



Volume 14 Issue 4

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

December, 2021



Canadian Operating Event Wrap-up

The first annual Canadian Operating Event is history. Fifteen different Canadian stations made 1,472 QSOs from nine different Provinces:

VO1BB...Newfoundland VE2KZW...Quebec VE3KZ....Ontario....VE4DL...Manitoba
 VE1AHX..Nova Scotia VE2VAB...Quebec VE3RDE..Ontario....VE4MG..Manitoba
 VE5UO...Saskatchewan VA6FUN...Alberta VA3PN...Ontario...VE7HI..British Columbia
 VE9DCD...New Brunswick VE9VIC..New Brunswick VE3FRL...Ontario

Many thanks to these operators who provided so many QSOs and a very good chance to qualify for the SKCC Canadian Maple Leaf Awards.

Make sure you have an envelope on file at the SKCC QSL bureau if you want one of the special VE9SKCC QSLs. Bureau information can be found on the SKCC web page.

Plans are being made for next year's Canadian Operating Event and a shorter call will be secured. Be sure to join in next year's fun and chase the various operators around the bands.

VE9SKCC/					
CANADA SPECIAL EVENT 					
September 2021					
		SKCC			
Straight Key Century Club					
Confirming QSO with	Date Day / Month / Year	UTC	MHz	RST	MODE
	Sept. 2021				

73, The Canadian Operating Event committee

K3Y 2022 QSL Card Design Contest



In connection with our upcoming Straight Key Month & Anniversary in January we are calling upon members to provide QSL card designs for this very popular special event.

2022 will be the 16th anniversary of SKCC's founding. Our annual Straight Key Month will start on January 2nd, directly following ARRL Straight Key Night. As in recent years we need a QSL card design for the special event call sign K3Y. ("K3Y" because it resembles "KEY", as in straight key.)

If you've ever designed a QSL card, or have any interest in giving it a try, please consider making a card for K3Y.

Designs will be uploaded to the event webpage where members will vote for their favorites starting on Dec. 15th. The most popular design will become the official K3Y QSL card of our 16th Anniversary Straight Key Month.

If enough designs are submitted, we will feature twelve of them in the SKCC print calendar for the new year. The calendar will include upcoming events of interest to club members; also, telegraphy and radio-related historical dates, and astronomical data. You can see the calendar for the current year here:

https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-docs/SKCC_Calendar_2021.pdf

IMPORTANT! Please follow the design guidelines below.

Required image design specifications:

- - JPEG high quality format
- - Image size 1650 x 1050 pixels; or greater with same ratio
- - Width-to-height ratio is 5.5 x 3.5 (to avoid cropping)
- - Horizontal layout only
- - No text within 1/4" of edges (because it may be trimmed)

The following text elements must be included in the design:

- - K3Y
- - Straight Key Month
- - SKCC
- - Straight Key Century Club
- - 2022
- - 16th Anniversary

You can combine text elements, for example: "SKCC Straight Key Month & 16th Anniv.", etc. You can include additional text if desired. The back side of the card, including QSO format, will be provided by us.

Please follow the guidelines carefully. If you have any questions, please check with me before starting your design. (The most common mistake is with image size and ratio.)

Submit your designs by Dec 14th at the latest. Designs received before then will be displayed on the K3Y page in the order received. You can revise a submitted design any time until Dec. 14th, so there is no need to wait until the deadline.

You can submit several different designs. However, please don't submit multiple entries having minor variations. For example: the same basic design with differently colored backgrounds. Similar designs will split votes between themselves.

If you include graphics or photos that are not your own, they must either be public domain, or you must have permission from the original owner. Please advise us if you are using graphics or photos that are not your own.

By submitting a card design you agree that SKCC has the right to use it for the K3Y QSL card, webpages, anniversary logo, mug graphic and calendar. Also, a variant of your design may be used on K3Y DX QSL cards.

Please send any questions or comments to me at [af2z\[at\]skccgroup.com](mailto:af2z[at]skccgroup.com) or post a follow-up in the SKCC group on Groups.io, and I will get back to you. Also send your card images to me. I will confirm receipt and have them uploaded to the webpage.

Have fun!

Drew — AF2Z

K3Y Planning Group



K3Y 2022!

The Straight Key Century Club's annual on-air event commemorates the club's founding in 2006 directly following the ARRL Straight Key Night. At that time a group of SKN participants wanted to extend the fun of hand key CW throughout the year. SKCC is the result and K3Y is the special call sign that has been granted for this "KEY" event. We refer to the event simply as "K3Y".

K3Y runs from Jan. 2nd through 31st. It's a perfect time to introduce or reacquaint hams to the fun of hand-keyed Morse code sent with straight keys, bugs, and side-swipers. Members and non-members alike are welcome to hunt the US based K3Y stations and the participating DX stations around the world. Non-members are encouraged but not required to use straight keys for their K3Y contacts. This year we hope to field K3Y operators in the ten US call areas, plus KH6, KL7 and KP4, along with associated DX stations in a number of Canadian provinces and each of six IARU continental regions.

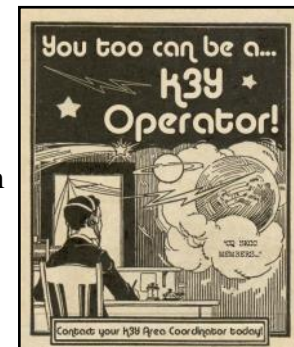
You can track your progress working the event stations by referring to the Stats section on this page. Check for regular updates in your standings for Number of Areas, Bands, K3Y Operators, DX Entities, Canadian Provinces & US States that you have worked. K3Y QSL cards and Sweep Certificates are available to document your success.

Earn a QSL card by making at least one contact with any K3Y event station. Work K3Y/0 through K3Y/9 for a basic sweep; or go for the ten US call areas plus K3Y/KH6, KL7 and KP4. Perhaps you will even achieve a 19-area "grand sweep" which includes all the above plus contacts with our DX event operators in six different continental regions. The K3Y "sweep" card lists one contact for each of the 19 areas that have logged your call. Please check the Op Schedule and Operator Map links to find where and when the K3Y stations are operating.

For SKCC members K3Y is a great opportunity to make lots of progress toward various club awards. Contacts with K3Y stations are valid for SKCC awards purposes. Also, by signing up as a K3Y Operator you can readily log dozens or hundreds of award-eligible QSOs with other SKCC members.

Would you like to sign on as one of our K3Y Operators? You can try it for just an hour or two. Or reserve a series of time slots throughout the month. Code speed and station sophistication are not important. The on-air exchanges tend to be fairly relaxed. Please check out the US or DX Operators Guides and contact the Regional Coordinator in your area for more info. He or she will be eager to sign you up. Our K3Y Operators are key to a successful event!

Check the Index on this page for contact info, operator guides & schedules, QSL cards & sweep certificates, stats, operator map and the SKCC print calendar. Be sure to listen for our K3Y operators during January and work 'em when you hear 'em!



73,
The K3Y Planning Committee

Important SKCC QLS Bureau Information

The SKCC Bureau is a special QSL Bureau managed by Jeremy K8JAD with the help of his Dad Greg KE8CEW. It is FREE for our members to use. No fees, just send in your SASE envelopes.

Recently we sent out many envelopes with the VE9SKCC special event from September. Whenever we get (1) ounce or more of QSL cards, we try to get them out to keep the cost down for postal rates. We had to include many extra ounce stamps this past couple of weeks. After we receive the KY3 cards usually in March, we empty the bureau of all QSL cards. Otherwise they pile up and risk becoming lost or damaged. If you didn't get your VE9SKCC special event card(s) you will get them when the KY3 cards are mailed.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE refer to the https://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/qsl_buro/ for instructions on size #10 business-sized envelopes (4-1/8" x 9-1/2") to send to the Bureau.

We have been notified with the last mailings that soon the US Postal will begin charging us for envelopes that are too thick. They jam up their automatic sorting machines and have to be hand cancelled. This extra cost will more than double the standard cost of a stamp. The thickness of the envelope extra costs will also be determined by the size of the envelopes. Believe it or not, the smaller 3.5 x 5 envelopes will cost much more to send if full.

If this is true? According to the USPS web site, the envelopes cannot exceed 1/4" thick. The size of the envelope and its thickness cannot exceed 130mm in girth.



As you can see in the pictures, there are several different sized envelopes in the files. There are over 3,000 envelopes and growing all the time. Can you find a 3.5 x 5 envelope? This is also

what we are told to be an issue with the sorting machines the USPS uses. The sorting machines often tear them up.

Before we send out any envelopes, we sort through the file boxes (alphabetical order per your call sign) and pull your envelope out, we sort through the QSL cards for your cards, (alphabetical and numerical order) put the cards in your envelope. We weigh them to make sure we have the correct postage on them. Attach a return address label, seal them up and usually use tape on them also. We stamp on the back how many envelopes you have left in the Bureau after we count to verify the counts. Then they all have to be deducted from the web site so again, you can find out how many you have left in the Bureau. Sometimes we have to get on the internet and locate your call sign for an address change.

*****Starting January 1st 2022, we will require you to register all call signs individually and send in envelopes for them. Club calls, manager of call signs will all need to be registered and envelopes sent in for those calls. It is getting way too frustrating to figure out who's calls go to**



to be registered and envelopes sent in for those calls. It is getting way too frustrating to figure out who's calls go to who when there are so many extra calls registered to one person. It is Free to register and FREE to use the bureau. We can't remember all the requests to include your club calls or other requests to include another call sign in your envelopes. **ONE CALL PER ENVELOPE!**

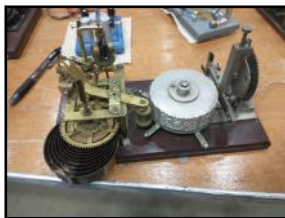
ONE (1) forever stamp on the envelope. Do not include extra postage as most of the time we try to keep them at 1 ounce. Any extra postage is your loss. We will no longer hold QSLs for a 2 ounce envelope. Once it gets an ounce in it, it gets mailed.

ADDRESS changes are a must! If you change address or even call signs. PLEASE notify the Bureau. Last year we got several returned envelopes with little yellow tags on them. "Undeliverable" wrong address. So we have to find the new address and send them back out again with the new postage paid out by the Bureau.

What the Heck!?!!!!!

Editor...Sometimes at hamfests you come across the strangest things! At the recent Fort Wayne hamfest and the SKCC booth a visitor came up to Ken N8KR with the following device. Included are Ken's descriptions and conversation with the visitor.

Had a visitor that wanted to show us his "find". This is a mechanical code practice machine. The big drum has random characters...bumps... and when you wind it up, a mechanical sensor is triggered making contact to key a radio or light a light bulb...as a switch. There was no manufacturer on it. The man said he saw one somewhere online but didn't remember where. Dates to the 20's. It was really cool. Have you ever seen anything like it?



This is certainly something I've never seen and doubtful I ever will. If you know anything about this "thing" please drop me a line, I'll publish it in the next Rag Chew. There must have been a case covering the unit. There are no marking of any sort on it but it does seem doubtful it was home made.

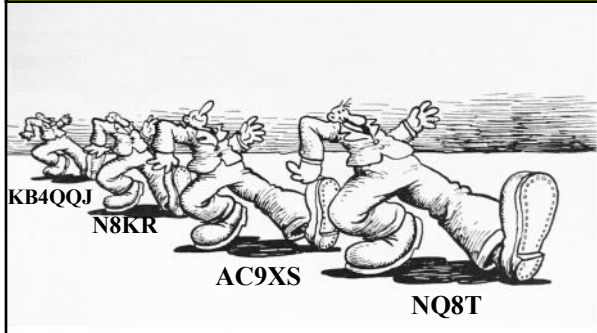
New Antennas @ KS8KCC/K8AQM



Summer saw the removal of two antennas and the replacement of two new ones. The station is all back together and ready to go for K3Y, WES and SKS fun this winter season. Thanks to Stan W8ATE, Roger K2RLY, Jeremy K8JAD and Greg KE8CEW for their help with all the work.

September Slow Speed Saunter 2021

Slow Speed Saunter



Couldn't spend a lot of time on this one I'm afraid. Ten contacts, all on 40m, running 75 watts from my TS-590SG into a vertical, using my Kent KT1 Str Key. Hope to spend more time in next month's SSS. 73, Curt K2CWM



I managed 6 QSOs with limited operating time only at the beginning and end of the event. Sent a bunch of CQs as well. All at slow speed using a Signal Electric 1950 reconditioned straight key. I am always ready to slow down to your speed with the straight key anytime during the month. Hope to see you on the air. 73, Jack W9YY



Thanks Steve NQ8T & Ken N8KR I was not really competing just trying to help a couple of friends with their totals. 73, Larry K8TEZ



Nice time as always. Guess I should take a pic of the J-38 to display for the SSS & Straight Key Night... Have fun out there. Remember, don't wait for the other guy to call CQ. 73, Bud AA8CL



Got 6 QSOs into my log this time. My Thanks to NJ8L, NQ8T, KA1BSZ, K3EW, KB4QQJ, and AF4Q for enduring my Cootie fist ! Good to work you again Phil and Randy! 73, Rich W4RQ

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
W4RQ	Rich	6699S	FL	6
N4API	Brian	11673	GA	1
W1RCP	Robbie "Rob" Pitts	15375	GA	5
KE0STT	Robert Colling	22607	IA	4
N9KJU	Ken	19964T	IL	2
W9YY	Jack	21824S	IL	6
AC9XS	Steve	23280T	IN	25
N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	20
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	12
W9BBN	Ed	17763S	IN	4
KA3LOC	Ric	660S	KS	10
KG5KGU	Stacey	20697T	LA	5
W5ZR	Bert	2931S	LA	2
AK3X	Peter	7217S	MD	3
KBJD	John	1395T	MI	4
KB4QQJ	Randy	3508S	NC	13
W1DV	Dave	1433S	NC	9
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	10
AA8CL	Carmen "Bud"	2339S	OH	5
K8TEZ	Larry	8426S	OH	2
K8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	1
NJ8L	Vern	13613S	OH	12
NQ8T	Steve	5919S	OH	31
VE2EJ	Pat	23250	QC	4
W4CMG	Cathy	20093T	TN	11
W5H	Mike	11770S	TX	3
AK9A	Bob	5902S	WI	2
KD9GDY	Jim	18156S	WI	11
WB9TFF	Donna	7057S	WI	3
W3NP	Dave	3182S	WV	6

September Slow Speed Saunter 2021 II



SSS was fun, worked a few new members. 73 & God Bless. Ric KA3LOC



TNX! to those who suffered through my lousy fist. I used a different key and I really struggled with it. 73/72 C U Next Month. 73, Steve NQ8T



I had just received a used SL170IN bug that I purchased from a member so what better event to give it a trial run. This bug really slows down so I had to stop myself from trying to run ahead of it. Made 6 contacts. Ten Tec Omni VII @ 95 watts to Skyloop. 73, Dave W3NP

New Additions to the SKCC Files Section

The SKCC Files section on the SKCC web page has some new PDF files that are great sources of information. Here are the latest additions:



MII_W2VJN

(ridding RFI in the shack)



Minimalist_QRP_Book_V5.3



Ham Book

(antennas and such)



CommonModeC
hokesW1HIS2006

Apr06

And here is the link to these files:

<https://groups.io/g/SKCC/files/A1%20IMPROVING%20YOUR%20STATION>

Technical Tips from

Your Phone as an Antenna Rotor

K3RRR [noted in a tweet](#) that an outdated Android phone can be repurposed as an antenna rotator controller using the [Visual Rotor \(by EA7HG\) Android application](#), and some easy-to-build Arduino hardware based on an ATmega2560. [EA7HG's YouTube video](#) also illustrates how this works.

It's Okay to Use Visual Aids

When using a club call sign, or when you're in a phone contest with an unfamiliar or complicated exchange, it's okay to write the call sign and exchange on a piece of paper to reference during the contest. Use [painter's tape](#) to stick it to the computer monitor just under the screen. Low-tech, effective, and easy to update.

September SKSE 2021

Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	F6EJN	Bob	508S	FRA	34	24	8/9/0	1,026
2	K3TM	Roger	5016T	MD	31	21	5/8/2	816
3	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	10	6	1/3/0	105
4	K8LBQ	Bain	18940	GA	6	6	3/2/0	101
5	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	10	7	1/1/0	95
6	G0DJF	Paul	20600T	ENG	5	4	2/1/0	60
7	DM1AA	Andre	21162	GER	5	4	1/2/0	55
8	PG4I	Jo	11019S	NED	4	4	1/2/0	51
9	EA3NO	Lluis	6653S	ESP	4	4	1/1/0	41
10	IK1ZUV	Davide	24440	ITA	2	2	1/0/0	19
11	KA1LHJ	John	19120	CT	1	1	1/0/0	16
12	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	2	1	0/1/0	12
13	VE5CUL	Brian	1672T	SK	1	1	0/1/0	11
13	KF5WJ	Jack Gill	20585	TX	1	1	0/1/0	11

No photos submitted this month.

Good "Stuff" to Know

Editor...The following information was gathered from the internet from various sources.

How to Consistently Get Spotted by CW Skimmers and the Reverse Beacon Network

Bob, N6TV, provided these hints to consistently get spotted when CQing in his presentation to the Spokane DX Association:

- Send everything at the same speed
- Use the words "CQ" or "Test" and send your call twice
- Use computer keying; consistent spacing is important

The following words also count as "CQ": FD, SS, NA, UP

How Good Are Your Ears?

Decibels are commonly used in electronic communications to describe and compare signal levels. I've often heard that one dB is considered to be the smallest change that a typical person can detect by ear. I recently came across this website audiocheck.net that is set up to generate different audio tones and to do a blind test of how small of a change you can detect.

I started with testing for 6-dB and 3-dB changes. Easy Peasy. Then I tried the 1-dB test. I could detect the change in level fairly consistently but I did have to concentrate. Continuing on to the 0.5-dB change, I had a very high failure rate. It was very difficult to detect that small of a change. So I have to conclude that 1 dB is about the limit for a change I can hear.

How about you? Take the test on the website and let us know how you did.

There are many other audio tests to explore on that site, including the highest frequency you can hear, the minimum pitch change you can hear, etc. Check it out: www.audiocheck.net

~ Bob K0NR

Bob Witte
K0NR

Get Your CW Fix – Even When the Bands are Dead (as a last resort...editor)

Published March 2016 in *The Printed Circuit* and reprinted from 2017 “Don’t Forget to Bring Your Dawg Along”

Picture this: it’s well below freezing outside and you’re snowed inside while your nifty mobile rig (and a wonderful ham radio adventure,) is waiting outside in a cold vehicle. Oh... for you folks that live in sunny Florida and not wintery Massachusetts the same could be said for a really hot summer day. So when you do manage to make it out there to catch a few dits and dahs you only catch disappointment as all the band are just “dead!” It happens sometime, especially when the Max Use Freq. is just too low and when it seems that most other hams have more common sense to avoid the risky trek across the frozen tundra out to their shacks. So how’s a CW-addicted ham supposed to get his fix?

