwork. Used the 90-degree horizontal Vizbug for a majority of the chats along with the Begali HST "Cootie" mode and Nye Speedx straight key. it was a very rewarding month and a great way to start out the new year. Happy New Year everyone! 73, Jack KK0I



All QSO's were made with a Cootie key, but halfway the month, in the middle of a QSO, my One Piece Plastic Cootie broke, hmmm not so sturdy after all, hi. I had to rebuild an older Cootie key, and this time I made it with a much thinner lever, so it keys very smoothly. 73, Luc



A really good month. Bands were at worse tolerable and occasionally really good. I managed the sweep of K3Y as well. A really good time on the air. 73, Les WB5JWI

Brag Feburary 2021 III



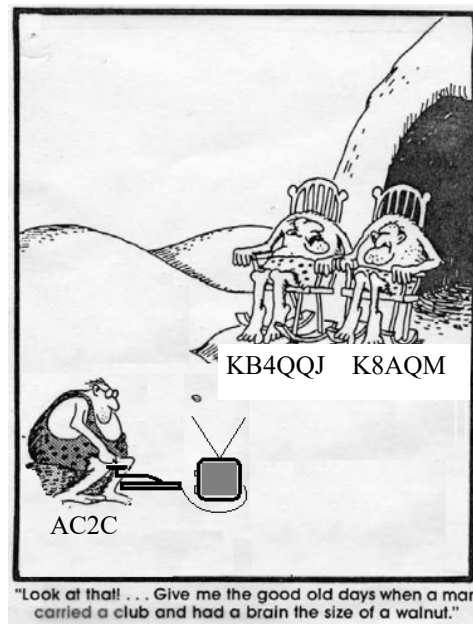
A very fun month for me. I have been a K3Y/8 op for quite a few years now. I also enjoy chasing the other ops, looking for new states, the sweeps, new bands, all of it. Conditions started out fairly good but seemed to go down hill as the month progressed. I used my recently cleaned Vibroplex Lightning Bug from 1942 for almost all of my contacts but the Junker SK got a big workout as well for the slower ops. I had over 500 QSO's as K3Y/8 (the only WV station) as well as many more looking to fill in the empty slots in my log. This was the first real workout for my new Optibeam 10-3W yagi antenna with a new Spid rotator/Green Heron controller. My lower band 160 meter loop stayed up throughout the month with all of the very windy condx we had. The snow-storm on the last day of the event was a nice final touch...watching the snow come down, drinking hot coffee and taking requests for some hard to fill slots on 10 and 12 meters, etc. As a side-note: The month gave birth to 13 new Triple Key Award recipients. 73, Dave W3NP West Virginia



Great month for me and a ton of fun. Managed to finish my C, then T, then TX2. I was hesitant to run a K3Y station, but Brian K7TKT gently encouraged me and I operated K3Y/7 seven times. My condx here are never great, but I thoroughly enjoyed digging folks out. My only regret is I couldn't get them all. Thanks to all who did QSO with me and everyone for their patience. Can't wait to do it again next year! 73, Tom W4FLL



K3Y was a great time both operating as K3Y/6 and chasing K3Y stations. Lots of new bands for many stations. Can't wait for next year! Thanks to everyone and, once again, HNY & 73, Ted W6TED



April WES...WARNING!

Beware! The April WES will have KS1KCC activated with a "LARGE" group operating as a socially distant multi-multi. The goal of the group will be to completely work every station in the event on every band! Anyone who wants to work KS1KCC (the official club call) will have the opportunity. Because this is a multi-multi effort be sure to copy the state correctly as the operators will be in various QTHs.

All QSL requests can be sent either to the SKCC QSL Bureau or sent directly (with SASE) to the QRZ address...(bureau is cheaper).

"Beware....we're a comin' fer ya!"



**"We want You
in our log"**

Why the Navy Sees Morse Code as the Future of Communication:

Thanks go to Anne, WI2G, manager of the Empire Slow Speed CW Net in NY for pointing out this article. If you wonder if Morse code is dead or think computer decoding of CW is “cheating,” the Navy disagrees. This excerpt is from an article in the [ENGINEERING.com](https://www.engineering.com/.../Why-the-Navy-Sees-Morse...) archives, originally posted on July 18, 2017. The full article can be found at <https://www.engineering.com/.../Why-the-Navy-Sees-Morse...>

For centuries, mariners around the globe have used lamps and shutters to beam messages via Morse code from ship to ship. But today, Morse code isn't being learned by every sailor, even though lamp light communication is still being used. So, how we reconcile these two facts? Well, if you're the U.S. Navy you update your lamp light communication systems to encode the modern form of Morse code: texting.



In a test recently carried out aboard the USS Stout, the U.S. Navy used a new mechanism it calls the Flashing Light to Text Converter (FLTC) system. During the test, sailors aboard the Stout fired off text messages and the FLTC converted them to their Morse code lamp light signals which were interpreted by the USS Monterey, moored at a dock in Norfolk, Virginia.

Dayton Canceled

No Hamvention 2021

Unfortunately, several setbacks in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic make necessary the difficult decision to cancel Hamvention 2021. Hundreds of volunteers have been working to do everything necessary to bring this Hamvention to the many amateur radio enthusiasts and vendors who support the Dayton Hamvention.

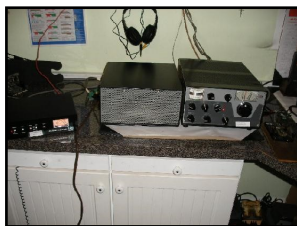
Vaccine distribution both in the United States and around the world is lagging behind what was planned. In addition, the emergence of a more communicable form of the COVID-19 virus increases the potential for further public health problems in the next few months. We make this difficult decision for the safety of our guests and vendors.

Those who had their tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces deferred last year will be deferred again. Those who purchased 2021 tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces will also be deferred. If you desire a refund instead please email tickets@hamvention.org and we will contact you.