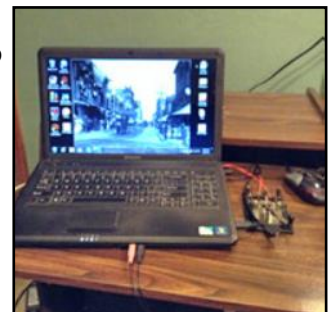
It’s well known that you can get ANYTHING over the Internet... Just like everything said on the Internet “has to be true.” But believe it or not there are in fact many ways to operate CW over the Internet (ICW.) Now wait a minute, let’s not get into a discussion on whether *it is* or *is not* “real” ham radio, but instead, go directly to the subject at hand; think of CW over the Internet and associated software as just another tool you can use to learn and enjoy the art of CW, and may even increase your ability to communicate with other hams using CW on the (actual) air especially when the bands are experiencing poor conditions.

CW can be passed online through the same methods you would use for voice communications; you can use CW via Echolink, QSONET and HamSphere just by hooking up the output of a code oscillator or the side tone of your rig to the audio input of your computer. Both QSONET and HamSphere have yearly subscriptions of around \$30 to \$40. They also provide a user-interface “skin” that gives you the graphical ‘feel’ of using a real transceiver. This is sometimes referred to as a “virtual ham radio” which can provide you with voice and CW, as well as other modes including PSK. I believe that over the years I’ve used each method. The program I’ve been playing with for a few weeks is called “CWCOM.”

This program is not as sophisticated as HamSphere or QSONET but it does provide us CW nuts a way to “finger talk” with other hams from around the world without the expense of buying equipment. It is CW only, unlike the other two programs, and it is *free!* It’s designed for folks who want to learn CW to build up their CW speed or who would like to try CW but really don’t want to get on the air. So if your coping speed is below 5 WPM or you’re just learning CW, even if you’re an accomplished CW operator, then this might be a solution for you.

Not only is CWCOM free but there is nothing really much to hooking it up except to wire a straight key or a set of paddles if you wish to. If you don’t feel like hooking up a key or paddle you can simply use your down-arrow key on your computer just like a straight key. I have to mention that when I’m sending CW using this method I have to have my sending or Transmitted Morse Code text disabled on the screen as it just tends to throw my sending off. If you want to hook up a straight key or paddle to your PC you can do so by using your PC serial port via a 9-pin DIN (or D-SUB) connector. If no port is available on the back of your PC case, there is usually a header on the mother board. Make sure you pay attention to your computer com ports when configuring it.

The connections to be made using a manual key are to bridge pins 6 and 4. For “Iambic” (dual-lever) mode, pin 6 is the dot, pin 8 is



Windows OS version at least up through Windows 7. I have it set up on two computers; my 12 year old XP (which is obviously much slower,) and my much faster Windows 7 laptop. Another simple solution for connecting a CW key to your PC (and should work for any program accepting input from your keyboard or mouse buttons) is to use a popular arcade-button interface called the "iPAC" (\$35 from <https://www.ultimarc.com>.) The iPAC connects to any USB port and requires no driver to operate in Windows and can map dozens of external switches (via ground path) to representative keyboard strokes on your PC. All inputs are able to be switched simultaneously and each can be customized to any keyboard or mouse button via a simple program. This might be of interest to homebrew hams.

CWCOM will decode the CW as received. You can copy the CW by listening to it on your speakers or you can read it off the screen if you're just learning the code. Although there aren't too many hams on currently, CW on the internet seems to be getting more popular every day. Currently, there are a few ham stations showing up in the column titled *Frequency of 7122*. You can get on with a friend, set up your own private frequency or area and practice your CW together. You can also take a look to see all the other users. If you're thinking about learning the Morse code or just wish to have a nice QSO with another ham, either state side or DX, then just take a look at the program. Likewise, you can get news headlines sent via CW as well as practice words sent at various speeds. The URL is

<http://MRX.com.au/>

*Editor..... This program **is not** to replace on the air practice but to provide an opportunity to improve sending and receiving when your station is unavailable. Investigating may show that the decoding option may be turned off.*

VE7SL's Simple Station



Is there anyone in the group living in North Dakota that could give me a 40m CW QSO? I'm trying to finish a 40m WAS using my 1-tube twins. I have already worked all 50 and have confirmed 49 but my ND guy seems to be a non-QSL'r unfortunately. I'd love to finish this off before moving the twins down to 80m for another winter's WAS effort. 73, Steve VE7SL

August Brag 2021



Thanks for your help in getting to 100 Brag QSO's finishing with 102. For those who contacted me on the night of 30 Aug, it was fun. Could not have done it without you. OK, NOW THE REST OF THE STORY so you have the background.

I didn't just want to get to 100, the real story was that a couple days ago, I noticed that I was in the 80s then two days ago, at 86. Looking back the last 12 months, the next biggest month from 86, was September 2020 when I got 99. Last September, I got a job to end my Summer Covid Layoff from my previous job. Thus losing free time to play radio. So...why not try to hit 100 to beat that 99 total from last September. Last night on the Sched page, I posted my count to 100 and you fine people responded. Then at 11pm local (0300 utc) I stalled at 99. So I put things aside and got #100, 101 & 102 this morning and afternoon, before and after work. The fun was posting it and ya'll responded. Worked about half old friends and other about half making new friends with all the new numbers shared. Oh, Oh, but my best qso was with KG4IMI Mike, #478. I became his last qso needed for his "C". Met Mike for the first time last night, for when it counted. Not sure who was more excited, Mike or Me? And all because of a goofy fun goal for brag numbers. That's my story, and I'm sticking with it. See you... in September....73, Bud AA8CL



August was a stormy month across No West Mo which kept me busy with WX spotting. Thank you to VA3RSA for bonus station op's Looking forward to Sept. 73, Rick K0KEX



A fairly good month for me since I got a good jump-start in the SSS at beginning of August. 73, Curt K2CWM



Not a bad month here. Got Adam in AUS and Ramon in CUB for a little DX. Got the bonus station rite at the end of the month finally! Rich switched bands to help me get him and much thanks for that Pal. Got most with the 7410 but last few days the new 7610. Still a doublet up 30 feet here. Not a great pic but here is the new rig with the TBCP in the foreground. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Thanks for all the brags! See you next month. 73,



73, SAM/Virginia KC5SAM



With the garden, sailing and golf taking precedence over Ham radio during the summer months I am submitting my first Monthly Brag. I know that I will be able to improve upon this meager submission. 73, Ed N2GSL



Thanks everyone for the exchanges and to Rich, VA3RSA for the Bonus. Between painting the deck, yard work, 6YO granddaughter, I was fortunate enough to be able to make several Brag contacts :-> 73, Rick N8XI



I worked Richard for the brag bonus on the 3rd. It's nice to log the bonus station that early. I added an RCAF (Royal Canadian Airforce) straight key to the bench beside my TBFB Cootie key. A Canadian friend helped me get it from an estate sale in Ontario. I need a lot of practice before I use that on the air. In August, I logged just 14. But that included 1 Rag-chew, 1 DX (ESP), 1 2-way QRP, and 3 where my log comment ended with "Nice Chat". Not a busy month, but a nice one. 73, Ken N9KJU



Thanks to all who helped me get my Senator award this month. Finally! From now on, no more late night and early morning sessions, hi! 73, Jo PG4I

August Brag 2021



Thanks for all the QSOs in August. I missed 15 days due to holidays. I tried some portable QRP for August BRAG - it was fun but I only made 4 contacts. Sorry if we could not connect. Over the course of the month there were several replies to my CQs that I could not make out due to QRN or QSB. I got 120 Brag QSOs with another 11 as dupes or non-members. The attached photo is of me on Aug. 9 operating "SKCC BRAG" portable QRP 5W in Lakeside Park near the entrance of Oakville, ON harbour on the NW shore of Lake Ontario. Just out of view is the harbour light CAN-632 [number assigned by Amateur Radio Light House Society (ARLHS)]. This was not an official activation but I picked it because I happened to be there and was in visual sight of the harbour light. Equipment used: IC-705 (battery powered), AH-705 tuner attached to a 35 ft wire spiral wrapped on a vertical 20 ft fibreglass pole. There were 8 ten foot radials at the base. I used my cwmorse.us micro straight key for sending. It was a nice portable operating event. 73 de VA3RSA, Rich



316 QSOs total this month. It was lots of fun. Thank you to all members. Welcome to new members. I hope you are all having as much fun as I am. 73, Mark W8YA



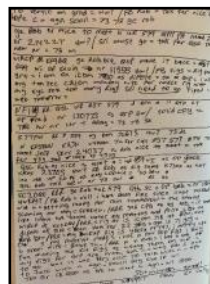
I was away and off the air for two weeks, but was fairly active late in the month. Have been getting used to a Vibroplex Original, but still use the old Western Union SK for most SKCC QSOs. Thanks to all for the QSOs, some of which were in less than perfect band conditions. 73, John W1TAG



Tough month for the bands. A lot of noise from Windom antenna. Worked 257 QSO's this month but only 134 Distinct Members QSO's. Happy to accomplish my Px5 and also to get lots of time on the BUG. Now to complete my Triple Key award. Photo of Triple Key setup at operating position. 73, Bill W3SI



I got a few days without thunderstorms and it was nice. Bands were always marginal but I did get a new country thanks to 9A2AJ. Tom gave me an SKCC exchange while running a freq. Thanks, OM. 73, Les WB5JWI



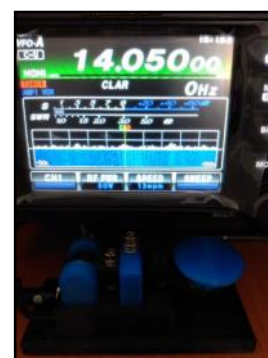
I had a great month this August. I've met some great ops that always keep it fun. I especially appreciate the HIHI moments in the longer QSOs. Usually we're laughing about the many QR (Kids) interruptions that I get every day in the middle of a QSO. My photo is of one page of my QSO book. I'm not a head copier, and I really don't care to be. I love to write stuff down and look at them later. Can't wait for another great month in the SKCC. I did notice that my copy speed is about 10wpm which is up from the 5-7wpm I had when I started back last month. I've enjoyed all the events this month, and I finished the month out with about 248 total QSOs. Tx3, here I come! 73, Rob W1RCP



Quality not quantity
Hi,Hi! 73, Rich W4RQ



Not much in the log this month but still had a great time logging each one. Pictured is my new QRP rig that I use on the weekends at camp. With a 9V battery and decent SWR it outputs close to 2 watts. Will be boosting that to 12V soon. May get 5 watts :) Thanks for the contacts. 73, John WB2TQC



Muchas gracias por sus contactos les espero hacer otro contacto con ustedes. CHE, WP3PW 73
Thank you very much for your contacts. I hope to make another contact with you. CHE, WP3PW 73...editor

The following is information from an article by Chuck Counselman, W1HIS. The complete article is available in the SKCC Files section at the SKCC web site....editor

Common Mode Chokes

“One of life’s most economical ways to increase receiving performance.”
K1VR

Your ability to hear weak MF and HF signals is limited by noise, generated mostly by solid-state electronic switches within your own house, conducted *via* the 60-Hz power line to your shack, and from there to your antenna by common-mode current on the feedline. Putting common-mode chokes on your feedline, power, and other cables will substantially reduce your received noise level. A good choke has $\gg 1\text{ k}\Omega$ impedance for all MF and HF bands and costs \$12 (for a small cable) to \$120 (for a large, QRO cable).

Why Use Common-Mode Chokes?

The most common reasons for using common-mode chokes are:

- (1) to reduce the fraction of the RF power that is fed to your antenna from your transmitter, but then is conducted back to your shack *via* common-mode current on your feedline, causing RFI trouble in the shack or elsewhere in your house;
- (2) to keep the transmitted RF power that 60-Hz power, telephone, TV, and other cables in the field of your antenna pick up, from bothering susceptible devices connected to these cables in your own and neighbors’ houses; and
- (3) to keep the RF noise that all the electronic devices in your house generate, from being conducted *via* 60-Hz power, telephone and other cables to the outer shield of your radio, and from there along your feedline(s) to your antenna(s), in common-mode.

Dave W3NP, has been making common mode chokes for his station and reports:

“I have been experimenting with common mode chokes and found that 16 turns of RG-58 around a single FT-240-31 gives excellent results on 80 - 10 with the best attenuation on 40/30 - 10. I have one of those at the output of the K3 and one at the output of my TT Omni VII. The one in the photo for the last WES is on the output of the KPA-500 and it is 10 turns of RG-400 on a double stack FT-240-31. So both rigs have the benefit of 2 chokes in series.

I have a NanoVNA and did some testing on all of the chokes but unfortunately I did not record the results. I know I was seeing attenuation of ~28 - 32 db on 15 and 20 meters with the 16T lower power chokes and about the same on the high power choke. I would have wound a few more turns on the hi-pwr choke but I was lazy and bought a pre-made 6' cable and could only get 10 turns when trying to pass the connector through the core. I may cut the connectors off, wrap a few more turns and then install it in a 4" square plastic outside electrical box with SO-239's.....which is pretty much what the commercial chokes at \$100 plus are.

My common mode noise here is not extreme but I definitely saw the band quiet down after installation. At times there is zero noise on 20 and 15 and much less on 30 and 40. Almost seems like there is no antenna connected when using the Optibeam 4 element on 15.“



Ken, N8KR has a common mode choke on his mobile antenna and reports:



“I typically do not use a mag mount when traveling as I have a permanent mount on the back of my Ford Edge. It is grounded to the chassis and I have 6 turns of RG8X around a 31 mix toroid as a common mode choke.”

Ken reports it has done wonders to reduce noise when being mobile.

Here at the K8AQM station I have been experimenting with Common mode chokes also.

I have built two types of common mode chokes. My first efforts were using snap-on chokes and I found that twenty chokes would give me the 2K+ ohm impedance I wanted. It takes more “room” behind the radio but seems to exhibit the same features as W3NP described...I thought my antenna was disconnected or attenuated but it was just that quiet! My chokes are between the transceiver and amplifiers. I recently wound chokes similar to W3NP's and will be putting them on the amplifier output. Ideally there should be another common



Length of coax with 12 snap-on chokes and 8 more to be added. A finished 20 snap-on choke which goes between the transceiver and amplifier.



RG-400 coax (higher power than 8X ready for PL-259s to be added. This goes at amplifier output.

mode at the antenna feed point but when your antennas are up...well, maybe when they fall or need to be replaced a third choke can be added. Nice to know that the two chokes are in series so more impedance for the total. Like Dave, I don't think I had much noise but then it's really a cheap way to improve your hearing especially with all those QRP signals!

I have also added snap-on chokes to all AC lines (power supplies) feeding my transceivers, monitors, tensor lights, rotors, CAT 5 cables and the computers in the shack.

September WES 2021



Good weekend, much better conditions, no lighting crashes! It was a beautiful weekend in North Carolina and to many things to do, not enough time for the WES. But I still had fun and worked many old friends. It was great being able to work 7 Club stations. Thanks everyone. 73, Bill AA2MX



Shout-out to Ron, KS1KCC/AC2C, for digging out my 339 QRP signal! I went with my Yaesu FT-840 (running 5W) to an inverted vee, and trusty Nye Viking Master straight key. I spent a little more time for this WES and managed even two French QSO's (thanks to Bert F6HKA, and Bob F6EJN). Very 73 to all - Colin, AE3A



Great time. Only had a couple minutes last night and then about 30 minutes this afternoon. So not my best but when you run 1 watt and get to work 6 great Hams, including a 559 report from Bob, F6EJN, its a good WES. And thanks also to Scott, John, Jack, Phil and Rick. Oh, and Rick, W1AU could have quit on me so thanks for you to keep trying in the end. You pulled me out. The hard ones are the ones that are the most fun for me. I really appreciate ya'll for answering all the QRP & QRPp stations. So you QRO stations really deserve to get the applause. 73, Bud AA8CL



Spread with the United States is usual. A few QSOs in the afternoon. Good evening propagation on the 20 m strip. Good night traffic for 40 m. Some openings on the 15 m. The hours are French. (GMT + 2). Thank you for all these QSOs and see you soon for other activities. My conditions: KWD TS 2000 and Acom Amplifier (400 watts) Antenna tuner TEN TEC 238B and Antenna FB 33 at 50 feet ASL. 73, Bob F6EJN



Got in there several times and added to the contest. Busy weekend so not many chances to operate. Had a great time S&P and even did a run for a little while on 40. Enjoyed it and got to use the Cootie for a while. Great fun and good to hear some new members I there plugging away. Used one new bug too after a lot of adjusting. (RESUBMITTED). 73, John Paul AB4PP



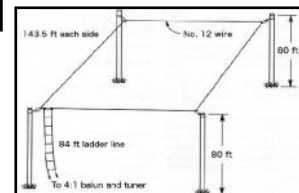
Another Fantastic WES! Thanks to everyone involved. I wasn't able to get started until this morning but had some good propagation for the most part and before long I realized how my CW experience has improved over the last year and a half, mostly thanks to everyone here! SKCC is the best! 73, Kevin, AF5SW #20090T



Another great WES. Thank you all for the good time. 73, David CT7AUP

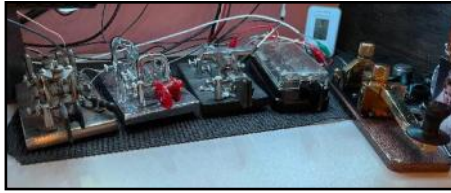


Thanks for the QSOs, it was a fun WES. For a while 20M was so hot I thought Bert, H6HKA, was local. I noticed for the first time that some folks were using cut numbers in their SKCC numbers. I bet that adds a new level of confusion for newbies. On a darker note, while I was running a freq and answering responders, occasionally other stations would keep right on calling rather than waiting in line. I hope that kind of brutish behavior isn't creeping into SKCC. Still, the WES was a lot of fun and I'm looking forward to the next one. 73, Jim AD0AB



Another great WES contest! Conditions from Oregon were pretty poor with even the S Meter bending CA and CO stations down in the mud. Even so a lot of good DX was added to the log thanks to great operators like F6HKA, PG4I, EA4AZT, LW3EX, and many others. It was also my job to confuse everyone by operating KS7KCC for a few hours from OR (and not the usual OH - I hope everyone was paying attention to the SPC!) So between that and shutting things down when the CWOPS guys came on the band it was a pretty lazy contest effort for me. I spent half the weekend between pounding brass and wood working projects. I'm already looking forward to next month! Thanks everyone, 73, Bill AK6A

September WES 2021 II



Enjoyed another WES but had to cut operating time short because it was just too beautiful outside!! Still had fun with my meager QSO count. Thanks to all who participated!! SKCC is the best!! 73, Kenny AF4QK 20594s



It was nice to have the noise levels down & the signals stable. Good job by the Club stations, would like to have had more time to find KS1KCC. Spec shout to G4PVM, F6HKA, F6EJN, PG4I, & EA4AZT. Thanks to everyone for another great WES 73, Rick K0KEX