Stay tuned for information about a QSO party for the 2021 Hamvention weekend. We are looking forward to the 2022 Hamvention!!!.....Executive Committee, Dayton Hamvention 2021



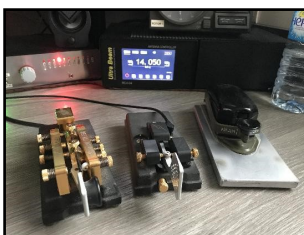
February WES 2021



Only had a couple of hours on Sat. and on Sun. but gave me a chance to bring my 1961 Drake transceiver to life. The TR-3 is the first transceiver Drake made and it used 20 tubes. Thanks to all the ops and specially the boat anchor ones who brought back memories of long ago. 73, Frank AA2XB



Boy, Sunday was really good. Thanks for the QSOs, 73, Jim AD0AB



Hi everybody and thanks for the QSOs. Conditions were not too bad with 20m band in good shape the both days. Worked lots of new members. Have a great week. 73 everyone and see you next month. 73, Bert F6HKA



Another great Wes with much activity. Thanks for all nice qos. 73, Phil F5JWH



Not a high score but good fun with a small station. Worked EA7EGU, I5ECW, K3WW, IK7EPU, KF6C, YT5RA, F6HKA, K1EEE, F6EJN, HB9CPS. All on 20m. I did try 15m a few times but with no success. TS-440s, 100w 20ft ground mounted vertical, Walters 18K morse key. 73, John GORDO



What fun. Band conditions were great here for QRP in N.E. Ohio. Worked most of the stations I tried. A couple couldn't pull me out of their pile-ups. Worked as far west at Colorado and then four qso's to France. The RTTY Contest didn't seem to slow us down this month on any of the bands. Way to go ladies & gent's. Thanks for all the contacts. 73, Bud AA8CL



Sixty QSOs on Saturday and double on Sunday until 24h00z. Exceptional reports over 40m at the end of WES. Thank you all for your contacts including many double bands and some triple bands. See you soon at WES in March. 73, Bob F6EJN



I used the TS830S Boat Anchor tcvr with 2 tubes in the PA stage. The OQ71 / 1000 Tungram is just an ornament because of the atmosphere ... 73 & DX ! Lajos HA8EN



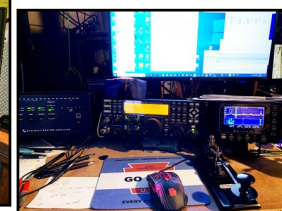
Thanks for all the good SKCC ops. Special hello to N1FG my good neighbor and friend from NH. 73, Mike K1EEE



Great time as always. Used my TS-590SG 75 watts to a vertical using my Kent Str Key. Stay well all. 73, Curt K2CWM



Condx pretty gud in nw CT, tho never made it past mid-west US. 40 meters - CW can cut thru RTTY! Good fun all round. Nice to work call signs old and new. Looking forward to the next one. Vy 73, Lee K1LEE



Lots of Boat Anchor stations on. Missed only WY for WAS this weekend. Some nice DX but missed some usually active friends. Thanks for all the QSOs, 73 Chas K3WW

February WES 2021 II



This WES was a good chance for me to dust off my FT-101ZD rig. It was a bit of a hard experience on my ears, without the CW filters! Some new members contacted including Gary, WW8H Qrp. Thanks to all, see you next time. 73, Graziano IK2CFD



Limited time, it was VALENTINE'S weekend after all, but a Great WES with good band conditions and low noise level here. 20m was SO good this weekend that, even with my HOA antenna challenges, Bert F6HKA heard me call before I sent my first dit. Amazing! So never left 20m, of course. Enjoyed the opportunity to exercise my small, vintage E.F. Johnson Speed-X bug. (Pls see pix) 73, Don K3RLL



Seemed to be a big turnout for the WES this month. Even though I did ok on 20M, I thought the signal level was down from earlier months. Perhaps due to the SFI only being 71. I spent my operating time on 80, 40 & 20M. Although 40m was tough with all of the RTTY operating going on. On Saturday I used my Collins S-Line with the 30L-1 Collins Amp. That's the setup at the bottom of the picture. 73, Steve K2FW



Worked 20 meters only due to try on 40...As usual enjoyed my time...Love using this key...DON'T know how old or where it came from... 73, Tom K7ROH



From KB3NSK, Eric



THANK YOU JEFF k9JP FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WEEKEND. LOTS OF TUBES- ONLY ONE CHIRP- CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO WARMED UP THE SHACKS AND PUT OUT GREAT SIGNALS. CONDITIONS WERE FAIR- THE WPX RTTY CONTEST WAS A COMPLETE PAIN ON FORTY MOSTLY; MOST MOVED UP TO 7110 7120. NICE SURPRISE TO GET CALLED ON SUNDAY BY OUR NEW MEMBER 3B8BAL, OJO FROM MAURITIUS ON 20. SURPRISED THAT 37% OF QSOS WERE WITH STATIONS WITHOUT C, T OR S= QUITE UNUSUAL- NORMALLY MUCH LOWER- LOTS OF NEW MEMBERS WAS GREAT TO SEE. LOTS OF QRP KEPT THESE OLD EARS WELL OILED AND THE AGC OFF TO PULL THEM OUT. THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE QSO'S - SEE YOU ALL NEXT MONTH. PICTURE SHOWS MY KEYS AT THE READY - MY TOOLS OF THE TRADE. 73, Phil K3EW



I broke my ankle on January 10, and I'll be riding my couch for two more weeks. I ran some coax over to my couch from my 20m EDZ at 50', and I used my SW-3B QRP rig and a VizKey cootie. Saturday, I was transfixed by the horrible spectacle unfolding in our Capitol, so I didn't get much operating time. Thanks for everyone's participation. 73, Lloyd K3ESE

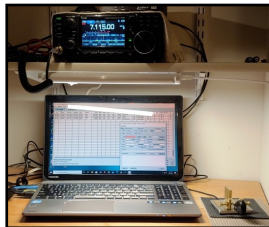


This was a great weekend for getting into the WES. It's been raining here in North Carolina practically non-stop since February 11 will continue until the 17th. I had to split my time up between the WES and building an ark! If we need to use it, I'll bring my station aboard and operate as K4ABC/MM. 73, Jim K4ABC

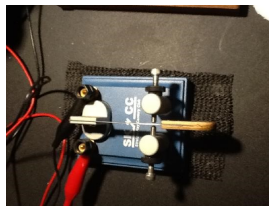
February WES 2021 III



With a few crystals and a sixty year old boat anchor, my CQs were plentiful, but my QSOs were few. The situation was exacerbated by the limited time I had available, and the frigid temperature in my basement, the location of my vintage station. Still, making contacts with my boat anchors is always a blast, and I always look forward to this WES. 73, Frank K8FAC



Thanks for all the QSOs! Spent most of the time on 40m and 80m, with a few on 20m. Thanks to all the SKCC volunteers! 73, Bob KC9UR



Thx fer all the QSO's everyone! Lots of fun. Used the SKCC Cootie fer almost all the QSO's. I only had 12 contact on a SS before this weekend. So lots of on the air training. Missed not hearing our good friend K9LI. RIP Don. 73, Jim KD9GDY



Had a bit more time to work WES this month, too cold to do too much outside. I spent all my time on 40 meters. The rig this month was almost a boat anchor, Ten Tec Triton IV. Keys were a Signal Electric straght key and a Vibroplex Original Deluxe. See you all next month. 73, Noel K8NB



Not too many boat anchors, but had fun. I got about a half dozen 15M QSO, including ARG, ESP, PR and MT. Thanks for all the QSOs. Hope to see you all next month 73, Dave KB1WOD



Ran this WES with my trusty old Heathkit HW-16 9 tube transceiver. You could add another 2 tubes for the HG-10 VFO. I gave out the number of tubes although it wasn't mentioned in the exchange. I didn't hear anyone else exchanging tube count. It was a tough event for a vintage transceiver without filters as there were RTTY guys constantly stomping on QSOs. 73, Bob KD8CGH



TU everyone! I was amazed by the number of new SKCC members, those with "C and T", the wonderful sound of some of those Tube rigs. I used a Knight T-50 which was given to me by Ted, K8AQM with both crystals and the matching Knight VFO. 73, Jeff K9JP #3008S



Lacking a VFO in the TX it was sometimes difficult to find an open frequency which coincided with available crystals. Poor selectivity and no audio filters in the RX added to the operating challenge. Was not able to work any other BA stations. Still it was a fun event and I was glad to give out bonus points for the 11 tubes in my Knight T60 and Heathkit HR-10B. 73, Roy KD1RT



First WES event! Thanks everyone- I had fun! 73, Jake KL1PU



Always love the Boatan-chor WES. Spent the holidays repairing a 70 year old 51J for the weekend, and while I enjoyed it, I'm not pining away for the good old days. My ears are still ringing from the ringing of the crystal filter. But got 21 tubes on between the receiver, the Q multiplier and the 50 year old amp. Thanks to everyone that called in. 73 Scott ka9p



Spent most of my WES operating from a hastily set up mobile operation station. Lots of ice hanging on the base antennas this time and power outage. Ran the KX4 into my Hustler mobile antenna with the Kent leg key sitting across the cup holder. Fun at its simplest. It was really great working my friend Walt LW3EX again. It has been a long time with band conditions as they've been. Worked several LICW members and it is great to see them getting on the air! I think Tony W4FOA had the strongest and most interesting signal from his 830. Solid 40 over and very tight xmit. 73 for now and see ya'll next month. 73, Randy KB4QQJ

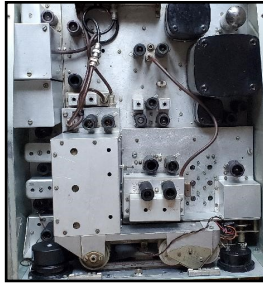
February WES 2021 IV



My favorite theme - boatan-chors! Since I run tube gear exclusively, this is my fun time. Everybody suddenly wants to work me. This time, I was using a Heathkit SB-101 (20 tubes) with SB-640 remote LMO (2 more). I worked 8 stations that also were running tubes. Pretty good participation! I have some antenna challenges at my new QTH in CO, but I finally have a decent 40m inverted-vee up in a blue spruce tree. It works well enough on 20m, too, with a tuner. It was enough to make some nice QSOs. When I lived in TN, 40m was always open to somewhere, 24x7. Not so much in CO. It goes pretty dead between late morning and early afternoon. So, I worked more 20m than I'm used to. I didn't get all that many QSOs, but I was surprised with how many SPCs I worked. I'm sure everyone noticed, lots of RTTY/digi stuff where we like to operate. I hate it, but don't really know what to do about it other than try to convert digi operators to CW. I was especially pleased to work my friend Bert F6HKA from my new QTH. That's a long haul of over 5,000 miles. Bert has got to have the best receiver and ears on the planet. If you can hear him, he can hear you. 73, Steve KE4OH



Ice 2, Wire antennas 0
There's no time like spring.
There's no time like spring.
There's no time like spring.
73, Bugs KS4KCC



Running T-599 barefoot bands seemed dead at the time. I added a few solid-state devices in the KPA1500 and immediately raised John G0RD0, now I was QRO+. A real hybrid assembly RA17 tube (English so Valve) receiver, T-599 solid state TX with tube driver and PA. The KPA 1500 was remote controlled via Team Viewer in another room. Had to turn the T-599 down to 15 Watts which for some reason caused a spike in the SWR between it and the KPA 1500 on initial key down. All survived OK but the KPA1500 occasionally shut down with no warnings indicated, a little unnerving. 20 meters seemed a little hard but did work some DX. Avoided the bottom of 40, most of time RTTY seemed impenetrable. Sunday afternoon a clear spot appeared in the 7.050 area, so I jumped in with 1 KW. Later the RTTY stations tried to take over but I think 1KW was too much for them, I had a good run. All In all, I had a great time, the many hours of fun servicing the RA17 really paid off. This month I need to make a mixer circuit so the RA17 and T-599 can be used as a transceiver, netting is easy, but I did make a couple of mistakes! Looking forward to using the same setup next month using the HST cootie again, but think I will share the keying with the Intrepid and the other hand, perhaps I won't get so ragged! 73, Brian KF6C



Had a Blast!! For first 40 contacts I was using the HT-37 TX and HQ170 rec running a modest 50 watts. 73, Tom KU8T



Another WES, I did not get to spend much time on this one due to the weather here in Dallas. With all the cold temps, freezing rain/sleet and 6" of snow Sunday. It kept me busy with the fireplace, rotating power outages/blackouts and fire wood duties. This storm will be going down in the history books with snow and single digit temperatures. Did have a good time like always with the SKCC WES.. Thanks to all that we exchanged information 73 until next month from the Lone Star State Doug KG5YTS



Another great WES! Conditions were terrific, with minimal qsb. It was a lot of fun working a mix of familiar calls and new SKCC members. Thanks for all the great qsos folks! Rig was my Yaesu FT-450d and the antenna was my 160m doublet. Key was my EF Johnson straight key. 73 de KS1KCC (AC9EZ)



Some fine operating out there! Had a great time running and also tuning the bands a bit. Now to build a cootie for March...! 73, John KJ4KPW



Thanks for the fun and QSO's everyone! I was able to spend a few hours between home duties.