Great event, I like the clubs format. See everyone next month! 73 from frosty Maine Ed K1EDG



Hi everyone. Thanks for the QSOs. The conditions were not too bad for a change. I was very busy on Saturday sharing my time between the SKCC and BWQP activities. The 40 and 20m were in good shape. Good opening to the US on 15M both days with good signals but unfortunately too short. Working conditions: Elecraft K4D received 2 weeks ago and Expert 1.5K amp limited to 400 Watts. Antennas: Ultrabeam 20/1/15/12/10m at 60ft up 4el on 20m and 6 el on 15m. 2 el Cushcraft on 40m 70ft up. 73 everybody and maybe see you next month. Bert F6HKA



Ran my TS-590SG at 75 watts to a multi-band vertical, using my Kent KT1 Straight Key. Set my goal of 50 contacts but only made 40. Always fun but the nice outside weather limits my indoor radio fun (hi hi). Thanks to all my contacts and see y'all next month! 73, Curt K2CWM NJ

What a fun WES. Most of my time was spent piloting K4VRC, The Villages Amateur Radio Club. IC-7300, 40 meter Delta Loop, Begali Spark and Intrepid keys. 73, Bob K3ZGA



Great fun but propagation again not great from here. All my contacts (8) were on 20m and many thanks to F6EJN, F6HKA, W9GT, KS9KCC, NE9EE, DK3DUA, KS8KCC and K3EW. Stations heard but not worked were EA1EX, EA4BL, KR9Q, EA5FID, F5DE, UR5SNS, 4X6FB. Kenwood TS-440s 100 watts to a 20ft vertical, key a Marconi 365GZ (?) 1960s I think. 73, John G0RDO skcc 2133s



SKCC Member for some years but first time trying the WES. I only had a very short time this weekend but most enjoyable nevertheless. I will be sure to devote more time next month! 73, Mac G3WZD

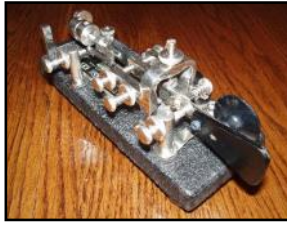
September WES 2021 III



Great Participation, especially loads of new members. This was maiden voyage for my new acquisition-a Palstar AT-Auto automatic tuner. It is slaved to rig and follows tuning and band changes extremely quickly. Made for easy forays onto 15 meters when asked to do so, and my numerous band changes. This unit has balanced output necessary for my loop antenna 390 ohm twin lead feed. Conditions were not great on 20, 15 was very spotty, except for Bruce WB6IZG on Saturday working everyone on 15. 20 and 40 propagation were not great just fair most times. (LOTS OF VERY SMALL SIGS DUE TO CONDITIONS) At times others offered on the Sked Page that "It was like pulling teeth". I agree, things were very very slow except for last hour. Thank you Stan ZL2BLQ for your nightly (our time) monitoring of 14049 on 20 ; TU to Vk4TJ and VK2DVA for very early AM (East time Sunday AM) QSO's on 40. Very tough circuit. TU WL7WH Bob for pulling my signal out on 20 on Sunday PM. Thank you to everyone for persevering through the deep QSB. Missed 12-4 both Saturday and Sunday afternoons due to need to cut grass and help XYL shopping. Those times are usually very slow going and reports are that I did not miss much. Biggest surprise was the frenzy of callers during the last hour on 40- In the past, 80 held that honor but not this time. See you all next month. 73 Phil K3EW



Had a great time working some fabulous operators at the end of Sunday afternoon. Some new contacts and a couple of previously worked OM. Thanks to all you long-time SK CC ops for sending really good CW at a comfortable speed! See you next month. Trustee for K4MMC, the McEachern United Methodist Church "Tower of Power" Radio Club. I know some of our contacts are glad we didn't send the entire club name. Us, too! David W4QDV



Fun as always ... 73,
John K8LJG



I ran our club call K8PRC as Ped 1. On Saturday and Sunday morning I ran my station at our summer place. IC718/100w-EFHW 40 Mtr Ant up to 25 Ft. Bencher RJ2 SK and my Vibroplex Original Bug. Sunday evening at home with my KW590S/TT Eagle and Czech Key. Had fun but got to spend some fishing time Saturday with 2 of my grandsons. That trumps radio any day. Using the Ped 1 name threw lots of ops because they are not ready to copy this type of name...people are ready for Bill, Tom..Bob etc. Until next time..Auto fill is a spoiler. 73
DE K8PRC, Ped 1,,,
(N3JIT-255S)



Worked two new one's -
TNX N4AHO Doug in SC
& EA4AZT Manuel in
Zafra . We also spent some
time trying to fill band
slots for VE9SKCC...
Thanks to all ,73 from the
shores of Lake Erie Larry



Nice change from FT8 thanks
for the Q's always a good test
of skill. 73, Ray K9EYT



Great WES for me, 25
states and 5 countries.
Thanks to Dave in
POR and Bert in FRA
and Ramon in CUB.
The receivers in this
7610 are awesome!
Running 70 watts to a
doublet ant. at 30ft.
Used the home brew
cootie for most of the
contacts. 73, Allen
KA5TJS



I had a fun time this weekend.
Got more nrs towards my Sx6
and got a few club stations.
Thanks for all the QSOs and
hope to see you all next month
73, Dave KB1WOD



Used the old Yaesu
FTDX-560 for most of
the WES until a gremlin
popped up in the rig Sun-
day morning. Finished
out the the Icom-761.
Another good WES. 73,
Randall KG5IEE

September WES 2021 IV



Used the old Yaesu FTDX-560 for most of the WES until a gremlin popped up in the rig Sunday morning. Finished out the the Icom-761. Another good WES. 73, Randall KG5I-EE



I thoroughly enjoyed this month's WES! I operated off-and-on throughout the 36-hr period, for about five or six hours total. Search-and-pounce was most productive, altho' I spent some of my time calling CQ WES and had a few OMs answer. Because milliwattting is one of my favorite activities, I operated QRPp, mostly using my NorCal Sierra (turned down to 500 mW) feeding a 135 ft inverted L up 40 ft. I stayed on 40 m on Saturday, and switched to 20 m for Sunday. I did ok on 40 m, with five QSOs. I was especially pleased to have QSOs with OMs operating two club calls: Easy, KS6KCC, and Ron for VE3UEE, the Bush Dog Radio Group.

At first I was unable to make any contacts on 20 m, so I increased power to 900 mW, switched antennas (to a 44 ft doublet up 35 ft), and even tried my Elecraft K1 (also at 900 mW to the doublet). Eventually I had two great QSOs: the first with Terry, W7AMI in ID, and then with Malcolm in MB operating the Canadian Special Event call, VE9SKCC/VE4WES. Those two made up for my previous frustration on 20 m. For old times' sake, I also spent a bit of time using my Tuna Tin 2 xtal xmtr (300 mW) on 40 m, with an old IC-R70 revr (a gift from my elmer Paul WA4MXT), but didn't have any contacts with it.

The photo shows my station in 2006, during the 2006 ARRL Straight Key Night. The rigs used this weekend are all still the same, down to the WM-1 wattmeter showing 300 mW from the TT2. It was the 2006 SKN that led me to SKCC: I found out about SKCC and joined a few days later (What! You mean there are people who prefer using straight keys and use them all the time?!)

Thanks to everyone who pulled down my QRPp signal, and especially those with the patience for repeats... and more repeats. Until next time... 73, Kevin KI4DEF

Multi Operators for KS7KCC were Randy/N8KQ, Bill/AK6A, Bob/W8ARC. The picture is of N8KQ's Hygain TH6-DXX "Thunderbird" Thank You Bill es Bob. 73 KS7KCC "CW"



Didn't make many contacts but had great fun. 73, Donnie KI4DT



...another working weekend with limited time. Was a fun one hunting those club stations. See you next month! 73, jack



Nice to see lots of activity. The bands weren't bad either. Lotsa DX too. Thanks All! CU in Next WES, I hope! 73,



Short effort but wanted KS2KCC in some logs. 73, Dash KS2KCC



Operated only Sunday for a bit. 73, Dit KS8KCC

Great Outdoors Radio Club 1308 Greenwood Drive Burlington, NC 27217 Alamance County				SKCC Straight Key Century Club © 2002	
		CONFIRMING QSO WITH:			
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	
UTC	mHz	RST	MODE		

Great conditions! Spent most of the time on 40 but worked members on 160,80,40, 20 and 15. It was fantastic to see all the new members participating! Best surprise contact was WL7WH, Bob in the far north. Used the KX3 at 15w into a doublet or an endfed at 33 feet. Keys were many a varied to include sideswipers, bugs and straight keys. 73, Bugs KS4KCC

September WES 2021 V



Multi-op with Terry - K9FMX, Josh - W9HT, Ed - WA9BBN, and Ken - N8KR at the N8KR shack. Lots of activity and great DX! Findlay Hamfest silenced the shack for most of Sunday ... it's great to have hamfests again! Pictured is Ed - WA9BBN at the 40 meter station with Ken - N8KR at the 20 meter station. 73, Codie KS9KCC



Had a little time this morning to give WES a try - heard lots of stations but only one heard me :- (RBN showed me getting out in some directions but low sig strength, using 20m EFHW which usually does okay. Thanks to all the ops that make this such a great event, 73, Mike N2HTT



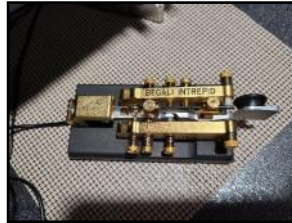
Argo6 5wts g5rv n/s inv vee.. 80, 40 20 mtrs.. tnx to any KS?kcc mbrs..only worked 6 states west of the Mississippi river..hihi.. 1081 qsos so far this yr, hi..they all make QRM..hihi..that's my daily project.. I now have "ONLY" 72 keys..hi..pix of some on qrz pay. This PIX is nmbr 72... 73 will be coming..hi..So, tnx to SKCC board mbrs.. and I keep thinking for each WES we work on, a ONE dollar bill shud be sent to the SKCC board for what they are doing for us .. So takecare and c u in OCTOBER, to make more QRM..hihi.. it's fun..73 QRM president chief. HiHi. DAVE LARSEN N9ZXLQRP@GMAIL.COM



I used the Begali Spark Straight Key instead of the Intrepid Bug for the WES - working on that TRIPLE KEY! I want to be a Triple Key Master, like my friend and mentor, Bob, K3ZGA! 73, Flip KT9X



Another great WES. This weekend my wife was at the beach with friends and so I got to really concentrate on this one! Conditions seemed good and the storms stayed away. I'm still hearing CW in my head even though my rig is now off! Had to update my score because I forgot to add in the bonus points for the club stations. Thanks again SKCC! 73, Scott N3OLP



Lots of fun and great CW practice. This was my first using the new bug.. Thanks for all the contacts.. My favorite activity by far... See you next month 73, Dennis N0SMX



Very fun WES for me. Used the KX3 on Saturday and my FTdx3000 set at 5w on Sunday. 20 was long. It was easier to work Europe than Ohio :) Tip of the hat to all the ops that pulled me out of the noise. As they say: "QRP works !" 72/73 de AL, N4ow 11375s



It was a grind, but fun. Bands were open, just not as many ops this month. 73, Al NE9EE



Busy weekend. I only had a few hours ... FUN as always. QSO Stats: 9 > 21MHz - 5 > 28MHz .TA33 - 50W - Home Made DSK. TU everyone for the QSOs. Take care & Stay well. BCNU 73, Walt - ... ZUT



Really put a lot of time into this SKCC. Lots of fun. Thanks everyone for contacts. 73, Vic N6DVS



Running WES at the Findlay, OH Hamfest while selling "goodies" at the table. Icom 7100 at 35 watts into the 40m hamstick performed well! 73, Ken N8KR

September WES 2021 VI



Operator Luc - ON7DQ 73



Good condx in the afternoon on 20m. 73, Joop PA3JD



My first 15 meter QSO in ages (with K2FW), so the bands are picking up I guess. The second day was great with a good evening opening across the Atlantic and many new stations. Thanks everyone for the QSOs! 73, Jo PG4I



That was a great WES. I operated on Saturday only; good conditions on both 20m and 40m, with occasional QRN in the evening. It was quite an experience to operate as VE9SKCC/VE2, a long call sign with a straight key. Thank you all for your patience as this was my first real test with pileups. Overall, I had great fun. 73, Robert VE2KZW



Thunderstorms created QRT periods yesterday but such is living in paradise! Still had some QSOs w/ friends. Used my Kent SK this WES. 73, Blue W1BLU



I had a great time operating this WES event. I outdid myself from last month's QSO count. Did some PR for SKCC to a non-member (W3WR). Had a 30 minute ragchew with one member W1WD on Saturday. I learned that MA sent really fast sounds like a Q. I helped one of the bonus stations with a dirty key. I sent her an email to let her know. I've had the same thing happen, and I thought my rig was broken. My SKCC log broke the 500 QSO mark. I'm sending in a Tx4 application along with some other benchmarks. This WES was a successful adventure in that alone. 73, Rob W1RCP



Interesting weekend. Participation seemed good, there was some activity on the higher bands, and propagation was better overall than recently. Snagged 54 SPC's, which is a record for me. Nice to have a CQ answered by JR2IUB! The bonus points for club contacts should result in some big scores. Thanks to all who participated! 73, John W1TAG



Had a great time with 10 operators from the Long Island CW Club participating. W4CMG, WR7D, KD9KHA, KO5USA, K2JX, ND8MS, KN4ZMA, N2PEZ, N0IPA, and W2ITT. Thanks all for chasing us down. 73, LICW W2LCW



AS always, a WES is a lot of fun. For some reason 20-meters was not great in SW Ohio. Old reliable 40-meters was great. 73, Drexel W4DHT



Fun times on the Bug this weekend. 73, Rin W4RIN



What little time I had in WES this month was FUN, Thanks to all who endured my Cootie fist ! Carry On, stay safe and protect others. 73, Rich W4RQ

September WES 2021 VII



Hard not to send my own callsign (KC5F) or SKCC #, and just about as hard not to send "CQ POTA" instead of "CQ WES"! But lots of fun for the hours here and there where I could give the club points out on 40, 20 and 80. (Too bad I couldn't use some of these new numbers for my own callsign, though...!) Thanks, all. 73, Blue Ridge ARC W4YK



Another fun WES, thanks for all the QSO's. The conditions were rough but I did OK. 73, Gene W9KMK



Man that was a lot of fun! I put up a new Delta Loop a few days ago and boy does it work well! Rig used was the FT-857d throttled back to 5w. Key was my DIY cootie. 73, Neil WA4CHQ



♥ I spent most of my time having-a-ball managing the ☞KS6KCC☞ Team. The Easy Copy CW Club. I had no idea that "Multi-Operator" would be so much fun ☺ (I hope we were Easy Copy!) I also learned how to use emoji's on the Sked-Page...nuf-said about that! We had a blast handing-out 100 points to as many ops as we could ♥ The team did all the hard work on their keys, while I tried to actively keep the roster as full as possible. Our team's composition was Long Island CW Club members and past K3Y/6 ops. My enthusiastic-thanks to our team: WB1LLY, WB2UZE, KT9X, NF6R, WK4WC, KM4OPN, N2PPI, W6UG, N0CW, KE8AQW, W1EJ, AA6AC, AA6MK, WB2KWC, WW6AA ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ 73, Jim W6JIM



Thanks to the bouns station for a great time. Picture is of the USS Kitty Hawk CVA-63 in 1963. 73, Bob W8BTD



Very little time to operate with numerous things going on this weekend. Hope everyone had fun. We managed to work a few. Skipper handles K9 duties in the station and I take care of the W9 end of things. 73, Jack W9GT



Great fun as usual. Always nice to work new calls but also very nice to hear familiar calls. Thanks all. 73, Bill W9SA



Thank you to everyone who took time to help me get my Senator award. I hope you all have as much fun as I do. Keep pounding the brass. 73,



Did not spend much time on the air this month as I had a 24hr stomach bug. I thought condx were somewhat poor overall. Got KS1KCC on 2 bands, KS6KCC on 3 bands, KS7, 8 and 9 on one band each. K3 Line to the Optibeam yagi on 20 & 15 and the big Skyloop on 40 and 80. First event using my homebrew common mode chokes (1 at the K3 and 1 at the KPA-500) and enjoyed near zero local noise. Keys used: Vibroplex Lightning bug c1942 and the SL170IL bug for slower speeds. 73, Dave W3NP



Spent some operating time both afternoons. Signals were weak on Saturday but bands improved a bunch on Sunday. Thanks to all for the QSOs! 73, Gerald WA5AFD

September WES 2021 VIII



I had contacts on 40 in the morning here, 15 and 20 midday, and 40 in the evening. Worked states in the East, Central, and West. Also Cuba, New Brunswick, a couple clubs, and KS6KCC. Lots of activity for this sprint and good band conditions. Soapbox image is from earlier in the summer when I activated a Parks on the Air: Gunpowder Falls State Park (Sparks, MD location). 73, Ken WA3RSR



Only a little time for operation and the band conditions were not good on Sunday. Still, I had fun and hope everyone else had a great time. 73, Les WB5JWI



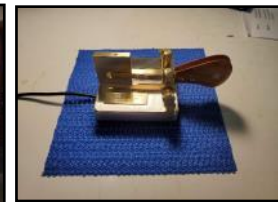
It was a beautiful day for some QRP-portable operating. It was fun having back-to-back QSOs with F6EJN and F6HKA. Thanks, Bob and Bert! 73, Craig WB3GCK



Thanks for the WES qosos, the club qosos, and bonus station qosos. Great Fun!! 73, WB9TFF Donna



I'm in my apartment with my IC-7300, Comet 250B on my patio and my 2 Wolfhounds asleep on the sofa. This is my 1st WES SKCC. 73, Mark WZ5K



Thanks SKCC for a great event. I worked 50+ for KS6KCC. I hope I didn't hurt anyone's ears with my new cootie fist. I wish I could operate it to match how good it looks. 73, Lane WK4WC

CW Royalty



Well, I may have encountered "Morse Royalty" yesterday. 🤖 (I'm kinda talking about the operator, but definitely talking about the straight key.) I had just finished a QSO on 30m when I heard a CQ about 1 kHz away. The op was tootin' along about 20 WPM.

I called him and he came right back. Now, I was using my Vibroplex paddles and the rig's built-in keyer... but when he said that he was using his Nye Viking Master key I asked him to QRX. I turned off my keyer and plugged in *my* Nye Viking Master and we continued with a two-way

NVM QSO. Now the good part. The op said that he had used that very key for eight hours per day, five days per week, at one of the big coastal stations, and has used it as a ham for 26 years since then. The key has never been disassembled or required repair. I think my key is about the same age, but has seen infinitely less use! (And the microswitch in mine came loose years ago and I had to glue it back in place.) Anyway, the whole experience was quite a straight key thrill. 73, Bill KR8L

Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 2 Issue 3
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.....