Nice to have passable band condx☺ I did 80M & 40M with the HW-16/HG-10B Combo and Western Electric SKey. Decided to stay above 7.100 on 40M to avert the CQWW WPX RTTY Contest. CU next month...73, Rick KN8RHM



Not much radio time this weekend, in and out a few times. Thanks for all the QSO's and for the new OPs with new numbers. 73 CW/KS7KCC/21877T--- Randy/N8KQ/8934S

February WES 2021



I couldn't be QRV for a long time (recovering from surgery) but lots of fun anyway despite bad PROP and a lot of QRN due local storms. Heard several BA "tube'rs" CQng, my congratulations to all. Just contact two, TU W1ZAH & W4FOA. Highlight QSOs with Randy KB4QQJ and Jim W4QO running their QRP STNs FB guys! QSO Stats: 1 > 14MHz - 16 > 21MHz - 2 > 28MHz TA33 - 40W - Home Made DSK + 1940 Wehrmacht "Maustaste" Firma Konski & Kruger, part of the backpack transceiver Torn. Fu. g.TU everyone for the QSOs. Take care & Stay safe BCNU 73, Walt LW3EX- ... ZUT



I was happy to have some time to operate this weekend...We did ok, despite wavering band conditions and the RTTY contest. 73, Jim N4EES



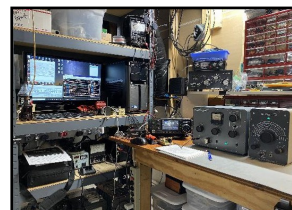
Lots of action on the bands, makes for lots of fun. 73, Nee NE9EE



This was a chance to unpack some relics that have not been on air in decades (literally). Some rigs just don't get better with age and others do very well. Didn't hear any chirpy signals but was disappointed that there weren't more tube rigs operating. I was five when my receiver was built in the mid 1950's! Happy to hand out as many 41 point bonuses as I could. 73, Chuck N0CW



I operated a Drake 2-NT on crystal control and Drake 2-C with nine tubes including the 2-AC for about half the contacts. I was around for 16 hours Saturday. Great Fun! 73, Greg N4KGL



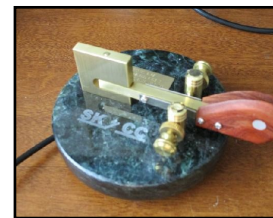
TU Everyone for helping me with the needed QSO's to advance NS8A to Senator! Much Appreciated! Thanks to Ted, K8AQM that gave me the Knight T-50 and matching Knight VFO that I used for this WES. 73, Jeff NS8A



Not my best showing by a long shot, but being rock bound at 3 watts was no match for the world-wide RTTY contest. Only 1 QSO at the low end of 80m where there wasn't any RTTY. Gave out 12 bonus points for the Drake 2B + homebrew novice rig (6C4 oscillator + 5763 final amp). It was great fun to get the novice rig on the air again. Thanks to all the ops that make this such a great event. 73, Mike N2HTT



TX is a Hallicrafters HT32A with 20 tubes, RX is an SX 101A with 15 tubes. The radio shack was nice and warm with all the glow! 73, Lee N8LJ



Fun WES thanks again to the organisers. Worked 160 M on Saturday night and early Sunday morning but only a couple of takers. 80/40/20 worked well for me. K3/P3/panadapter, verticals for 160M (homebrew), 80 and 40M, 20M hexbeam and W1SFR Green Monster Paddle. 73, Dave N5DL



Another good WES! Thanks to those who run things! Used my recently acquired Ten Tec Corsair 2 about 80 watts with my 1974 Vibroplex Standard Bug. 73, Scott N3JTT



Somehow managed to get 7 new numbers while operating my HW-16/HG-10B rig. Finally learned how to operate the SPOT on the VFO while passing out 11 tubes to 40 operators. 73, Brian N4API



Argo 6 418 amp 80wts g5rv n/s inv vee up 35ft. Was on 40 and 20.. a lot of rtty was on.. used hb st.key, as usual..ha.. had qso with f6hka and on5uk and other Canada ones.. looks like another bunch of skcc mbrs agn.. 24000 coming soon.. had 18 s's, and 18 t's and one C.. hope he did well.. now have ONLY 68 keys to make QRM with.. nr69 will come sometime..this pix is nr2 cootie/st.key... just push down on handle and it makes st.key.. 73..Dave n9zxlqrp@gmail.com

February WES 2021 VI



I planned to spend more time than I was able to but the record cold temperatures we are currently experiencing caused a frozen drain pipe in the kitchen so a lot of time was spent trying to fix that to no avail. It will just have to stay frozen for a few more days. But I did enjoy giving out 11 tube contacts from my Heathkit HW-16/HG10-B with an OCF dipole running about 50 watts using my J-38 key. And those 11 tubes did help warm the shack. Thanks to all for another fun WES. 73, Bill NZ0T



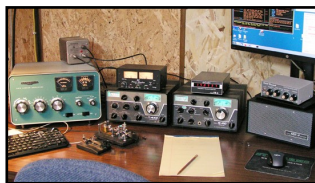
This is the WES always look forward to. Hung out on 40 and 20 around mid day. Good signals from all. Ran the Collins gold dust twins for a total of 52 tubes. 73, Chris W4SVA



Took my 3-tube Kenwood TS-520 to the clubstation and had some fun with a STEPPIR beam and a Vibroplex bug. Highlight: working Ujo, 3B8BAL for my 50th all band SKCC DXC. Thanks all for the QSOs! 73, Jo



Thanks all for another fun event! Not much time. I only worked 10 stations. Thanks George, N3GJ, for your 3 tubes. Used a Kenwood TS 530S, Home Brew Cootie, K4 straight key, and a Vibroplex Original circa 1945. 73, Jim W1WIU



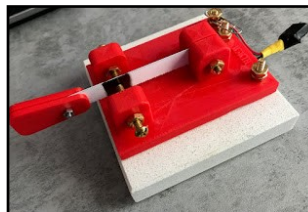
The vintage rig theme WES is my favorite. This year I decided to use one of my "newer" old rigs. My original "bought new in 1976" Drake C-Line along with my SB-220 amp that I built that same year. Used the Etek FR-4 for easier freq readout and the Autek QF-1A to peak things up a bit.....lots of knobs to turn, especially when changing bands. I ran the Drakes as separates which means I had to remember to change the xmtr freq when I moved the receiver during S&P ops...I think I only messed that up once which left me xmitting on top of the previous contacts frequency (sorry Drew). I started out giving 17 tubes but when the relay in the T4XC starting acting up I had to quickly install my Johnson TR switch which upped my tube count to 19. Other than that the 45 year old twins worked fine. The SB-220 still putting out 1300 watts on original Eimac tubes. I only worked 12 other stations running tube rigs. Keys used: my new favorite "for the moment" 1942 Lightning bug and a Nye Master key. Had ice forming on the balanced feeders to the 160m horizontal loop and the Johnson KW Matchbox was upstairs in the main station so had to make a few trips up from the basement to make adjustments when the reflected pwr went up. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia



Had some fun on 20m. Wrassling with the RTTY folks on 40m was brutal. 73, Dave VE3KIU



Was in and out for this one. Thanks to all. As you can see, I was not able to offer bonus points because my tubes were tied. Hint: It's an RCA 849 from a 1934 AM broadcast transmitter... 73, John W1TAG