I've done a few contests this year, spent some time with my Elmers. I'm more relaxed at it, so success rates are higher, but not at all what I'd like them to be. (Do I detect the stirrings of competitive spirit? EEK!) I've made some notes on what works for me and what doesn't.

I have a barefoot 100W station with a multiband vertical antenna, not very high, in a noisy urban environment. This has effects for both transmitting and receiving.

On getting out, the antenna is only really good for 10 and 20m and a narrow band of phone 80m (75?), okay for 40m, workable on 15. This means, if I want to run, I need clear space to do it, not cheek to cheek with a KWer. If I want to search and pounce, it requires patience in the pile-up. If I catch someone early, one call will do, but once they're noticed, it can take up to 10 before I'm heard in the hollering. As a result, I typically get much better rates S&P than I do running a frequency.

Which brings me to spotting networks and running assisted. I use the network to spot those I work, to help out my fellow testers, but I don't have the spotting windows open for my own use. Why? Because I have found that very often, the station "spotted" is NOT the station I find CQing at that frequency when I tune there. Lots of fat-fingered types making mistakes or stations heard by spotters somewhere out there may be inaudible to the ones I can hear. Either way, I'm not getting what I expect. The other problem with spotting networks is that their main effect is to generate pile-ups on spotted stations. I don't bust pile-ups effectively, so I'm better off NOT tuning to those stations, unless I do it the moment they appear on the network. So typically, I just spin the dial, working my up from the bottom, then then back down before switching bands and doing it again. There are always plenty of stations to work that way, and I'm not always in the pile-ups.

In a recent contest I was running in, I had a friend a few blocks away listening to the exchanges. I'm told I was getting out to the far corners of the world, but I was not hearing them answering me. I'm still working on this one. An antenna that transmits well should hear well (but not true the other way around.) Some part of this may be filter-effect: I keep mine tight (200-250Hz) during contests and my offset is only 500Hz. Stations replying may have a 700-1000 Hz offset and even if on my frequency, they'd be out of my aural passband. I'll have to play with that the next go-round. Another possibility, one I'd hate to be true, is my receiver section may have lost sensitivity. When things are safer, I'll have to find one of our technical types and go through the box with test equipment.

In the meantime, practice – practice – practice. How? There are as many ways as there are ops, I suspect. For myself, I use a few, only. I spend some time with Morse Trainer (<https://morsecode.world/international/trainer/trainer.html>) working on my weak characters, trying to get my instant recognition up to 30wpm. It's a constant drill, as this talent seeps out of my skull at an alarming rate. I spend time with Morse Runner, training specifically for callsign/serial number exchanges that resemble most contests. And, I spend some time on-air with the CWT tests (weekly) and the K1USN SST (twice a week). The apps I use to train keyboard send and ear receive, but the live action practice is paddle and ears stuff, just because I actually LIKE sending by hand. It's a great skill to have. Contesting? All keyboard (except SKCC events) because the challenge there is all in the copying.

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

September SKS 2021



Fun night. I remembered just in time. Think I could have done better, but was enjoying the journey. Wow I thought 40m was popping tonight. Nice and crowded. And whomever said that cw is dead should come join us. CW ROCKS!!! Thanks to all the big guns for all your great reports from this QRPp station tonight. And thanks for answering all the other QRP stations too. We're not trying to make you work harder, just living the dream. Hope to see you down the Log. 73, Bud AA8CL



Got lucky and found the Bonus Station as my first contact (tnx Ray). Ran my TS-590SG at 75w to a multi-band vertical on the roof, using my old Kent wooden-base key (made in England). Bands used were 20m, 40m, and 80m. Always fun event. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Was going to try 80 for a while but 40 meters was loaded so we stayed there. Glad to see all the activity & it was nice to log a few new one's too and Thanks Ray for the bonus..73's from the shores of Lake Erie. 73, Larry K8TEZ



First SKS for me in a while. Great fun. 20 was good and 40 was packed! Conditions were pretty good. Icom 7610 @ 70 watts and a doublet antenna up 30ft. Used my HB Cootie. 73, Allen KA5TJS



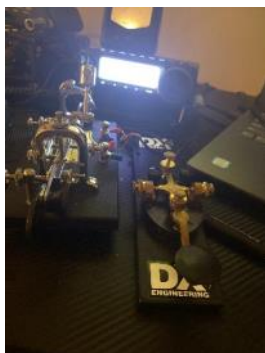
What a treat! Bands were so good I never got off 40m!! I think every station was over S9. Always fun to get home in time to play in the sprint. 73, Randy KB4QQJ



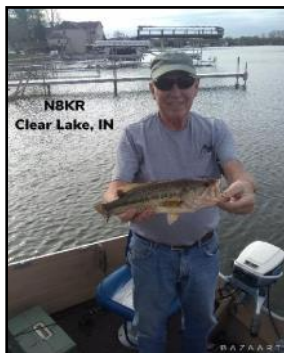
Wow, I never even got off of 40m. 80-minute run plus S&P was fun with my 65w! One call from Romania, but not SKCC and he seemed confused, so I didn't log it. But had a good one with 9A2AJ in Croatia, instead! Thanks, all for lots of fun! 73,



My first Sprint, didn't have much time but got a chance to shake down what I hope will be this winter's cold winter night rig. The box on top of the old beater HRO500 is a low distortion TDA2050 amp with a Watkins Johnson speaker, and I'm hoping to get a Laser-vari audio filter in there soon for those ugly WES sessions. See ya next month. 73, Scott



73, Armando Kp4yo... From Puerto Rico!!!



Rain and Wind so no fishing tonite but lots of fun on SKS. 40 meter hamstick and the Icom 7100 in my Ford Edge with good propagation and lots of activity! 73, Ken N8KR



Icom IC-7610, OCF dipole at 30' and J-38 key. Stayed on 40 meters the entire 2 hours. Lot's of excellent signals and the QRN wasn't too bad. Getting more used to my new 7610 - the APF on this rig is excellent! Really brings weak signals out of the noise. 73, Bill NZ0T

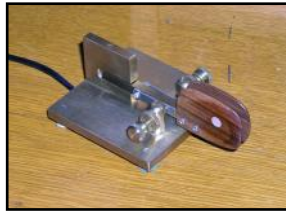


Been a few months since I've done SKS. Glad to be back! 73, Ted W6TED

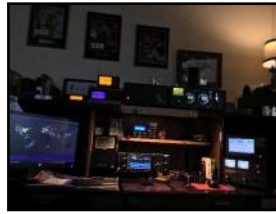
September SKS 2021 II



Just did some hunting and pouncing. Took a 20 minute break at 8:30 to participate in the local 2m net. Got back on to hunt and pounce. Then I called CQ on 7.063 to finish out the round. I planned on finding some new numbers for Tx5. I still have 4 more to go because most of the QSOs I had during SKS were already friends. The conditions were great tonight. Those that I pounced on were almost all S9+. Even the QRN in my neck of the woods was below S3 which is rare. I had fun sending a receiving a little faster than my comfort zone tonight, too. I probably peaked at 15wpm with some of you all tonight. 73 to all! Rob W1RCP



Started on 20 and had 14 contacts there where condx were very good. Made a few on 80 and the rest on 40 which was crowded and signals from the west coast were strong. 3 Line to OB yagi on 20 and Skyloop on 80 & 40. I used my original W1SFR sideswiper for all QSO's. Trying to keep all of my keys happy and exercised. I saw the bonus station's freq posted on the sked page so I didn't work him in keeping with the unassisted rule. 73, Dave W3NP



FUN Evening on the Cootie ! 20m pretty busy till I QSY'd to 40m about 2330. 40 meters really hopping tonight ! I made contact with some good ole friends like Drew AF2Z, Ken N8KR, John N0TA, and Chas K3WW and made several first time contacts with new friends. !LOVE this SKS! See you all in October, and Hey! Don't forget the SSS on the first of the month, and record the number of contacts you make during SSS to be eligible for the end of year drawing ! it's that simple ! 73, Rich W4RQ



FUN being bonus station,



Another fun time operating the SKS. I stayed on 40m using my FT-817nd (1w) to a Delta Loop. The key was a Bushwacker cootie. The band was hopping! Tnx all. Now for some sleep! Hi! 73, Neil WA4CHQ



Only had a short time to be on but thanks to those I worked. The picture is of me holding a 14 inch glass fish net ball found on the beach while Station on Midway's Eastern Island, receiver suite, 1961 to 1962. It was here I got my first license, a Conditional class. The call KM6CE was for the U.S. Naval Security Group. 73, Bob W8BTD



F6EGV's Paraset Radio

F6EGV SKCC9642
PARASET OM 5 W - QRG quartz 3560 - 3554 - 3540 –
Paul

SKCC WES Activity de N8KR

Fort Wayne area SKCC members continue to be very active in SKCC events. The September Weekend Sprintathon emphasized club calls with extra bonus points for the KS*KCC calls. KS9KCC was activated for a good portion of the weekend (it was also Findlay Hamfest weekend) and both stations at N8KR were simultaneously active on 20 and 40 meters. Ed – WA9BBN, Terry – K9FMX, and Josh – W9HT joined Ken (N8KR) and the crew managed a little over 240 contacts. The crew worked 42 states and 11 countries. Terry had the rare opportunity to have a VK4 (Australia) call him while operating 20 meters! 16 local SKCC members contacted KS9KCC that weekend reflecting the tremendous activity from the Fort Wayne area. Leading the pack of local single operators was AL – K9FW with 195 qso's, Steve – AC9XS with 127 and Jack – W9GT with 107.



Terry – K9FMX working VK4TJ



Ed – WA9BBN at the 40m station

October WES occurs on October 9 and 10. Special theme for the event is *Triple Key Award*. Members who have achieved the Triple Key Award (100 contacts with a straight key, 100 contacts with a bug, and 100 contacts with a cootie) are the bonus stations. Of the 120 Triple Key members in SKCC, 5 of those are locals: WA9BBN, N8KR, K9FW, KC9UR, and W9GT. (and we shouldn't forget Jim-KD9GDY!)



W3AVP

I've decided to get more involved in SKCC and go for my Centurion. Part of that was getting ahold of a straight key. At a recent Silent Key estate sale, I picked up the OP's J-47. It was all gummed up and quite dirty but some vinegar and a wire brush seemed to fix it all. I even CNC'd a custom wooden plate engraved with my callsign and SKCC number. CUL 73, Alex W3AVP

September Brag 2021



Didn't spend as much time on the Brag as I had hoped, but it was still fun, and got our Bonus Station at the last minute (hi hi). Used either my Kent straight key, or my old Lionel J38.

See y'all in October! 73, Curt



Thanks for the Brag QSOs this month. 73,



Thanks to all, for making this another fun Brag Month. Solar Flux just past 100, so propagation is improving; this winter should be great band conditions. Everyone have fun and God Bless you & your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



A real good month for me! On the last day I finally got my 10th Canadian call area. Got Croatia, Australia and Portugal this month. 17 meters was open a few time also. New 7610 at 70 watts and the old doublet antenna. Mostly a cootie key. 73, Allen KA5TJS



I was glad Myrt N1GKE was the bonus brag this month. I have been trying to get his number for quite sometime and finally connected this month. Thanks for all the contacts and hope to see you all again 73, Dave KB1WOD



Thanks all for the Brag contacts + Myrt, N1GKE for the Bonus. Bands were in good shape with contacts on 160M thru 15M. Picture of my 6 YO Great Grand Daughter during the ARRL Kids Day June 19th. 73, Rick N8XI



More fun all the time! 73, Tom KB3CVO



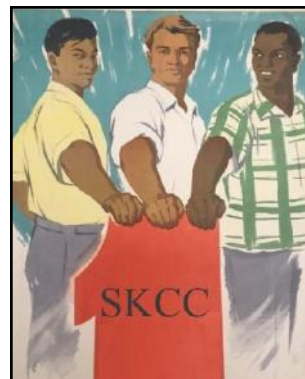
We were in the beach house the last 2 weeks of September, Did not make many QSOs then but read a couple of books. I took along a TS-120S which was a good test: the VFO needs work, it is not very stable. Worked Myrt N1GKE on 3 bands, way to go! 73, Jo



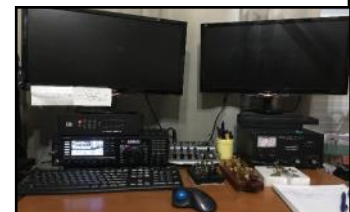
It was a great month for me. I'm not moving as fast as I want to up the SKCC ladder, but I sure gave it my all. I had 165 brag QSOs this month, and 331 QSOs including events and just talking with others to give them what they need. I also met quite a few new to CW hams and one that returned to SKCC after many years. CW sure is a great activity, and I'm glad I'm back. 73, Rob W1RCP



This was a fun month with some great conversations. It has been a busy month here with Dr. appointments every week, happens every year as we get ready to travel south to Florida. I will travel this month and try to be active in FL but who knows what is in store for me this winter. Band conditions have been trash and antennas in Florida are compromised due to HOA rules. Looking forward to a safe stay there with lots of fishing and relaxation. 73, William W3SI



Congratulations to all the members who got awards this month. I am so proud to have earned the Senator award this Month. Thank you to all the members who helped me to get this award. It has been fun and very rewarding. A special thanks to Myrt N1GKE for being the bonus station this month. I hope it did not take up too much fishing time for you Myrt. I would also like to thank all of our friends and neighbors in Canada that helped us with the VE9SKCC special event. I have a few of you in my log and I am glad for it. the QSO Party. 73, Mark W8YA



Had a good September, bands starting to open up some, slowly working my way to 1000. Just a shot of the all CW operating position. 73, Jerry WA4JK

Season's Greetings!



Season's greetings from the SKCC Board! The year is fast coming to a close (thank goodness!) and although difficult, it has been a very good year for SKCC. This year saw our membership shoot beyond 25,000 members, our best K3Y celebration with over 46,000 QSOs, the introduction of the Canadian Operating Event and a total of nearly 1,500 QSOs with a bigger and better event planned for next year. Our monthly events; Brag, Slow Speed Saunter, SKSE, SKS, and WES have all have increased partic-

ipation. SKCC has a weekly "Introduction to SKCC and Q&A" on the LICW ZOOM schedule. And the introduction of the new SKCC "cootie" and straight key for members has been a "huge" success, so... a very good year for SKCC? Unquestionably! Indeed!

2022 will see all SKCC activities by members hopefully continue to grow.

We wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

73, SKCC Board of Directors

Doug N3PDT....President

Randy KB4QQJ..Vice President

Ron AC2C...Treasurer

Ted K8AQM...Secretary

Drew AF2Z

Roger VE3RDE

Mark K7MJG

Dave W1DV

Randy N8KQ

Also the many, many volunteers who check awards and run the monthly events.

Tubes!



Why do we "old guys" like tubes? I think the smell" and often the uncertainty of "do they work, are they soft?" reminds us of our early days of both our high moments and the low moments. Here is the "tube" station of Jeff K9JP. That's a "Knight Kit T-50" and "Knight Kit VFO"...you young pups I bet have never heard of "Knight Kit" but anyone licensed in the 50s and 60s knows

the name well! Jeff uses a "Drake R-4B" receiver, definitely not of the same "quality" as the Knight Kit (still tubes) but we all learned, "If you can't hear them, you can't work them."

I worked Jeff using this setup in the October WES and knew right away he was using this setup. Want to know how I knew...secrete, only us old dogs know how I knew!

October Slow Speed Saunter 2021

Not many photos this month but good participation.

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
WB0ZG	Bruce	17714S	CA	27
N4APL	Brian	11673	GA	1
W1RCP	Rob	15375T	GA	7
W9YY	Jack	21824S	IL	14
AC9XS	Steve	23280T	IN	18
N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	10
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	12
W1Z1Y	Ron	9621T	MA	1
VE4MG	Malcolm	13248S	MB	15
KC3PZY	Jack	23471T	MD	2
NN3E	Kevin	19625S	MD	4
KB4QQJ	Randy	3508S	NC	18
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	19
K8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	5
NQ8T	Steve	5919S	OH	15
VE2EAL	Pat	23250	QC	6
W4CMG	Cathy	20093T	TN	6
W5ZBT	Tom	21049T	TX	5
W5H	Mike	11770S	TX	6
WB9TFF	Donna	7057S	WI	3
W3NP	Dave	3182S	WV	4

Participants and QSOs by SPC

CA: 1 / 27	GA: 2 / 8	IL: 1 / 14	IN: 3 / 40	MA: 1 / 1
MB: 1 / 15	MD: 2 / 6	NC: 1 / 18	NJ: 1 / 19	OH: 2 / 20
QC: 1 / 6	TN: 1 / 6	TX: 2 / 11	WI: 1 / 3	WV: 1 / 4

Slow Speed Saunter



Always a fun part of SKCC. Ran 75w from my TS-590SG into multi-band vertical. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



As always, an enjoyable time on the air. Put several nw nmbrs in my log in addition to some old friends C U next month 73, Steve NQ8T



I had my old 1990 vintage IC-735 down on the bench for a b/u battery replacement and ref osc adjustment. Switched the loop down to the basement and had a few SSS Q's using my Navy Flameproof key. It was a good test for that rig. Heard some nice signals on 40. 73, Dave W3NP

"Tech Tip" for a Better Station

Most hams confuse Grounding and Bonding, which are VERY different. An earth connection matters ONLY for lighting protection and electrical safety. Bonding matters for those issues, and also minimizes hum, buzz, and RFI. Bonding consists of tying together ALL earth electrodes, all station equipment, the station common point, including antenna entry panels and arrestors, towers that are adjacent to the house, etc.