Did this all with a cootie. Thx to all that suffered with me. HIHI 73, Pat W5WTH



RTTY contest gave us a run for the money but it was excellent finding all the WES activity 7105-7120. Nice WES. Good to see so many new members, but also many old "veterans". BZ 73, Dave W1DV

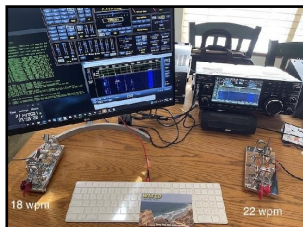


First WES in a while. Completed building a DDS VFO this weekend and tried it out on my vintage station, an Eico 720 and Hammarlund HQ-170A. 73, Dan W3DF



always fun although I only devoted minimal time, one of the first contacts was with W3NP with 19 tubes..my only "tuber" contact, tnx Dave! 73, Stan W6SMF

February WES 2021 VI



As always a great time. For the first time I used two bugs, a new left-handed Blue Racer I set at 18 wpm, and my "older" right-handed Deluxe set for 22 wpm. It took me a few weeks to get comfortable with the left-handed bug. Condx were also good enough to make contact with Australia, England, France, Germany, and Japan (tnx Take-San). Thanks to all for a great time. 73, Ted W6TED



This my first WES since moving to a new QTH and great to be back after some months of absence. Also great band conditions on 20 meters for me despite the winter snow storm and an afternoon high temperature of plus 5 degrees on Sunday. Good to contact many of the stations already in the log and also several stations which were new QSO's for me. Back Yard Pic taken at 19:45 Sunday WES. Everyone stay safe and 73, Gerald WA5AFD



Here's what 35 tubes look like. All Collins boat anchors: receiver 75A-4 22 tubes, exciter 310A 9 tubes and amp 30-L1 4 tubes. Unfortunately the 75A-4 started acting up and had to go to solid state gear half way thru. Time to get out the tube tester! Thanks to all who kept up with the 310 drift. 73, Phil W6UG



I fired up my Kenwood TS-520S for this WES. I bought it new in 1977 when I was a novice. I have not used it in over a year so it took a few minutes to remember how to tune both it and my antenna tuner. I have been spoiled by my KX3 and KXPA100 with its built in tuner! The old 520S worked great and was fun to use again. I used my 2015 SKCC straight key with the Kenwood. 73, Howard WB1AJX



Fun as usual! Thanks to all for the QSO's. 73, Steve W6WU



No tubes here, but had a lot of fun chasing down the tubers! Hope that everyone enjoyed the WES and I'll look for you for a QSO soon. 73, Jack W9YY



Surprisingly little interference from the RTTY contest stations. Band conditions on 20M were erratic with some deep fading. I didn't work as many tubes as I expected, but always fun! Stay well. 73, Mike, WB2FUV



I had limited time to participate in the WES, but managed to worked 28 of my QSOs on a 1953 Heath AT-1 with Lew McCoy mods running a mighty 25 watts output. (3 tubes) Boatan-chors Rule!!! 73, Jack W9GT



Another fun weekend with exception of the RTTY crowd.....Worked many of you this weekend from my mobile with the icom 7100, 30 watts, ham stick and my W1SF Cooite....At other times I was in the remote from PA. Thanks for all the Qs. 73, Greg WA3GM



Bands were not really very good but I had a great time and did OK in the QSO area. My tubes were in my Heath SB-200 so I was running 500 watts. Some areas were hit and miss and others were just MISS! Still got some 80 meter QSOs and had great fun. Thanks guys. 73, Les WB5JWI

February WES 2021 VII



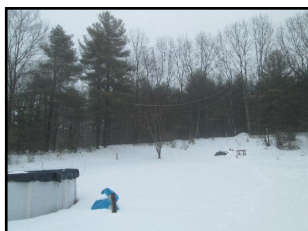
Had a great time as usual. I normally use my boat anchors for the WES, anyway, but it was nice to be able to give bonus points for them. The RX was my beloved Collins 75A-4 (1957) with dual filtering. The transmitter was a Collins 32V-2 (1950). I also used a Johnson Viking 2 for a few QSO's. From my perspective, conditions were lousy and the RTTY contest ended it early for me as I wasn't up to fighting that QRM. They pay no attention to whether the frequency is in use or not. 73, Mike WB0SND



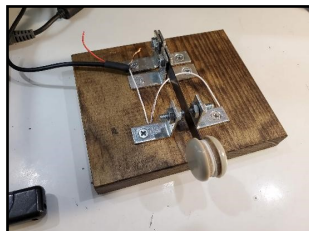
Used the old Heathkit HW16/HG10B. 73, Jay WB8JAY



Limited time this weekend, but the time spent was certainly fun as usual. Catch you next month. Got to break in my new dual lever right angle horizontal bug from Thomas, KN4YB...thanks Thomas...after getting used to the dual levers, it's a great bug! 73 all, Jack KK0I



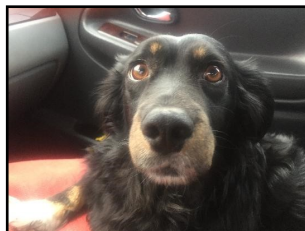
I usually operate 20-24 hours during the WES, but only could put in 14 hours due to family commitments and a sore tooth. I had a chance to test my 80M and 40M dipoles which have been both raised by 10 feet. Seemed to make a difference. Lots of QSOs on 80M, one QSO on 15M with KG7GNB in Montana. Worked Costa Rica for the first time: TI2CLX. Photo shows both dipoles lowered because of ice storm, but they are attached about 50 feet high at the trees. 73, Bob AC1GF



The weather and favorable band conditions made most of the weekend very productive. I am working on the Triple Key Award and decided to try my homebrew cootie key. I wish to thank you all for your patience! 73, Lane WK4WC



I got on with my Heathkit station; DX-60 & HG-10b, HR-10... for a little while ;-). Thanks, 73, Jim AF3Z



Fun again, conditions ok. 73, Hanz YL3JD

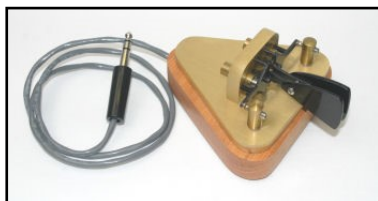


Boat Anchors helped keep the shack warm, a bit of a challenge with antenna switching also. 80/40 worked for the HT-32. The keys are "51" Blue Racer & CMI Navy Flame proof. Thank you for the trip down memory lane. 73, Rick K0KEX



Glad to be back, and QRP! after several months. The picture shows the table and window at the shack (yes, the temp outside was as cold as indicated on the thermometer out the window). The rig was the 11-yr old IC-703; the key, the Bushwacker as SS; the antenna the endfed long wire winding up and down the tree outside tuned w/LDG RT-100. Tnx es 73, de Jose VA3 {CJ/VE3DTI

February WES 2021 VIII



Lot of RTTY interfering with the CW. Hard to copy with so many RTTY stations. Some were in x.050 where we copy. But I had fun. I do not have any vintage equipment so sorry I couldn't give a bonus to anybody. But I still had fun. See you on the band or as they say "down the log". 73 and GOD bless you all! FYI the key is my iambic paddles. I do use a straight key for skcc events. Just wanted to include a picture of something in my shack of interest. 73, Bruce KA3YGL



Ran this WES with my trusty old Heathkit HW-16 9 tube transceiver. You could add another 2 tubes for the HG-10 VFO. I gave out the number of tubes although it wasn't mentioned in the exchange. I didn't hear anyone else exchanging tube count. It was a tough event for a vintage transceiver without filters as there were RTTY guys constantly stomping on QSOs. 73, Bob KD8CGH

Tubes Forever!

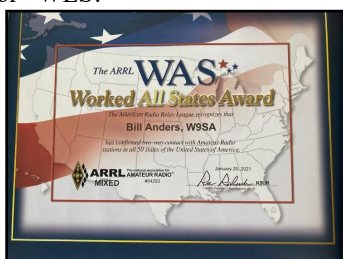
The hobby started going to hell...



...right after Bell Labs invented the transistor!



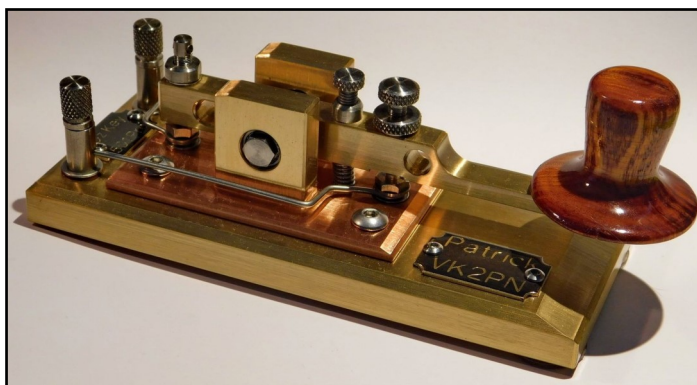
Ike, WB4LAL was ready for "Boat anchor" WES!



Bill W9SA waited a long time for this. Congratulations!



Steve, W1IK ready for SKN....and then some!



Patrick VK2PN's new key! Wow!

Editor: The following article appeared in CW Ops "Solid Copy" with their permission and the author's, it appears here.

An Attic Antenna Farm

Javan Miller W8UA

After spending my first several months as a ham just lurking around 2m and 70cm, I participated in my lo-cal club's Field Day event and decided it was time to move beyond only nets and such like and join the ranks of those on HF. Following having numerous dis-ussions with my friends about different radios, browsing through DX Engineering's web catalog, and having nightly discussions with my Dad (K8KX), we fi-nally made the anticipated trip to the DX Engineering showroom and brought back an SDR desktop transceiver. Okay, we got the easy part over with (for me at least), purchasing a rig, but I could tune across the entire RF spectrum, and only receive two birdies. Oh, yeah, I may need an antenna as well!

Unfortunately for farmers of this breed, my parents' medium-sized lot has a total of five trees over the 20 feet mark but are about 400 feet away from the QTH. These are good for a different project, but I do not need a beverage antenna yet. At this point, it sounds like my best option is a tower, but no, due to the un-sightliness, that is not an option either. So, welcome to my attic, which is the home of all antennas at this QTH.

Choosing an antenna

After my Dad and I researched different multiband antennas, we decided on a fan dipole. Since we had no experience with building antennas, a member of my local club suggested that although many are successful with fan dipoles, they can be a bit tricky to tune if they are

confined in a small area. So, we decided on a 40m off-center-fed or simply OCF dipole. My Dad started to model different OCF's with MMANA-GAL Basic, which is a very easy to use, free antenna modeling program. Since we found out right away that the common 1/3 – 2/3 ratio used for OCF's excluded the use of 15m unless a wide-range tuner is used, we discovered the 1/6 – 5/6 ratio which covers 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, and 6m.

Building and installing the antenna

The local ham that recommended the OCF to us suggested that we follow his design and use the Balun Designs 4:1 current balun. Although the manufacturer reveals what is in the magic box to us: "this balun is a hybrid combination of a 4:1 voltage balun and a 1:1 current balun," we went ahead and purchased it. After ordering a spool of wire, we decided that it was finally time to in-stall our first HF antenna!

Unfortunately, we did not adhere to the adage of put-ting up antennas in the cold, and we picked a nice warm weekend in summer (the weekend of IARU HF World Championship) to do the install. After placing ½ inch PVC pipe between the rafters to support the wire, we strung the wire through holes we had drilled through the PVC tubing. I think we may have taken excessive measures to pre-vent sag and insulate the wire from the wood rafters, but we were just getting in the game of antenna building and had no experience with what was necessary.

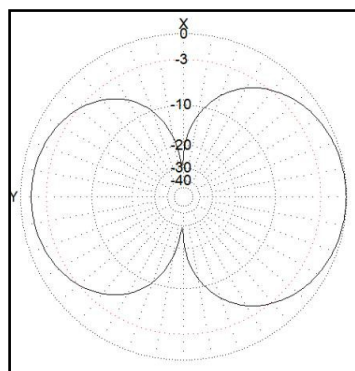


W8UA and his most recent award: Single Operator, Mixed Mode, QRP: 1st Place Ohio Section; 1st Place Great Lakes Division; 2nd Place W/VE

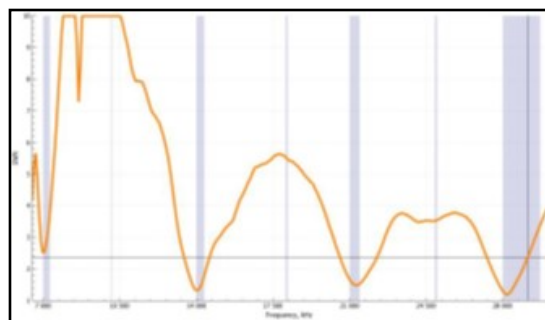


Balun Designs current balun

I have found modeling to be quite beneficial for multi-band antennas such as my OCF, as it can be useful to know at which angles I have gain, and at which I have nulls. Luckily, on 20m, I have quite a bit of gain to Europe, although there is little power heading south to-ward South America. [See 20m pattern, below.] There are quite a few nulls on the higher frequency bands, but I have not found that to be too much of a problem so far. But of course, “if ya’ don’t hear ‘em, ya’ don’t work ‘em,” so I do not know what I am missing out on in the nulls. The OCF works well all the way up to 6m, and I have confirmed 42 states and several countries with FT8 on VHF.