~ 73, Jim K9YC

October WES 2021



My first SKCC contacts with my new callsign operating from Haifa, Israel. Thanks to the very kind ops who worked hard to hear my tiny signal. 73, Aaron 4X6FB



Great theme, I saw a large number of TKA ops and managed to work 15 of them. Majority of other contacts were Senators, we need some themes to encourage new members to participate. I have five keys hooked up to my rig, I like to match the key type the other fellow is using if possible. Hope to "see" you all next WES. 73, Frank AA2XB



I had a blast. Thanks to all. 73, Matt AA4WW



What a good event. I thought the bands were good on Sunday. Only got on briefly Saturday night (local). As always, I like to thank all of you that worked my QRPp station and all of the other Qrp stations this weekend. We don't make it easy on you, so THANK YOU!!! And I received a lot of great reports too. 73, Bud AA8CL



Conditions were generally good with 15M open quite a bit. It was cool working K0FTC/7 in Wyoming, missed NE SPC by about 100 feet! Photo shows a map of the US I used to help me keep track of SPCs. Almost missed NH! Missed RI, DEL and others. Thanks for the QSOs. 73, Bob AC1GF



Nice activity and conditions this weekend. 15m was open, we just need to use it more :) Thanks to Randy, N8KQ, for selling me the Junker key I used this WES. I left the spacing as is and just connected a 3.5mm jack to it. It has a very nice feel to it. Thank you all for the QSOs. 73, Phil AF6GA



my WES #131. As usual not many contacts but always the same pleasure to meet old and new SKCC friends ! K3EW was heard on 80 m but only two bands this time : 40 m and 20 m. Four new numbers : KR9U, W4NLT, W8YA and W1BLU. Many thanks to all and see you soon down the log. 73 from FRA ! Bernard F5DE



Hi All, Many thanks for those qso's. This weekend, I was with a Cootie, a lot of fun. I love this key. 73, Phil F5JWH



Thanks for the QSOs. It looks like the bands may be improving for DX. I was fortunate enough to work France, Portugal, The Netherlands and Spain, all with good signals. This time I mostly called CQ or as some say, parked and barked. 73, Jim AD0AB



A fun event and I enjoyed giving out Bonus Points. 73, Ron AC2C



Tnx to all fer qso's, nice conditions in 15 and 10 mts. 73 de Lluís EA3NO



Just a short entry on Saturday night and then some more QSOs on Sunday evening. 20m was in a good shape, sunspots are coming back! K2, Vertical, Vibroplex Original / Lorenz Straight key. 73, Fabian DJ1YFK



More participation than during the Week End Party but also a little more tiring. Thank you for these QSOs and TKA bonuses. See you soon for the next WES. 73, Bob F6EJN

October WES 2021 II



Hi everybody. Thanks for the nice contacts. Conditions were very good this weekend. 15m was in very good shape. Short opening on Sunday where I could make some contacts. Have fun as usual. 73, Bert F6HKA



WY NE border in picture, field edge is about on it. Windmills on horizon are in CO. Spent about 8 hours between setting up, taking down, and operating. KX2 on a Rockpals battery, Palm single lever paddle turned sideways and operated as a straight key. WX was pretty good, and yes, wind was blowing as always up there. I'll post numbers twice just so both states get credited in the stats (no score advantage to me). TNX for the contacts, a lot of fun to get out and do some /p. 73, John K0FTC /7 /0



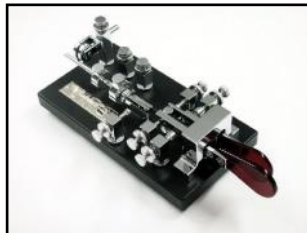
Thanks to all. Only had short time to spend but had fun with the time I had. 73, Craig KA9ERV



Great to see 15m open for a while on Saturday. Just 7 QSO's this time and thanks to W4ED, K8AQM, I4IKW, F6HKA, K2FW, N3CKI, SP6MI. I used a Marconi AS300A straight key with a TS-440S, 100 watts, ground mounted vertical aerial. 73 John / GORDO



Great conditions on 20m, the 15/10 openings was a nice surprise. A number of very special qso's. Congratulations to all the TKA operators. Thank you. 73, Rick K0KEX



Conditions were very decent this weekend. Would've like to had a little more time for the contest. But was happy with the results. Was mostly on 40 & 20 meters. But also saw some decent results on 15 meters too. Both stateside & to EU. Thanks to everyone I worked & apologies to those I missed! 73, Steve K2FW



We participated on Sunday with some contacts in the 20-meter band, thanks to everyone, 73, Ric HP1RIS



Lots of signals this weekend = lots of fun. Photo of the WES Essentials Kit: key; ancient RST cutout; makeshift TKA tracker; and lots of DSP. 73, Brian K2ACX



Only got to operate for a couple of hours, but enjoyed the time on the air. Saturday and Sunday mornings were very poor condx for me here in Kingman Az. Sunday afternoon for the last hour were much better condx to the east. Thanks to all I worked. 73, Rick K7CNT



Hi! this was my first WES, I had a lot of fun. Several interesting qso's, with some qrp stations. I had the impression that the participation was high, although my poor working conditions, did not give me the opportunity to make more qso. Thanks for those who gave me the opportunity to make qso! My station was composed as follows: IC 756 Pro II 100w, GP for 20 meters, Dipole for 40 meters, 38 meters long end fed for other bands, Vibroplex mod. Original serial 76306 year 1920. 73, Mark I4IKW



Always a fun, long event. Used my TS-590SG at 75 watts to a multiband vertical. Kent Straight Key. Set my minimum goal of 50 contacts, and that is what I did. Bands were great here. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Only worked 20 meters and not much activity. Better Saturday than Sunday...Will be back next month. 73, Tom K7ROH

October WES 2021 III



WOW So many TKA's on the contest ,over a third of the 121 awardees. I feel a little ashamed that I haven't gone for it yet. Gotta get one of them Cooties AND GET ER DONE. Any suggestions to my email please. Thank you for all of q's. . 15 WAS GRAND , 20 WAS QUITE GOOD, 40 WAS VERY GOOD AND WHY WEREN'T MORE FOLKS USING 80. BY THE WAY WHEN I STARTED WITH SKCC FEW YEARS BACK, LAST HOUR WAS KNOWN AS EVERYONE GET ON 80 AND MAKE IT SOUND LIKE SWEEPSTAKES. I picked up a slightly used FTdx10 in a very sweet deal and tried to put it though its paces during the contest. More than once I goofed and changed frequency when I meant to do something else. Sorry if I busted a qso of ours. If it's any indication, I am selling my TS590S and keeping this gem. Email me separately and I'll tell you my impressions of the rig in action on our contest. It was fairly easy to pull out the QRPers, and some QRPers with the rig and well as very marginal DX stations at times. I used to say that the 590 was the most bang for the buck- now I'd say this Ftdx10 is. Pix of new operating position with FTdx10 and Palstar Automatic antenna tuner. Now to get a No-tune amplifier (Yes I am an avid contester as well as a longtime DX chaser). 73, Phil K3EW



What a great contest ... lots of other ones going on too. I got on for a bit a couple of times, but had a lot of fun setting up two experiments. Ran "portable" in my driveway with battery power, and used portable antennas at only 12 watts. First experiment: Connected AX1 antenna at 40 meters to my KX2. Made 5 contacts -- thank you W4DHT, N8KR, W9GT, K4RCG, W1SFR for picking out my weak signals. W1SFR responded to my timid CQ call :-). Then later set up my Buddy Stick with the KX2, again at 12 watts, battery and pulled in W1AU, VE3FP and W8YD. Better signals ... but lots and lots of competing activities so while I heard tons of stations, hard to break in at only 12 watts during this time. Don't know if the propagation is so much better, but I am absolutely amazed at making these contacts, especially with the very short AX1 at 12 watts. Can throw the AX1 and KX2, 2 Ahr battery into a small knapsack and off we go :-). I'm including a picture of the AX1 /KX2 "portable " setup ... have a picture of the buddy stick setup but can only show one picture. 73, Jim K3YMI



Fun Sprint. Thanks to everyone for the contacts. Enjoyed giving out some TKA Bonus points. And had fun manning the helm for K4VRC Sunday morning. Take care all. Stay safe. IC-7300 to a 40 meter Delta Loop. Used my Begali Intrepid and my Torsion Bar Cootie. &3, Bob K3ZGA



My mother-in-law's 94th birthday party eliminated any operations on Sunday, but Saturday was great fun, and gave me the opportunity to connect with many other TKA members. Below is a picture of the tools I used to acquire TKA #100. Left to right they are a Vibroplex Vibrokeyer, wired for use as a cootie; a Viz Vertical bug; and a classic J-38 (IMHO, one of the finest straight keys ever made). 73, Frank K8FAC



First "live" get-together in the shack in 18 months! So must gossip/BS to catch up on that it ended with 60% gossip-40% operating but it sure was fun! Burgers on the grill and cheese curls! Ops were N8CC, KU8L, K2RLY, KE8AQW, K8TEZ, NQ8T, K8UV, KE8SYV and K8AQM. The 1500w triplexer worked great on the log periodic. Just wait until we fire-up with the rest of the gang for K3Y/8! Thanks to all...we had a great time. 73, Ted K8AQM



Looks like the bands are getting better by the month. Hope I can work the next event without any interruptions but as always had loads of fun. 73, Mark KA4UPI



Operating time 2:32 As usual most of the WES action was on 20 meters in the afternoon and 40 meters in the evening, with some on 80. No one on 15 that I could raise with a CQ, even though the band was open for DX. Can't wait for more sunspots! 73, Bain K8LBQ

October WES 2021 IV



Did this the hard way this month. All vintage equipment - Knight T50 with V44 VFO and Drake R4B. Had lots of fun and TNX for the great signal reports. The best distance was David - CT7AUP TU and 73, Jeff K9JP



That was fun. I got 7 on 15 meters this month. FRA and NED also. Thanks to the TKA guys for coming out and supplying the bonus points. Got 17. The new 7610 works great for contesting! 70 watts to doublet up 30ft. and my Begali cootie. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Great fun breaking out all three keys for the TKA weekend and handing out a few bonus points. And great to hear all the EU stations on 15-better days coming! Thanks to everyone. Scott Ka9p



Thank you everyone for the fun WES this month. I didn't have much time to commit but band conditions were great on 20 meters and 15 meters. 73, Eric KB3NSK



Had a chance on Saturday to operate as part of our local club's "Hams in the Park" outing. Great weather and conditions were good. Nice to be able to work our friends in Europe. Thanks everyone.



WISH I HAD BEEN ON SUNDAY TOO, BUT HAD OTHER THINGS. 73, "Sam" KA5SAM



Nice opening on 15 and 10 meters! Glad to start seeing some higher activity on the upper bands.



Lots of fun as always. Used a Lionel J-36 bug and a German Junker strait key for WES. Added some new numbers on my journey to a Senator. 73, Roger KD2SRH

My first real entry even though I have participated in the past. Only worked 40m to keep it simple; I will be back again...73, John



It seemed like 40 stayed full the entire weekend. Great to hear some new members. 73, Randy KB4QQJ



Thanks for all the contacts! I really enjoy the WES events. I spent most of my time running on 20 meters. When in run mode I was using 100 watts and 500 watts in S&P mode. I am inching closer towards Senator status, I am now Tx4. I have logged just over 500 SKCC QSOs with my Intrepid bug! I have a vertical for 80 and 40 meters and a Tri-Band 3 element beam for 20, 15 and 10 meters. I just reconfigured my radio room and really like my new system layout. 73, Gordo KG7YU



Another great WES. Good band conditions. Used the Icom-761 and a J-38. 73, Randal KG5IEE

Had great fun working this WES using my work in progress home brew transceiver. But on Sunday morning when I tried to operate 15 meters it seemed my hand had stopped listing to my brain, and I could not send anything. It turned out the transceiver had developed a problem that was making the TR relay behave erratically and corrupting the keying. I spent the rest of Sunday working on the transceiver diagnosing the problem. I got the transceiver working again but not until the WES was over. I thank Jo PG4I for his message on the sked page. 73,



Lots of fun as always. Used a Lionel J-36 bug and a German Junker strait key for WES. Added some new numbers on my journey to a Senator. 73, Roger KD2SRH

October WES 2021 V



I had forgotten how much fun running the sprint was doing QRP. Used the KX3 at 5 watts into the 160 meter doublet on 40 meters and the hex beam for a few contacts on 20 meters. Thanks to all who managed to hear my weak signal. Looking forward to next month. Best 72/73 from Wild Wonderful West Virginia, Dave, KI8I



This was an Awesome WES as always. I finished my 100 contacts with a bug. (already had my 100 with a SK). Now on to a Cootie... Used my Begali Intrepid the whole time. Thanks for all the Qs. 73, Dennis N0SMX



K2 rig at 5wts, 80, 40, 20mtrs..g5rv at 35ft n/s inv vee.. bands good hr in Rockford.. used my new hb stkey, nmb 72 key for me. I did not get a C in this WES.. tnx to all board mbrs.. and they have a nice 2 styles of SKCC keys. Ck w1sfr page for more pix of them. hope to c u all in November. 73, DAVE LARSEN N9ZXL



Limited time this weekend...didn't get to explore the upper bands. There's always next month. Just pleased to hand out my TKA bonus. See you all next month! 73, Jack KK0I dit...dit



Got a chance to operate in two short sessions this weekend, enjoying the early autumn wx back yard portable with the Sky-SDR and a non-resonant end fed wire. Conditions were best on 40m Sunday afternoon. Thanks to all the great ops which make this such a fun event, 73, Mike N2HTT



Limited time this weekend... FUN as always. QSO Stats: 1 > 14MHz - 6 > 21MHz - 7 > 28MHz TA33 - 50W - Home Made DSK TU everyone for the QSOs. Take care & Stay well BCNU 73, Walt



Got the covid booster and feeling woozie. Time to rest. Had fun while it lasted. 73, Al NE9EE



Good conditions this weekend - worked several from Europe. Bert always booming in! TNX to all who worked me - CU next WES. 73, Russ KK4WX



Rained out on Saturday - Many Thunderstorms. Great time with 1 watt. Thanks to many stations with great ears that copied my weak sigs. Happy to work Bert F6HKA and Bob F6EJN - 15 was open to the West. KX3 1 watt - Butternut HP6V up about 8 feet. Zero gain :))) 73, AL N4ow 11375s



This was fun...Alternated between my SK, Bug and Cootie. The bands were in decent shape but I stuck to 40M & 20M calling CQ with a few S&P ventures. Thanks for the exchanges deRick/TKA N8XI



Bands weren't great here in the high desert, but I did make a couple of Qs before giving up! Hoping for better next month! 73, Flip KT9K



Thanks for all the QSO's. Took some time out Sunday morning to take my youngest grandson (Carson) to Guilford Lake (few mi W of my QTH) to see the Good-year Blimp do a couple laps over the water @ 500 ft. The blimp is based in Akron, OH es was on it's way to Pittsburgh, PA. to cover to-days, Steelers(W) - Broncos NFL Game. 73, Randy, N8KQ 8934S



Forgot the theme :- (20m band with QCX+I had so much fun! 73, Jeff VA2SS

October WES 2021 VI



15m was a blast on Sunday - I never worked so many US stations in such a short time before! Saturday I worked mostly European stations on 20m. Greetings to all the new friends and to the ones I've met again - Juan, Fer, David and Bernard (who can do much better German CW than me)! 73, Andi OE3IAK



I mainly worked this WES to get past Tx7. I am 39 qualifying QSOs from Tx8 and the victory lap! See you all on the next WES and almost every night between now and then! 73, Rob W1RCP



It was great to meet some really fine operators! Thanks to all the TKA operators for being available and setting such great examples of good CW. 73, W4QDV David



First WES with more than 100 QSOs, first WES with 15 meters open, first WES with several 3-band QSOs, first WES using my TKA and first WES with paper logging! It's been fun! Thanks all for the QSOs. 73, Jo PG4I



Always enjoy WES. Saturday was marred with local thunderstorms but Sunday was much better. Still, the airwaves didn't seem as plentiful with SKCC members as usual. Maybe it's just my imagination? This is what I used this WES. My favorite key. Tnx to all for the fun. 73, Blu W1BLU



I didn't expect to get more than a few contacts this time since our daughter and family were here for the weekend, but I would stealthily slip away a little bit at a time and ended up with >80 QSO's. Had contacts on all bands from 10 thru 160 - first that has happened in a long time. Condx were better than they have been but still not great. I only wrked 18 other TKA stations and used my new SKCC torsion bar cootie along with the trusty old Junker SK. Station was the K3 line at 500w and the antennas were the 160 meter skyloop @50', the Optibeam 10-3w @50' for 20 and 15 and the Optibeam 6-2w @ 40' on 10. 73 de West Virginia Dave W3NP



Had a blast with my first WES. Great ops, thanks for the excellent contacts. CU down the log. 73, Steve VA7KH



This time, it was mostly S&P. I found 20m very good over the weekend; I also worked a bit on 15m, 40m and 80m. Three QSOs with France and one with Portugal. Few new numbers but lots of fun. A great event once again. Thanks all. 73, Robert VE2KZW



Best conditions in a long time. 15 meters was given a good workout world-wide. Seemed like a good turnout of participants overall. I lost a chunk of the weekend due to company (family), but still managed a decent number of QSOs. Thanks to all. 73, John W1TAG



A fun one now that I'm a TKA and got to use my new SKCC W1SFR swiper :-)) I think this is the most Centurians I've had in a WES, that's pretty cool, too. 73, Rob W2ITT



I had a nice time. I got a few new numbers and chatted with old friends. Looking forward to next WES. PHOTO: I live due north of Solomon's Island, MD which is on Chesapeake Bay's Western Shore. If I could place a location marker @ my home, you would see it in this photo. 73, Bill W3SI



Most from my FLEX main rig and a few QRP from my deck with a DIY wire dipole. Thanks, all! 73, Pat W5WTH

October WES 2021 VII



Another fun WES. Thank you to the DX SKCC stations and the TKA stations. I'm already looking forward to the November WES. 73, Drexel W4DHT



Enjoyed this WES! Except for one QSO, I only called CQ! I wanted to give out my TKA and collect some new stations toward my Sx3! Interesting, I only got four other TKA stations, lots of new members and a handful of new, to me, T and S members. So 73 and thanks for the QSO's Gene W9KMK



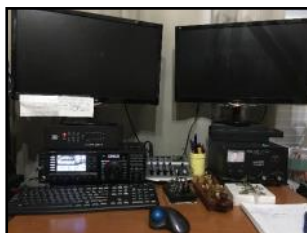
Not a lot of time Saturday and storms Sunday but great to have the higher bands open and good signals from Europe. Wish I could have contributed more for TKA points. 73, Gerald WA5AFD



Worked plenty of multipliers on 20M during this WES including 7 EU countries!! Rig is FTDX-3000 at 90 watts to inverted vee fan dipole up 40 feet in a tree. As always, lots of fun! Stay well 73, Mike WB2FUV



I've missed a few and it was great to be back. Thought 10m was going to open up on Sunday but it was just teasing. Great to work a lot on 15m however. Did very little on 80m. My YXL talked me into a 5mi hike on Sunday afternoon so I missed the finale of WES. However, it was a beautiful day here on North Coastal San Diego. So I'm posting of pic of her and me on the hike instead of the usual "shack shot". 73, Ted W6TED



Worked the upper bands mainly this time, lots of action, looking forward to Nov. WES Veterans, of which I am... 73, Jerry WA4JK



I worked the entire WES using my new W1FSR Torsion Bar "Fat Boy" sideswiper. I won't say it or any sideswiper is easy to get used to but after 128 contacts in a 36 hour period it is getting easier. This will certainly be my "go to" straight key going forward. 73, Lane WK4WC



Another Great WES. Thanks to all who participated. F5DE Thanks Bernard for trying again when the bands got better. Thank you W1BLU Blue for trying again later in the day to make the QSO. 73 and see you next time. Mark W8YA



I totally enjoyed the WES. I started to use the SKCC Logger to its fullest, making a separate WES file, then later merging into my Master. I REAL help !! I inched my T x 7 level a little closer to T x 8 using my NEW Begali Spark. It's working fantastic! 73, Dennis WA3IGU



Only got to play one afternoon, but had a blast. Thanks to all who helped me easily push into my Tribune, close out my straight key and almost all of my bug for toward TKA. Ended up closing a few more contacts out on Sunday from home with simple QRP ops w the KX2 and a begali straight. Good times. Honorable mention to AD0AB for my first QRPx2 contact on 40m! 73, Steve WJ0C



Many hours were spent in the shack. Luckily the bands were open and the ops were everywhere. Just to think that a year ago I felt my code was not good enough. The Begali Spark was the key I used most and only switched to the Bug towards the end. Thank you to all who answered my CQ's, Ben W4LRB



I had a few minutes to make a few WES contacts. As always, I had fun! I used the FT-857d at 5 watts to my 40m Delta Loop. Key was my DIY cootie. 73, Neil WA4CHQ



Good fun working everyone. Using all the rigs on the bench. 73, Dan WB8JAY

Summer Tower Work

When you have a multi-multi station with several towers and antennas it's not just two towers so twice the upkeep...it becomes exponential! Here at KS8KCC/K8AQM there is ALWAYS maintenance work. This summer it was replace an older Hygain 204 with a new and better Hygain yagi for 40m. An old TH-6 tribander was to be removed and replaced with the Cushcraft 17/12m dualbander. Age has taken its toll on the climber (me) so a professional was called in to do the work. The tower work was at 54 feet and 75 feet so not to bad. Antennas



First the 2L 40 comes down.