20m pattern



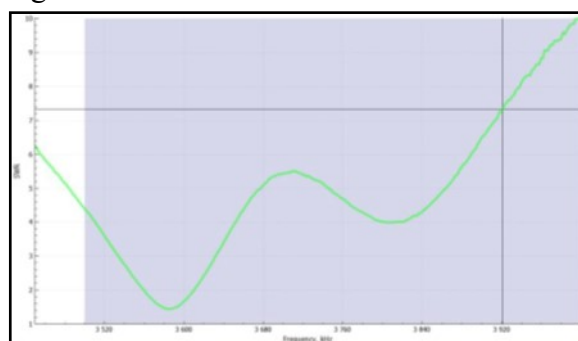
Measured 40m OCF SWR

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Designing and installing other antennas

After I got a small amount of experience with contesting, I quickly found a desire for a beam for at least one HF band. I wanted to either select 20m towards Europe or 15m towards the South, but due to the orientation of my house, I decided to build a 15m beam. After some antenna modeling, I found that a Moxon beam would be the best way to go for my situation due to the wide beam-width and high front-to-back ratio they have, as well as taking up less space in my attic than would a traditional two-element Yagi. Significant gain over the OCF towards certain countries is quite evident.

Since the OCF only operates 40-6 meters, I quickly found a need for an 80m antenna. For several contest weekends in the summer, I put up an 80m dipole outside supported by a short mast constructed of PVC tubing, but that could not stay up long for structural and aesthetic reasons. Okay, back to the drawing board with my modeling software. After learning about putting inductors in an antenna design, I started playing around with loaded 80m dipoles with the inductors in the middle of each leg,



Measured 80m dipole SWR

which proved to be a reasonable compromise between inductor size and placement efficiency. Utilizing the air-core inductor formula, where L = inductance, d = coil diameter, l = coil length in inches, and n = number of turns; I wound two 50 μH coils and put them in the middle of each thirty-foot leg of the antenna.

What's next?

I am planning on installing a 130-foot-tall self-supporting tower next summer – umm, no. Let's try it again. I am planning on installing several more antennas in my attic. As many others did, I enjoyed reading the article “Indoor Antennas for VHF Weak-Signal Work” in the November 2019 *QST* written by N1LF on his attic VHF antenna system. I am planning on installing horizontal antennas for 2m and 70cm so I can explore the world of VHF beyond repeaters. Since my attic filled with rafters is not conducive to a rotatable beam, I am planning on making a stack of 2m dipoles for gain in the elevation pattern. I also want to get a permanent antenna up for 160m, but that will be a later project.

How do they work?

I guess this is the place where we are supposed to talk about how our antennas work. Overall, I have been very impressed with the results of my attic antenna farm. Clearly, my antennas do not compare favorably to the average participant of the “triband-wires” overlay, but I have finished second place in the QRP category for NAQP SSB and RTTY, as well as setting a record in the 8th call area for Rookies in the CQ WPX CW contest. My record for CWT has been 91 Q’s, although I am hoping next summer to be able to operate every CWT and reach 100 Q’s with more practice contesting, and of course, more antenna optimization.

Sssssnnnnake!



De John VK4TJ

Am I the only one who finds it necessary to execute a “python script” just to go QRO? This 2-meter-long carpet python heartily endorses the February WES theme “Boatanchors”. Loves those warm filaments!

The carpet pythons are pretty harmless. Most rural folks would love to have a few around for mouse control. Unfortunately, one got into our house and ate one of our “joeys” last year, so they all go for a car ride these days. A herpetologist at the Calgary Zoo once told me that most snakes are passive carriers of salmonella, so

I wear gloves on the rare occasions when I have to handle one.

CQRM!

I was licensed in 1977 but life events took me away from radio in about 1989. When the pandemic kicked in last year I started getting “re-active” in radio and began assembling my modern station. I currently have no permanent “shack” set up, so when I want to operate I hook up my KX3 in the heated porch where the cats sleep. I got on the air on Valentine’s Day and heard stations calling CQ WES. I Googled that and found it was an SKCC sprint! Great! I had my key with me and I have an SKCC number! So, I answered a CQ from Larry, AH6AX, and he responded.

Well, I have a problem with **CQRM** - “Cat Interference.” That’s when one of the cats insisted upon crawling on the table, over the radio(s), key, notebook, me, etc. while I’m trying to play radio! Precisely when AH6AX responded, one cat decided to hop up on the folding table I was using. He proceeded to hit the VFO knob (sending me to who knows where on 20 meters), tangle the key cord and my earphone cords around one leg—pulling the key from the radio and the earphones from my ears—and crawl onto my lap. This...is a common occurrence. I was so frustrated I gave up and decided to dedicate my time to planning my indoor shack, and next time the “offending” cat goes into the dog’s crate before I set up!

73, Paul Hoegstrom - N1HOB (SKCC 12154)



Announcing.....VE9SKCC



You enjoyed K3Y, 46,000+ QSOs said so. How about a Canadian version of K3Y that allows SKCC members to chase VE9SKCC/# across Canada? Plans are beginning to form so come September of this year it will happen. There are over 1000 Canadian members of SKCC and growing but how many VY2, VO1 and VE8 stations have you worked? SKCC offers a wonderful award, the “**Canadian Maple Award**” and the rules and information for this award can be found on the SKCC home page. Here is the list of Canadian provinces and territories:

VE0 - Stations at sea

VE8 - Northwest Territories

VA1/VE1 - Nova Scotia

VE9 - New Brunswick

VA2/VE2 - Quebec

VO1 - Newfoundland

VA3/VE3 - Ontario

VO2 - Labrador

VA4/VE4 - Manitoba

VY0 - Nunavut

VA5/VE5 - Saskatchewan

VY1 - Yukon

VA6/VE6 - Alberta

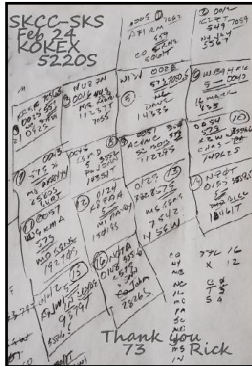
VY2 - Prince Edward Is.

VA7/VE7 - British Columbia **VY9** - Government of Canada

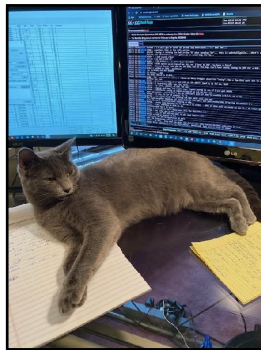
During the month of September VE9SKCC will be activated across Canada on all bands similar to the K3Y program. Watch for announcements on the reflector, the SKCC homepage and here in “*The Rag Chew*.”



February SKS 2021



WX Tuesday 70 degrees, a week ago it was -8 degrees. SKS was rocking. SKS mixed in with two VHF nets. How much fun can you have in one day? Thank you 73 Rick k0kex



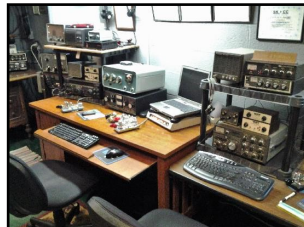
That 2 Hrs went by very fast but it helped me towards my "S" Quest and it was great to hear the bans active.. I stayed on 40 meter the whole time. I had plenty of help... Some of my DIT's were DAH's... Great fun...73, Doug KG5YTS



Not much time tonight. Fun while it lasted. 73, Nee NE9EE



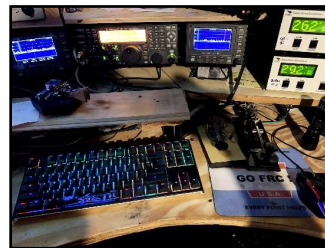
1960 E.F. Johnson Speed-X bug and 70 watts to after-dark-only black 4-BTV (HOA: no antennas!). I think I made the Worked All Ohio Award tonight: 6 of my 10. What fun! All ten contacts in 25 minutes; like old times! 73, Don K3RLL



Great Conditions on 80 tonight (almost everyone was S-9 here) nice to hear Mark NU8Z from Lenawee Co MI Big 40 over signal here so assumed it was K8AQM when I saw the S meter flip at first glance. Thanks for all the contacts & the new numbers. 73 to all, Larry K8TEZ



Late start because of dinner - I love CW but like to eat too! 40 was great until about 1:10 UTC then died. Finished on 80. Use the trusty old K3, Bencher RJ-2 key and an OCF dipole at 30. Thanks all for the contacts! 73, Bill NZ0T



Interesting SKS 20 almost dead, but found a NM station went to 40 and he called me there as well, almost all CQ between 80 and 40 but last 3 on 80 were S&P and got WV multiplier and last QSO was K3TM for a bonus. 73, Chas K3WW



Fun, as always. 73 all. Old picture, we're legal now...Lol. Jim N4EES



Ran the QCX+ 40M(4-5W) driving the 50W Amp= 45W and a CF 40M dipole @ 30ft. Miss the Icom Filters. LOL Thanks for the QSO's everyone 73, Randy N8KQ



Tried 20M, but nothing heard or worked. 40M and 80M were hot at this QTH in Georgia. 73, Steve K4JPN



Tough night.....quite a few good strong stations tonight, but they couldn't hear my 70 watts and EFHW wire antenna. Managed two contacts anyway in IN and OH from FL. Using my KX3 and TinyBug tonight, a fun sprint, better luck next month....73, Ed N7EDK



TNX! everyone for the contacts! I started out QRPp then QRP and threw in the towel and went 85w. I am a QRS level op so always struggle getting the call. However, all is good. TNX! 73, Steve NQ8T

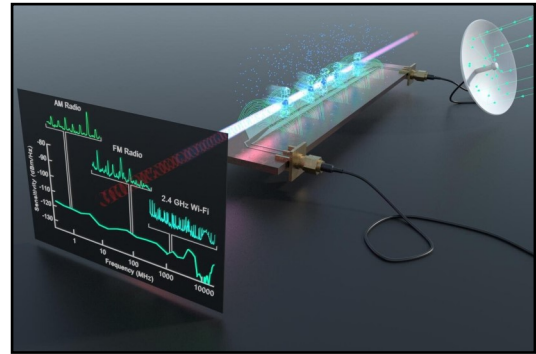
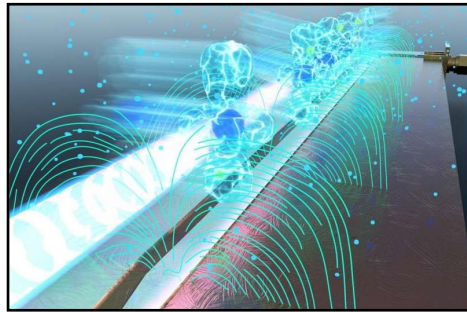
What?...Is It April?

A new quantum sensor can analyze the full spectrum of radio frequency and real-world signals, unleashing new potentials for soldier communications, spectrum awareness and electronic warfare.

Army researchers built the [quantum sensor](#), which can sample the radio-frequency [spectrum](#)—from zero frequency up to 20 GHz—and detect AM and FM radio, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and other communication signals.

The Rydberg sensor uses laser beams to create highly-excited Rydberg atoms directly above a microwave circuit, to boost and hone in on the portion of the spectrum being measured. The Rydberg atoms are sensitive to the circuit's voltage, enabling the device to be used as a sensitive probe for the wide range of signals in the RF spectrum.

"All previous demonstrations of Rydberg atomic [sensors](#) have only been able to sense small and specific regions of the RF spectrum, but our sensor now operates continuously over a wide frequency range for the first time," said Dr. Kevin Cox, a researcher at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, now known as DEVCOM, Army Research Laboratory. "This is a really important step toward proving that quantum sensors can provide a new, and dominant, set of capabilities for our Soldiers, who are operating in an increasingly complex electro-magnetic battlespace."



Rydberg states. The atoms interact strongly with the circuit's electric fields, allowing detection and demodulation of any signal received into the circuit. Credit: U.S. Army illustration

The Rydberg spectrum analyzer has the potential to surpass fundamental limitations of traditional electronics in sensitivity, bandwidth and frequency range. Because of this, the lab's Rydberg spectrum analyzer and other quantum sensors have the potential to unlock a new frontier of Army sensors for spectrum awareness, electronic warfare, sensing and communications—part of the Army's modernization strategy.

"Devices that are based on quantum constituents are one of the Army's top priorities to enable technical surprise in the competitive future battlespace," said Army researcher Dr. David Meyer. "Quantum sensors in general, including the one demonstrated here, offer unparalleled sensitivity and accuracy to detect a wide range of mission-critical signals."

The peer-reviewed journal *Physical Review Applied* published the researchers' findings, Waveguide-coupled Rydberg spectrum analyzer from 0 to 20 GigaHerz, co-authored by Army researchers Drs. David Meyer, Paul Kunz, and Kevin Cox



"Become a quantum technician!"

Remember: "Technician" is half technical and half magician.