Antenna is lowered on a rope tramline.



With the use of a capstan there is not much weight for the ground crew to handle. Ground crew was KE8CEW, K8JAD, W8ATE, K2RLY and me (K8AQM).



going up are in the reverse order; the top antenna (Cushcraft 17/12m) goes up first to 75 feet then the 40m to 55 feet.



Ground crew has to "balance" the antenna in a sling so it will go up smoothly to the correct face of the tower.



The WARC antenna is side-mounted to the NE from this QTH at 75 feet from this QTH. A new feedline is attached to the antenna.

The two element 40 is "cradled" the same way and raised to the 55 foot level and side mounted to the NE face toward Europe. New feedline was also installed.



Antenna is trammed into place and secured to the side of the tower



Completed view of the newly placed antennas.. Both facing Europe.

That's the big log periodic above the 17/12 at 105 feet. With the "triplexer" the antenna can be used **AT THE SAME TIME** on 20, 15 and 10m! With a KW!

The old Hygain 2L 40 and the Hygain TH-6DX tribander will “live” again along with 40 feet of Rohn 20 that was part of an earlier disaster of a 70 ft tower. The antennas and tower pictured here will “rise again” at the shack of Randy N8KQ for many more QSOS.



Next time you hear a club station with multi operators and multi antennas remember all the hard work those guys do to have the station on the air and performing well. Both KS8KCC and KS9KCC (N8KR) have such exotic stations; it’s hard work but so very enjoyable when everything works...like an all band “Field Day” in one tent!

Bits and Pieces



K9JP, Jeff sent this and mumbled something about his work bench??



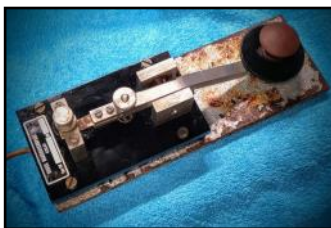
This followed me home from a local tailgate yesterday. \$20. Works perfect. Signal checked on a spectrum analyzer, clean. When I get a T/R method, I'll put it on the air. 73, Alton N4IDH

This is Great!

You've Been Doing This Wrong Your Whole Life!! This YouTube video will show you how to wind your feed-lines properly and without twists or tangles...

<https://youtu.be/t8PvNMCo3T8>

Watch this video!



Hello all, nice to join this group. I just managed to get this NORSK MARCONIKOMPANI PANI A/S key. Type NM803B. I think that it needs little fixing to be great key again 😊. I like to use long arm keys even though I am not pro CW user. My main interest is collect WW2, Finnish and Airforce based Morse keys. 73, Martti OH3WQ

September SKS 2021



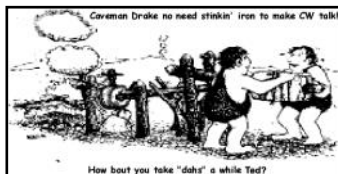
Fun night. I remembered just in time. Think I could have done better, but was enjoying the journey. Wow I thought 40m was popping tonight. Nice and crowded. And whomever said that cw is dead should come join us. CW ROCKS!!! Thanks to all the big guns for all your great reports from this QRPp station tonight. And thanks for answering all the other QRP stations too. We're not trying to make you work harder, just living the dream. 73, Bud AA8CL



My first Sprint, didn't have much time but got a chance to shake down what I hope will be this winter's cold winter night rig. The box on top of the old beater HRO500 is a low distortion TDA2050 amp with a Watkins Johnson speaker, and I'm hoping to get a Laser-vari audio filter in there soon for those ugly WES sessions. 73, Scott ka9p



Got lucky and found the Bonus Station as my first contact (tnx Ray). Ran my TS-590SG at 75w to a multi-band vertical on the roof, using my old Kent wooden-base key (made in England). Bands used were 20m, 40m, and 80m. Always fun event. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



What a treat! Bands were so good I never got off 40m!! I think every station was over S9. Always fun to get home in time to play in the sprint. 73, Randy KB4QQJ



Icom IC-7610, OCF dipole at 30' and J-38 key. Stayed on 40 meters the entire 2 hours. Lot's of excellent signals and the QRN wasn't too bad. Getting more used to my new 7610 - the APF on this rig is excellent! Really brings weak signals out of the noise. 73, Bill NZ0T

Been a few months since I've done SKS. Glad to be back! 73, Ted W6TED



Was going to try 80 for a while but 40 meters was loaded so we stayed there. Glad to see all the activity & it was nice to log a few new one's too and Thanks Ray for the bonus..73's from the shores of Lake Erie. 73, Larry K8TEZ



Wow, I never even got off of 40m. 80-minute run plus S&P was fun with my 65w! One call from Romania, but not SKCC and he seemed confused, so I didn't log it. But had a good one with 9A2AJ in Croatia, instead! Thanks, all for lots of fun! 73, Steve KC5F



Another fun time operating the SKS. I stayed on 40m using my FT-817nd (1w) to a Delta Loop. The key was a Bushwacker cootie. The band was hopping! Tnx all. Now for some sleep! hi 72, Neil WACHQ



First SKS for me in a while. Great fun. 20 was good and 40 was packed! Conditions were pretty good. Icom 7610 @ 70 watts and a doublet antenna up 30ft. Used my HB Cootie. 73, Allen KA5TJS

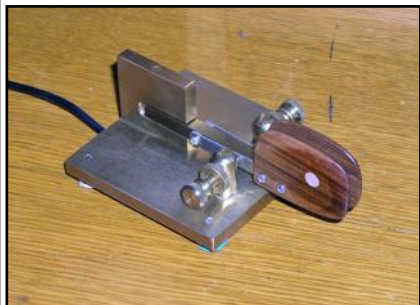


Rain and Wind so no fishing tonite but lots of fun on SKS. 40 meter hamstick and the Icom 7100 in my Ford Edge with good propagation and lots of activity! 73, Ken N8KR



FUN being bonus station, 73, Ray W9GHX

October WES 2021 II



Started on 20 and had 14 contacts there where condx were very good. Made a few on 80 and the rest on 40 which was crowded and signals from the west coast were strong. K3 Line to OB yagi on 20 and Skyloop on 40 & 40. I used my original W1SFR sideswiper for all QSO's. Trying to keep all of my keys happy and exercised. I saw the bonus station's freq posted on the sked page so I didn't work him in keeping with the unassisted rule. 73, Dave W3NP



Just did some hunting and pouncing. Took a 20 minute break at 8:30 to participate in the local 2m net. Got back on to hunt and pounce. Then I called CQ on 7.063 to finish out the round. I planned on finding some new numbers for Tx5. I still have 4 more to go because most of the QSOs I had during SKS were already friends. The conditions were great tonight. Those that I pounced on were almost all S9+. Even the QRN in my neck of the woods was below S3 which is rare. I had fun sending a receiving a little faster than my comfort zone tonight, too. I probably peaked at 15wpm with some of you all tonight. 73, Rob W1RCP



Only had a short time to be on but thanks to those I worked. The picture is of me holding a 14 inch glass fish net ball found on the beach while Station on Midway's Eastern Island, receiver suite, 1961 to 1962. It was here I got my first license, a Conditional class. The call KM6CE was for the U.S. Naval Security Group. 73, Bob W8BTD

Live In-person Multi Multi is Back!

After 18 month of "socially distant" multi-multi operation, this October WES saw part of the KS8KCC crew back together for some fun. Although only part of the crew could make it, a great time was had by all! Just wait until K3Y when we hit the air full team as K3Y/8!



K8UV, KE8SxYV NQ8T



KE8AQW



KE8AQW, K8UV, KE8SYV



KU8L



NQ8T, K8TEZ, KE8SYV, K8UV, KE8AQW

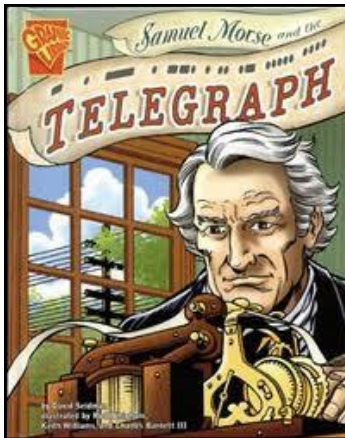


N8CC

An Article by G0EML

Editor...The following is a wonderful article from FIST's magazine "Key Note" from the summer of 2013.

One of my favorite straight keys is the German Junker (I own 7 of these super keys!). G0EML (Ray) gives a very thorough report on this key as well as other valuable information you may find useful.



Over the years, like me, I am sure that you have tried a number of telegraphy keys and paddles in the de-sire to achieve that particular feel that you like? Along with the ability and quality of good sending?

Selecting a Morse key that you have not tried before is of course not easy; there are many factors to con-sider: some keys are fast, smooth and racy by their quality of manufacture, whilst others are big and have a sluggish feel and don't seem to do a lot for the operator.

But as we have heard so many times before, it's all down to personal choice, and I can go along with that.

I have been informed on many occasions by Morse operators that 'this particular key is the one for me!' and that it's a dream to use, but I must say that time and time again I have been very disappointed with its operational performance.

We all have our own conception and love for a particular key or paddle, with some operators staying loyal and faithful to a key or paddle for years or even a lifetime without trying other models, whilst others can not wait to run their fin-gers over the latest model on the market. Touching, caressing, running the hands over the levers and thinking "Is this the one for me?", smitten just by its beauty and looks alone.

I have tried many models and some I must say have that special instant feel and touch right from the very start. But I can honestly say that I have had some keys that need time in order to just get that delicate balance and bounce-along feel, a period of time to get that correct operational feel; yes it took many months just to get the special feel, and I am sure you have felt the same—just to get the magnet or spring tension correct or the contact gap just right? And I am sure you are well aware of the factors that control the feel and movement of the key/paddle? Yes, factors like temperature of the operator's room, and this, as you know, can expand or contract the metals of some of our keys with undesirable effects.

But how about giving some of our historical classics of our telegraphy past a go? That is, if you have not already done so, you will be pleasantly surprised. Go on, be a bit naughty and try a mature piece, something with experience, a beauty of the past—but you can still hold your passion with the present and the future.

Many of you I am sure have heard of the Marconi 365A straight key from the Marconi International Marine Communication Co. Ltd., circa 1930s, which has a set of beautiful roller bearings, or for the semi-automatic enthusiast, the wonderful Theodore McElroy Standard Mac Key type 3 pivot, made also in the 30s by the World Champion Telegrapher of Boston USA.

The Mac Key is pictured on the right.



The world of keys is endless and some of our classics of the past just need the dust wiped from them and to be brought out of the drawer and given a new lease of life!

A key that will set your heart in motion and possibly take you back into the operational skills of the past, a key that many operators have, and still rate as one of the very best, is the Joseph Junker Key. (Junker is pronounced “Yunker”.)



Junker Morse Key

Joseph Junker was a Naval Radio Officer, operator and engineer who was to serve during WW1, and also WW2, in the German Imperial Navy. He was decorated in both Wars. Due to the fact that he was a telegrapher, he understood the needs of an operator, so he used his skill to design and manufacture this fine outstanding precision instrument, thus giving the operator a choice in operational adjustments for the gap and tension settings, giving a very crisp and delicate light feel to the operator.

The contacts are of high conductivity silver, very hard and suitable for prolonged use. The photographs of the Junker Keys are of one that I am currently restoring, and is actually being used by a local radio ham and FISTS member, and yes, he understands it is only on loan.

A photograph that I manage to get from the Internet of Joseph Junker is seen on the right. (It may be worth stating that there is no connection between the Junker Morse Key and the German Junkers air-craft.)



The Joseph Junker company was founded in 1926 in the city of Berlin.

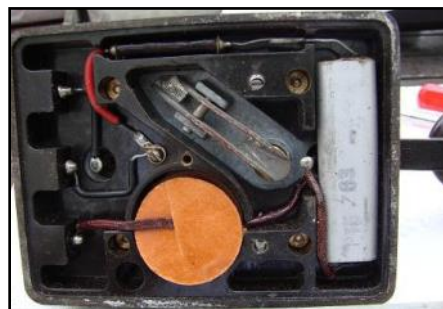
The company still exists as the Joseph Junker GMBH. Since 1990 the company has expanded the range of equipment, making systems for electrical engineering to the German Telekom AG, the Siemens group, and items for the public communication networks.

At the moment I am restoring an old 1935 DRP. It looks quite tired at the moment, but after a time it will look and sound as good as it feels—see the photo-graph of my key and also the photograph of



Ray G0EML's early Junker key he is restoring

the filters in the base. The filters were designed to provide anti-sparking to help protect the operator from causing a possible fire or explosion from the key during operation.



Underneath the base of the Junker key, showing the filter components

The German word for Morse Key is 'Morsetaste', all one word, with 'taste' meaning 'key' (for those who may be interested the word for paddle is 'Wabblers').

Early WW2 Junker Keys were stamped with the letters DRP into the left side of Bakelite base (about 1935?). DRP stands for 'Deutsches Reichpatent'.

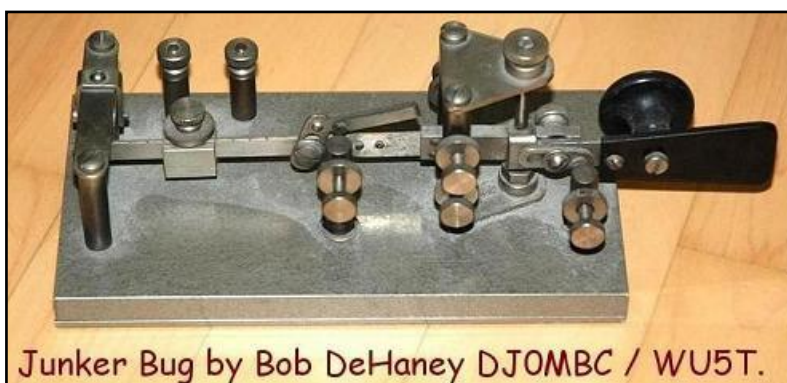
Joseph Junker was to see service during WW1 as a navy Radio Operator and engineer. He was to pass away in early 1945 before the end of WW2. The WW2 and later models have four letters stamped into base: DBGM. The letters stand for 'Deutsche Bundes Gebrauchsmeister'. It's said that the Junker keys with the eagle or the swastika stamped on could fetch as much as 40%–50% more when purchasing.

The keys were produced in two colours, silver grey and olive green.

The company Morse Express in Colorado, USA, managed to acquire a large batch of the DBGM models that had been held in moth balls for some years; these first class mint keys were to sell out in a matter of weeks. Photographs of the Junker Keys and an explanation can still be viewed at Morse Express on the Internet: www.mtechnologies.com/junker.

I have worked a great deal of straight key operators over the years, and as soon as they told me that they were using a Junker Key, my thoughts that they were sending well were soon confirmed.

Junker not only produced the two standard straight keys, but went on to produce a semi automatic key based on the Vibroplex Lightning Bug. There is a photograph of the key on the right. The Junker Semi Automatic Bug Key is said to be very rare, and as yet I have not seen one! However, I contacted Bob DeHaney DJ0MBC / WU5T, who is the proud owner of a Junker Semi Automatic Key, and he kindly gave me permission to reproduce this photograph; Bob is sure one lucky guy.



Junker Bug by Bob DeHaney DJ0MBC / WU5T.

Joseph Junker is said to be buried in a grave in Bad Honnef, Germany, where the Junker company is located. Following his death, the ownership of the company fell to his wife and it was run by his deputy managing director until the end of World War 2. It is said that the Junker company are still producing keys, or were up to a few years back, but this I cannot truly state as true.

So go for it, grab a piece of history, open up the drawers of life and enjoy the past today.

73 Ray G0EML

Editor...Junkers come with an RF suppression coil comprised of many turns of hand-wound, insulated wire tied into a tight loop and held with ties fitted up into a circular recess in the base of the key. Some users have encountered problems due to the fine wire of the RF coil providing too much resistance. There is a simple fix for this; simply cut away the coil and capacitors and replace the parts with just a simple wire as shown in this picture.

Photo from "Ham Radio-QRP"



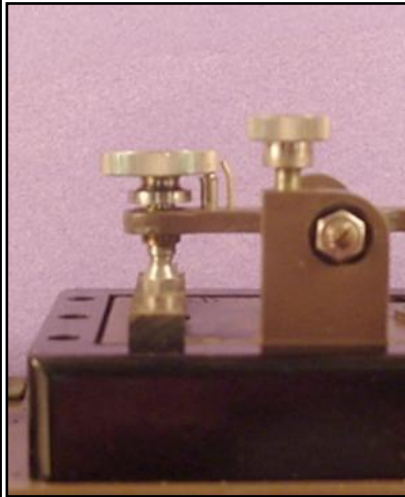


Photo from "Mtechnologies"

You will notice the Junker has a second set contacts at the front of the key which are "normally closed" contacts (NC). For those with boat anchor gear (separate transmitter and receiver) the Junker can be used as a "TR" switch with QSK!

Often Junkers come to me beaten and battered but can be easily cleaned and restored. I am not much of a fan of "original" beaten and battered. The Junker can be repainted. Here is what Junkers look like in my shack.



Photo from "Ham Radio-QRP"

I refer to the Junker as the "BMW" of keys because of its fine precision and smooth operation...and they don't cost you your next mortgage payment!

Bits and Pieces II



Covert picture smuggled to "The Rag Chew." Not sure if it's F6HKA or VE3KZ, both those guys hear everything! Caption said left side is for "high bands and right side for low bands.

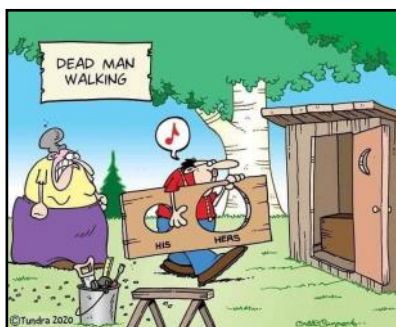


Taming a Lionel WWII J-36....de KR2NZ



Judging from this article from QST August 1917, women were not that many in the hobby of amateur radio. This was during WWI, so perhaps more had trained as telegraph operators while the men were at war. They were ready to break into the man-dominated hobby. 73, Carol K4SAF

Carol, K4SAF posted this...good point, use "OW" and you'll be like this fellow, "Dead man walking!"



SKS October, 2021



Good time. Always fun to work the sprints. Should get outside and take an Autumn pic with the colored leaves. 73, Bud AA8CL



Worked 40m until the last 30 minutes 80m was good for a few more SKS contacts. Always a fun time. TU all 73 Rick K0KEX



Made 15 contacts... 5 of 20m, 5 on 40m, & 5 on 80m. Plenty enough for me (hi hi). Ran 75w from my TS-590SG into a Butternut Vertical (elevated). Always fun. 73, Curt K2CWM



Enjoyable SKS. Thanks for the Qs. Gave me a chance to try out my new Sculpture Swing. Take care all. Ic-7300 at 100 watts to a Delta Loop. Key was a Begali Swing. 73, Bob K3ZGA



Had fair condx tonight on 20 and 40 meters. Enjoyed the outing as usual. Thanks to all I worked, 73, Rick K7CNT



Wishing everyone in SKCC a fun & safe Halloween weekend. 73, Larry K8TEZ



A little rusty, but glad to get back at it. 73, Tom KG8Y



All in all a fun time. 73, Nee NE9EE



MNY TNX to those logged my struggling fist. 73, Steve NQ8T



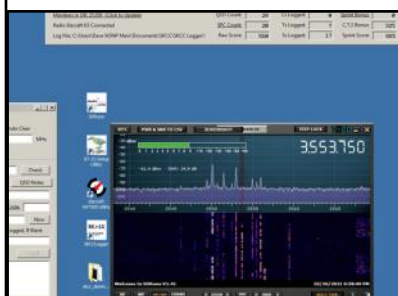
Stayed on 40 the entire 2 hours. It was excellent until the last half hour with great signals. My best score ever on SKS! Used my Icom IC-7610 at 100 watts and an OCF dipole at 30'. Key was a good ole J-38. Thanks all for the fun! 73, Bill NZ0T



Was trying to get some more of those Ts and Ss for my S. Managed to squeak out 10 new ones. Not too shabby! Back to the S grind. I was also trying out my new Heil Pro 7 headphones, and they are much different than the aviation headphones I was using (Sigtronics S-68). 73, Rob W1RCP



Meet my new tuner, bought at local sale. My third SKS in the middle of the night, getting up at 2 AM... All QSOs on 40 meters, the first hour was a bit tough, hard to get noticed amongst the loud US signals. I had a nice run on 7.055 during the second hour. Signals were very good and worked stations as far as OK (K5UV) and PR (KP4YO). Can't wait for the higher bands to open up during the night. See you in the next SKS! 73, Jo PG4I



5 QSO's on 20, 6 on 40, 6 on 160, and the rest on 80. 40 seemed a bit off. Used my Ten Tec Omni VII along with the KPA-500. The photo shows the panadapter display using SDRUno and a SDR Play RSP-1A connected to the Omni 7. Keys used: Vibroplex Lightning Bug and a Junker SK. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia

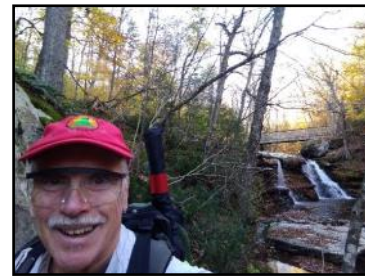
October SKS II 2021



I did not find GEO, I hope you did. But it was a fun evening. 73, Rich W4RQ



I worked Maryland to Washington State and in-between from West Texas. Early on 20 was good and then 40 took over. Both had robust signals and a few softer ones I wish I could have homed in on. Practice! All of ham radio pictures load 90 degrees askew (aka, sideways). Let's see if my dogs have any better luck. Hi Hi 73, Kenneth WA3RSR/5



Checked 20M but spent most of my time on 40M. Always fun! Using the old Bencher straight key, 90 watts and inverted vee up 40' in tree. Stay well. 73! Mike WB2FUV

KF0GZB is On the Air!

Here is my first HF setup, I haven't got to use it yet because I'm waiting for antenna parts (hopefully tomorrow). I'm getting better at my CW copy though so that's good. 73, DE KF0GZB (got my call sign yesterday) Justin.



She works! I even sent a test and heard it on a web sdr station in Utah (I'm in Iowa). Now I need to get quicker at my copy, my brain moves too slow lol. I can't believe my diy tuner works on all 4 bands and I can get it to 1:1 - 1:2 swr DE KF0GZB...Justin

Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 2 Issue 4

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.....

Haven't been doing much in October, but this week I'm gearing up for CQ WorldWide DX, SSB edition. I've updated my N3FJP logger, downloaded the latest country lists and supercheckpartial files, spruced up the macros to reflect this contest (always check if some part of the exchange, or contact rules, has been changed since last whack.) Re-recorded the wav files in my Kenwood TS590S. Don't want to be calling "CQ Field Day" when I hit the F-key. I only use two macros/wav files for voice contesting; my callsign for S&P operation, and the CQ string for running. Everything else is live. For digital or CW contesting, most of the possibilities are programmed to keys, and only the strange/different is hand-sent. I scandalise my Elmer, I know, hand sending CW in a contest, but I find it much faster than F12 type type type F12. The keyer is set for 27wpm to match what the computer is sending. No worries for that this weekend, though.

Tonight I came across a net on 40m, running Olivia 16/500, so I pitched in my call and said my piece. I'll probably come back regularly, as I like Olivia when the bands are noisy. Most weeks I'm also in the FeldHell 40m Net. That's fun. Just don't nod off, as nothing is saved once it leaves the decode box. Yikes!

I have a previously-loved Vibroplex Vibrokeyer here now. What a strange little device that is. I'm used to a Bencher (don't like it) and a VibroCube (it's okay) and even a PIPAD (lots of fun) but this is just – weird – not really single lever, not really double lever, not at all iambic. I'm getting used to it, adjusting this and that each session. Starting to feel good, no longer sending it across the desk both ways. I'll get this sucker dialed in before CQWDX CW! I'm still doing my CW Academy exercises with it, a good way to learn its quirks.

Did a Basic Qualification exam this week on a young man who passed with honours. It's been a LONG time since I've seen someone under 30 in that chair. This is a good thing for radio, I hope he turns some of his friends/family into ham-curious seekers.

OOOOO I got an envelope this week *stuffed* with QSL cards from the VE9SKCC Canadian Operators Event in September. I worked 6 of the 13 possible (10 actual). Everybody is wondering, where are the ops N of 60? I also worked as one of the special event stations, and served as one of three managers, handling Canada's western call districts. I think next year will be much better, especially if we score a shorter call.....

On the workbench, several projects are coming together for deployment next month. I have an Alpha-Delta fan dipole that I'm assembling to replace the GAP Titan on the roof, probably in 10 days time? If I can get the crew together for a Sunday afternoon antenna party. I've dug out the fiberglass pole sections I'll need to build a 1:1 RF choke to go at the feedpoint, scrounge up some pulleys to make life easier, and purchased new Dacron line to guy it all against our Prairie winds. When up, it should be about 30' above the roof (itself 13' above ground). The poles will go first and be guyed 3 ways at two levels, then the antenna raised via double-purchase blocks to the peak. This way I can service the antenna without having to lower/disassemble the mast and its guy system. I've also chosen to run coax from the feedpoint to the base, to connect to the already-there feedline to the shack. It's only 2 years old, no need to replace the whole length. The only remaining question is, will we be hip-deep in snow, ankle deep in rain-water, or tied down against the zephyrs?

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

November Slow Speed Saunter 2021

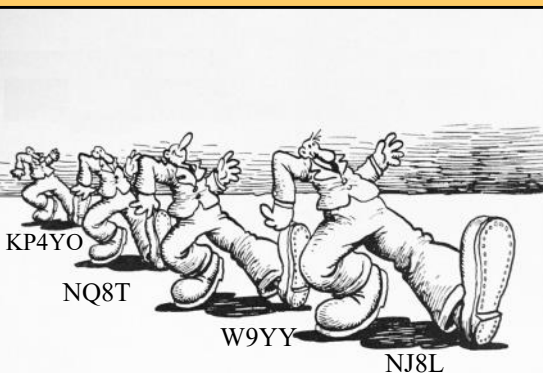
Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
PP7DX	FLAVIO	25039	BRA	1
N0CW	Chuck	23240T	CA	8
N8DVS	Vic	23236	CA	2
WB6IZG	Bruce	17714S	CA	4
W1RCP	Robbie "Rob" Pitts	15375T	GA	13
W9YY	Jack	21824S	IL	31
N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	5
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	8
KA3LOC	Ric	660S	KS	7
NN3E	Kevin	19625S	MD	8
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	6
AE2DB	Don	22768	NY	1
AA8CL	Carmen "Bud"	2339S	OH	1
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	1
NJ8L	Vern	13613S	OH	41
NQ8T	Steve	5919S	OH	30
KP4YO	Armando	23845T	PR	19
W4CMG	Cathy	20093T	TN	14
W5ZBT	Tom	21049T	TX	8
W5SH	Mike	11770S	TX	4
WB9TFF	Donna	7057S	WI	4

Participants and QSOs by SPC

BRA: 1/1	CA: 3/14	GA: 1/13	IL: 1/31	IN: 2/13
KS: 1/7	MD: 1/8	NJ: 1/6	NY: 1/1	OH: 4/73
PR: 1/19	TN: 1/14	TX: 2/12	WI: 1/4	

Slow Speed Saunter



Danny, W0JMP thanks for my first QSO as an SKCC member. 73, Flavio,



Was away most of day, so not many for me this time. Used my Icom IC-7000 at 50w to a vertical, Lionel J38 Straight Key. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



KP4YO FROM P.R. PR 73, Armando KP4YO



MNY TNX to all! A nice way to start November. 73, Steve NQ8T



I got one. Tnx to WD5JTZ Mike. Have a great November. 73, Bud AA8CL

Ed...Although not SKCC oriented, it might be fun to cash in on some wallpaper and a special QSL or two.

ARRL, RSGB Joint Events to Celebrate Centenary of Ham Radio Transatlantic Success

ARRL and the Radio Society of Great Britain will jointly sponsor events to celebrate the achievement of transatlantic communications by radio amateurs 100 years ago. In December 1921, ARRL sent Paul F. Godley, 2ZE, as its representative to listen for amateur signals from North America during the Second Transatlantic Tests. Setting up his listening station in Ardrossan, on the west coast of Scotland, Godley received the signals of more than 2 dozen US amateur radio stations, the first on December 12 (UTC) from 1BCG in Connecticut, operated by members of the Radio Club of America. The message read: “Nr 1 NY ck 12 to Paul Godley, Ardrossan, Scotland. Hearty Congratulations. (Signed) Burghard Inman Grinan Armstrong Amy Cronkhite.”

These successful transatlantic tests and the ones that followed would spur technological advances and new global wireless distance records. Several amateur radio operating events this year and next will commemorate the centenary of these significant milestones that heralded the dawn of two-way international amateur radio communication.

ARRL and RSGB will activate special event stations for 6 hours (0200 – 0800 UTC) on December 12 for the 160-Meter Transatlantic Centenary QSO Party. The RSGB will activate GB2ZE from Scotland, with a team of stations from the GMDX Group sharing operating duties. ARRL will activate W1AW. The stations will operate only on CW. If transatlantic propagation holds up, the stations may continue to operate beyond 0800 UTC.

The GMDX Group of Scotland will award a quaich — a traditional Scottish drinking cup representing friendship — to the first stations in North America and the UK to complete contacts with both W1AW and GB2ZE during the QSO Party. A commemorative certificate will be available for download.

ARRL and RSGB have assembled a list of stations and groups that are also organizing events and activities to celebrate 100 years of amateur radio transatlantic communication. For more information, visit arrl.org/transatlantic and rsgb.org/transatlantic-tests. The sites also include links to many previously published articles and presentations covering the historic tests.

Additional events and commemorations

W1AW Commemorative Transatlantic QSL Card. Stations making contact with Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW between December 11, 2021, and December 31, 2022, qualify to receive a commemorative W1AW QSL card. US stations should QSL with a SASE; international stations should QSL via the Bureau.

The 2021 ARRL 160-Meter Contest, 2200 UTC on December 3 – 1559 UTC on December 5. This 42-hour CW-only contest is most similar to the original Transatlantic Tests of the early 1920s. Stations in the US and Canada work each other as well as DXCC entities. The RSGB is planning to activate one of the original call signs used in the Transatlantic Tests. Look for G6XX (England); GD6XX (Isle of Man); GI6XX (Northern Ireland); GJ6XX (Jersey); GM6XX (Scotland); GU6XX (Guernsey), and GW6XX (Wales).

Special Event GB1002ZE, December 1 – 26, 2021. The Crocodile Rock Amateur Group (CRAG) based near Ardrossan, Scotland, will activate the special event station GB1002ZE.

SKSE October 7, 2021

Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	F5JWH	PHIL	8069S	FRA	21	20	9/6/0	615
2	W4ED	Bob	10668T	GA	16	12	7/3/0	327
3	PG4I	Jo	11019S	NED	10	8	4/4/0	180
4	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	8	6	3/1/0	103
5	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	8	7	2/1/1	101
6	KA1LHJ	John	19120	CT	4	4	2/1/0	56
7	K3TM	Roger	5016T	MD	3	3	2/1/0	49
8	K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	2	2	1/1/0	29
9	EA3NO	Lluís	6653S	ESP	4	3	1/0/0	27
10	IK1ZUV	Davide	24440	ITA	1	1	1/0/0	16
11	HB9CPS	Geo	20350	SUI	5	2	0/0/0	10

GRP - 5W or less

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	IK1ZUV	Davide	24440	ITA	1	1	1/0/0	16

QRO - 100W or less

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	W4ED	Bob	10668T	GA	16	12	7/3/0	327
2	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	8	6	3/1/0	103
3	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	8	7	2/1/1	101
4	KA1LHJ	John	19120	CT	4	4	2/1/0	56
5	K3TM	Roger	5016T	MD	3	3	2/1/0	49
6	K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	2	2	1/1/0	29
7	EA3NO	Lluís	6653S	ESP	4	3	1/0/0	27
8	HB9CPS	Geo	20350	SUI	5	2	0/0/0	10

Only one photo this month....need more pictures!.....Editor



Hello all, my first experience with a cootie. I like it. Thanks for nice contacts. 73, Phil F5JWH

SKSE November 4, 2021

Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	F5UQE	Duc	13468S	FRA	17	9	3/1/0	208
2	N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	10	7	2/4/0	140
3	PG4I	Jo	11019S	NED	10	8	2/2/0	130
4	VE3KZ	Bob	22804S	ON	8	5	3/2/0	105
5	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	6	6	3/0/0	81
6	SM0SBL	Bjorn	23900	SWE	4	4	1/3/0	61
7	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	5	4	2/0/0	50
8	EA3NO	Lluís	6653S	ESP	3	3	2/1/0	49
8	G0RDO	John	2133S	ENG	3	3	2/1/0	49
10	OE3IAK	Andi	24546	AUT	7	6	0/0/0	42
11	CT1DGH	JO	13987T	POR	2	2	2/0/0	34
12	IK1ZUV	Davide	24440	ITA	2	2	1/0/0	19
13	G0DJF	Paul	20600T	ENG	1	1	1/0/0	16
14	KA1LHJ	John	19120	CT	1	1	0/1/0	11
15	OE1TKW	Helmut	24839	AUT	1	1	0/0/0	11
16	K0KEX	Rick	5220S	MO	0	0	0/0/0	0

GRP - 5W or less

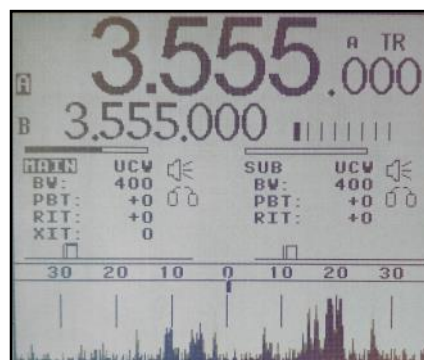
Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	IK1ZUV	Davide	24440	ITA	2	2	1/0/0	19



The conditions were poor in No West Mo. EA4AZT was up to 559 at times - My calls were not answered. Non-SKCC EA8/SA6ENT at times was 579, again my calls were not answered. I believe the Solar Flare is the reason for the conditions. 73, Rick k0kex



80m only and pleased to get 3 QSO's using a 20ft tall fishing pole vertical with an AT-230 ATU. Thanks to ON7DQ, PG4I and F5UQE. I do hope we get better conditions for the November WES. 73, John G0RDO SKCC 2133s



Solar storm alert, so 80 meters only...Nice to meet up with some European friends! 73, Jo PG4I

Netherlands Telegraphy Club (NTC)



A new Telegraphy club in the Netherlands? Yes, you are correct! Apart from the well known “Benelux QRP Club” and “VHSC”, there are no CW clubs in the Netherlands; the founders of NTC would like to change this.

What is the goal of the NTC? Quite simply, we wish to promote Morse Code by reaching as many Telegraphy operators as possible in order to promote more CW activity on the bands and to reach operators who use other modes and help them to explore Morse Code. Encouraging inter-Club CW cooperation, joint activities with clubs in countries around the Netherlands in order to increase the CW activity in general and to enjoy our nice hobby and mode together. NTC wants to be there for all kinds of CW operators, newbies, slow ops, high speed devils and everyone in between. Let's keep CW alive together, preserve and promote our heritage.

Meanwhile, NTC has been accepted as a member of “EUCW” and “International CW Council”.

Because NTC aims to be inclusive for all Telegraphy operators we have a very simple “low level access rule”. Only two active NTC members need to be contacted to complete a membership application. The membership application form can be found on our website; download, complete and forward it by email. Membership is completely free.

Our activity program includes;

- Work NTC Members (W-NTC-M) award

- Monthly QSO party

- The development of a second award is in progress

Find out more by visiting our website (also still work-in-progress) or send a message to: nettelclub@outlook.com

You can also check directly if you have already worked some NTC members or start with this directly. Check the website (www.qsl.net/ntc) for the membership list. Our members are also listed in the CW Club RBN Spotter.

Non-NTC members are also welcome to participate in NTC activities. We look forward to meeting you on the bands.

On behalf of the NTC founders,
PA7RA, PG4I & PA3HEN



Very Old & Looking Like New!

Jack WA0QZK found this old beat-up camel back Burnnel (circa 1860!) at the Fort Wayne ham-fest. After acquiring it through haggling and ending with Jack getting it at a very good price (\$5!), Jack proceeded to clean and restore the key. The result is a fine looking key mounted and very useable for cw and SKCC action! Well done Jack!

October Brag 2021



Nice Month, caught up with many that I haven't talked to in a year. It's so nice to catch up on what each other is up to. Have a great November everyone. 73, Bud AA8CL



Too many things going on here to get on the air much. 73, Ron AC2C



This month I decided to get serious about improving my CW skills and getting on the air on CW. I put away my mic, and I've found the SKCC freqs to be a good place for me to find someone I can copy. 73, Greg AI5EQ



Did a little better this month than I usually do. Looking forward to November. 73, Curt K2CWM



A great month here. The QSO party helped for sure. Good fun this month. Had a good run on 15 meters and picked up GER and CUB on that band. Hope to hear you guys next month. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Was sick with COVID for a couple of weeks, but still managed a respectable number. 73, Dave KB1WOD



A lot this month. Looking to keep it up. :) 73, Tom KB3CVO



Hope everyone has a very Happy Thanksgiving. Attached photo is one of my great granddaughters who wanted to learn cw. She took to it immediately but is of to other things now. Oh well. 73, "Sam" KC5 SAM



While I'm usually out working portable operations, this month had me tethered to the house so what's a guy to do? Work SKCC stations whenever I hear them. I had a good month ... making Tx6, Px5, and a lot of new SKCC friends. 73, Dennis KD1JT



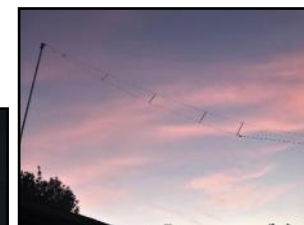
Always fun to work new numbers in the bag and re-new old friendships .. May the MORSE be with YOU. 73, Al N4ow



Thanks for another round of Brag's. Not looking forward to the cold & snow but guess I will have more time indoors with the Rig and Keys :-~) 73, Rick N8XI

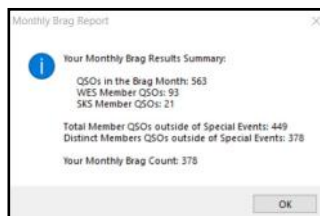


Glad to see the bands improving. SKCC QSOs on 15 and 12 meters going up! This month I got to test my skills on a straight key with the same type of machine that was used during the exams in 1977. A nice experience! 73, Jo PG4I



This month was a really positive turning point mostly due to the improved band conditions (summer was really sucky). I completed Tx8 and began my S Quest on Tuesday of this week. Since then 47 T and S station QSO's made this great. Since it was the last week of the month there was also additional brag traffic to boot. Pictured here is the basic antenna used for all bands except 80. It is a pair of end fed wires in a fan configuration. One wire is 33 feet, the other 16. It slopes from the top at 26 feet and the far end at 14. It's an example of it doesn't take much if conditions are favorable. TNX to all who played this month. 73, Chuck N0CW

October Brag 2021 II



Wow, what a month it was. I made 563 total QSOs this month including all of the events and dups. I've been chasing that new S this month, and I needed every dang one of them I could get. As of 00:00Z 11-1-2021 I was 20 short of the 200. I'll get there this week! I don't think I'll ever have a brag like this ever again. Thanks to all who traded numbers with me. I attached the Brag Report from SKCC just to brag a little more. Hihi 73, Robbie W1RCP



Most of the October operation was from a very cool cellar at our cottage in ME. Moved back to MA at the end of the month. Much more comfortable, now! Thanks to all. Good to see the upper HF bands working better. 73, John W1TAG



Another great month at SKCC. So glad to have a group like this to hang out with on the radio. congrats to all of those who got awards this month. W1RCP did you make Senator? See you all for WES. 73, Mark W8YA



This has been a good month finishing up my Sx3. It took me ten month's past Sx2. But all fun, thanks for all the good QSO's ! I have enclosed a photo of my antenna farm, less antenna and more sub division, Hi 73, Gene W9KMK



Great Month with upper bands opening, lots of fun. 73, Jerry WA4JK



Turned into a great month. In spite of wind damage to my antennas, I even managed to get a marathon QSO in. My goal is two for November. Love the new SKCC cootie and I did manage the TKA this month as well. 73, Les WB5JWI



What?!

While selling one of my refurbished Junker keys at Ft. Wayne, Jack WA0QZK told me he had two Junkers that were leg keys! I had never heard of such a thing! Again after haggling and getting his new Junker at a "steal," Jack promised to send me pictures of his Junker leg key. There you have it, a Junker leg key with what looks like a J-37 leg mount. You learn something new every day! Thanks Jack.

73,
Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM

Four Receivers, One WES (November)

Brian KF6C

My path to the November WES started when I received a reminder email from Ron K2RP about the fall CX WWW.classicexchange.org.

On looking up the info I noted that a bonus of 1000 points that was going to be awarded for the use of each transceiver on each band. My first reaction was I have no old transceivers. As I thought about the rules, I realized that the 1000 points could be gained for newer transceivers as well. I have a K3s, KX3, and two QCX's which when added to my older transmitters and receivers, that adds up to quite a few rigs. Also, I realized that I have a real crown jewel in a Palomar PTR130K. This is a transceiver I designed for Palomar Electronics back in the 70's. eHam.net. The one I have was a failed unit I have had but done nothing with for 43 years. After some diagnostics and serious memory work I found a tantalum capacitor that had been placed the wrong way around!

For the CX one must work at least 3 Qs with each setup. I started using the Racal RA17 and a Kenwood T599, I worked the required 3 Qs but the Racal was not behaving. I moved to the RCA AR88D and its performance was just great. At the end of WWII it was undoubtedly the best HF receiver in the world, but the HRO was said to have better sensitivity on the higher bands. My AR88 was refurbished 5 years ago by son KK6EME and me from the replating of all the metal work up, at a cost of over \$1000. It was given to me by Harry G2AOK and carried on a commercial airliner from the UK to California by James G4CLF!

Next was the PRC130K. Unfortunately, I do not have the CW mechanical filter for the radio and with the band as crowded as it was at the time working the 3 Qs was not an easy task but I did it.

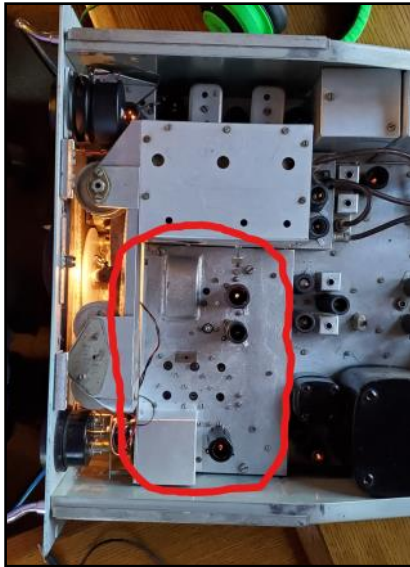
Then I moved to the K3s complete with the KPA1500 amplifier. I immediately got into a pileup of European stations. While this would seem to be good, I began to wonder just how far from the spirit of the contest I was moving. I was racking up a high score but with a modern rig and working no other CX stations. I think at this point I lost some of my interest in the event.

I started to work with my other older rigs. The Eddystone EA12 did not work; it made noises but received nothing other than enormous signal from a HackRF. I tried the Collins TCS12 but its 10 kHz wide receiver was giving me some difficulty on a crowded band. The HRO and Stancor ST202 did OK.

After the CX contest I thought a lot about what my real interest is, I have worked the CX a few times, not always submitting the results. I spend a lot of time thinking about how to get a good score but not much about if it is fun. I love playing with old receivers, it probably goes back to a teenager converting a BC342N to solid state, its performance did not improve, but it did give me a start in understanding dynamic range. What I really need is a station where



I can play with all the receivers and maybe transmit. I looked at all my receivers and concluded that the four I enjoy the most are the AR88D, Racal RA17, Eddystone EA12 and Drake 2B. The Kenwood T-599 would work well as a transmitter. I built a home brew interface card to connect all the receivers to the T-599. I have full QSK with all of the RXs, simply plugging the headphones into the desired RX with the T 599 providing a simple netting method.



RA17 front end

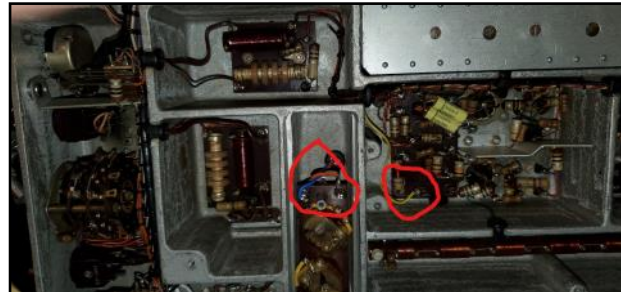
The Racal RA 17 had an intermittent fault. An unusual fix was applied to it. It is a Wadley Loop receiver and as such has a MHz tuning dial that tunes the first LO over the 40 to 70 MHz range. Generally, the dial feels like you are peeking the signal on the desired band. The fault showed as noise in the audio when rotating the knob. I assumed this was due to an issue with the tuning capacitor bearings. Of course, getting at this part of the receiver is not simple, the front panel must be removed, and some unsoldering is required. Having removed the front end section and its covers I found the tuning capacitor to be in excellent condition. Still, what else could have caused the noise? Ok time for a complete wash of the unit. I carefully used dishwashing liquid, rinsed it with the sink sprayer, dried it with a hair dryer and applied WD40 to places I thought needed lubrication. On partial assembly it did not work. Took it back out made some measurements and changes, still did not

work. Out

again cleaned the critical area with Isopropyl Alcohol and reassembled, now it worked great! The EA12 had a burnt-out resistor, quick fix!

I was ready to try this new setup for the November WES. I started out on 40 M using the AR88D, worked 10 Qs SAP, and ran 8, moved to the EA12 worked another 10 SAP no run, moved to the 2B, another 10 SAP with a run of 4, on to the RA17 10 SAP and a run of 26. After that I moved around between the receivers. I thought it appropriate when I my first CQ on 15M using the EA12, an English receiver, was answered by Ken G4RHR. The next call Juan EA5FID overloaded the receiver at the setting I was using! All told I really enjoyed working the WES with this setup, it was good fun. I have to say although I have had the AR88D for many years I have never been so impressed with it as in this WES, I used it on 15M for over a hour at maximum selectivity without touching the dial. Not bad for a 76-year-old single conversion receiver with a 455 kHz IF even if it had been on for 24 hours and only 5 years from a complete rebuild.

Just to be a little up to date the keyboard below the EA12 and the display on top of it are showing the SKCC sked page on a Raspberry Pi400 running windows 11.



Wires to be unsoldered



November WES 2021



To get into the theme of the military I used my 1917 U.S. signal corp key except for one contact, a Bunnell Double speed key to Bunnell Double speed key with Drew AF2Z. I can't remember the last time I made contact with such a low number member, Mark WB9HFK # 83S. All contacts made on 80 and 40 meters east half of U.S. Next month will concentrate on 20 meters for the left coast. Hope to work you then. 73, Frank AA2XB



As usual, I had a great time this month, especially since I was not able to participate last month. Thanks to everyone who had a part in this. I was able to learn more of my new radio as well! A Yaesu FT-DX10, LOVE IT! Look forward to seeing you on the air, 73, Kevin AF5SW



One of the first time that I called so long without any reply ! Propagation was not at his best, really ! Being patient I finally did 24 QSO. Many thanks to all contacted friends and see you next time. I am always pleased to watch the soapbox with several photos of operators and stations of participants in the WES. 73, Bernard F5DE



The WES weekend is always a treat for me. Thank you all for that.



Thanks everyone for the QSOs. This was my first run with a new OCF dipole. It seemed to work pretty well. 73, Jim AD0AB



After a few months off the key it felt good to be back on the air. All QSOs on 40 m. YouKits HB-1B 4 watts to end-fed wire. Key is Vibroplex Vibrokeyer used as sideswiper. 73, Steve AI9IN



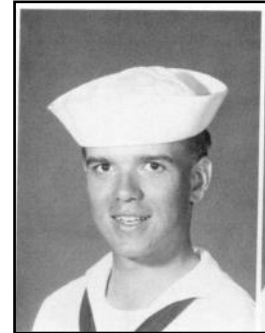
Thanks to all who heard me and the other QRP stations. Thank you veterans for your service. Me? USN 4 years and USNR 6 years. Borrowed from Kevin, KD8IE, #11579, his ICOM-703 running battery power. A first for me. Still ran from the home station and station Vertical. Between work and family, still got operating time. Good time as always. 73, Bud AA8CL



Worked mostly 80 & 40 and mostly CQ'ing. Logged 255 service years-- tnx Vets! QSO with George N2JNZ: long time no hear. Also a Bunnell Sideswiper 2-way with Frank AA2XB. 73 & a tap o' the key to all, Drew AF2Z



Thank you to all the veterans without whom we could not enjoy our freedom. Rig : TS-890S - Dipole - GHD key - 300W It was a real pleasure for me to make these few contacts during this particular WES. 73, Jerry F4FLO



Great fun and nice to hear so many veterans on the air. We were young once - then, something happened! :-) 73, Mark AB7MP



Glad to work at least one veteran, John-K4BAI! QSO's hampered by RTTY contest, but managed a few. Went with an All-American set-up: Drake TR-7 (running 5W) with J-37 "Mae West" straight key. Honored also to spend some time today with my father-in-law, Barry-K2JV, who served in the Navy on the USS Taconic. 73, Colin AE3A



73 to all and thank you for the Qso's! Jon AL7JK

November WES 2021 II



Hello all. Thanks for all qso's. Propagation was good on 20 and 15M from EU to USA, but nothing on 40M. All the best. 73, Phil F5JWH



Had a good time, as usual. RTTY City on 40, also as usual. Could a RTTY signal ever be in code? Happy to work and honor all the VETs - FB bonus this time. Looking forward to the next one. 73, Lee K1LEE



Was able to get a few hours in both days. There seemed to be a lot of SKCC activity this month. Both 20 & 80 mtrs were in excellent condition. As most already pointed out, 40M had lots of RTTY testers, which made it difficult for WES activity. Thanks for all of the Vets in SKCC who were active. And thanks for your service! 73, Steve K2FW



Zero propagation over 20m from 07:00 p m tu. no possibilities instead with the number of rtty. Numerous double or triple QSOs. Thanks for all the QSOs. We look forward to seeing you again in December. 73, Bob F6EJN



Thanks to all of the veterans! 73, Russ K1RWT



Good fun working other vets. It was good to honor veterans with this month's theme. About one third of my contacts were with people who had served from three to 27 years. We hams believe in community service! My operating time: 2.5 hours. 73, Doc K2PHD



Used straight keys for all QSO's and had fun as usual but conditions not great plus a contest made things challenging. Rig TS-440s, 100 watts, ant ground mounted 20ft vertical fishing pole, keys used - Marconi Type 316A lifeboat key, a Marconi Brass key on a marble base, and a Marconi PS No213A Coast station key. 73, John GORDO



Great WES Theme(Let's keep it) . Thank you to all for recognizing my service. Thank you for your service as well. Thank you for all of the qso's - Bands? 15 was useful,, 20 was great as was 40, 80 was quiet on Saturday night for a change. Many Many QRPers- was able to pull just about all of them out of the mud except maybe 2 or 3 which just couldn't make it. Lot's of DX Surprise in the last hour from ZF1DM, a new SKCC country for me. New FTDX10 worked flawlessly, BUT mурhy struck again. In the middle of a qso on 40 Saturday night one of the crimped lugs to the straight key decided to pull out. Well there went that qso even though I tried to hold it manually trying to complete the contact, but to no avail. Into the parts bin to find new lugs- soldering iron came out and now I have soldered lugs which should hold up better. Mұrphy struck again but during the big wind on Monday- took a tree down which took my far corner supports and tie down points with it. the SW corner of the loop is broken. So glad it happened after the WES. My wire maven W3NRJ AND I will rebuild the broken portion of the 160 meter Horiz Loop hopefully in time for the next WES. 73, Phil K3EW



Thanks to all the veterans!! 73, Ed K1EDG



Thanks to all the veterans out there. If anyone here was drafted into the Army thru the Knoxville TN induction station back in the early 60's, I may have been the one who handled your paperwork (hi hi). Ran my TS-590SG 75w into a multi-band antenna using a Kent Str Key. Always fun event despite the RTTY QRM. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Great to become more familiar with my new ICOM 7300 -- operated using battery and portable ham stick dipoles on tripod. One 20 and one 40 aligned perpendicular to each other. Operated mostly at 50 watts and then at 75 watts. Thanks to all who came back to me. Still amazes me that I can go from Maryland to State of Washington with such a simple setup --- and CW, of course! 73, Jim K3YMI

November WES 2021 III



Had a good time operating as usual, but only got about an hour of operating time this time. Took a listen at 04:30 utc Saturday nite but didn't hear anyone. Couldn't get any air time on Sunday with church and all. Should get more air time next month. 73, Rick K7CNT



My usual practice is to operate WES events at the QRP level, and despite being tormented by aggressive RTTY stations, this weekend was no different. My thanks to all those stations who patiently picked my 5 watt signal out of the noise to complete 13 QSOs. Also, thanks to all my fellow veterans for their service. Until next month, 73, Frank K8FAC



It was good to honor veterans with this month's theme. About one third of my contacts were with people who had served from three to 27 years. We hams believe in community service!

My operating time: 2.5 hours. 73, Brian K8LBQ



This month I decided to use my Heathkit HW8 with a flame throwing 1.5 watts. Key was a Vibroplex 100th anniversary bug. Thanks to all that worked to pull my signal out. See you all next month. 73, Noel K8NB



For the short time I was on Sunday the East and West coast were very strong here near Chicago 73, Ray K9EYT



Another great activity. Lots of fun. Trying out my new to me amp. Works great. 73, Al



Mother Nature called me shortly after 5am; stopped at the radio, got Jim, PA and Tony, GA, both vets, on 80 meters. Thanks to Jim and Tony, Joe, Phil, Art and all the veterans for their years of service. Speed-x straight key picked up recently on eBay, used for this event. 73, John KA1LHJ



Many things competing for my time this WES, so I was unable to be on the air as often as desired. Thanks to all the Vets! It was good to see SKCC has so many members that were/are Veterans! Thanks to all for your service! 73, Jim KA6J



Did not have much time to work WES but still had fun. Thanks for all QSOs. 73, Craig KA9ERV



Thank you everyone for another enjoyable WES and dodging RTTY signals on 40 Meters. Thank you to all of those who served our country and gave me bonus points! 73, Eric KB3NSK



Thank you, Veterans, for your service! 73, Wayne KC5PRK



Only on a few hours, but QSOs on 80/40/20/15. I never heard anyone here on 10. Lots of folks on from all over - thanks, all! 73, Steve KC5F



Had a few hours to spare this weekend. Was great to see all the bands open. 20 meters was productive during daylight hours, as was 40. Noise levels low. Thanks everyone for participating, and thanks to all of our veterans! 73, Warren KC9IL

November WES 2021 IV



Wow! The RTTY WAE contest sure invaded the space where we usually operate! Some creative SKCC ops found places to fit in between their sigs - Thanks! 73, Ken KD2KEH



An adventure working around the RTTY contest, but made it a fun challenge. My weapon of choice for this WES was the Icom 761 and the J-38 SK. 73, Randall KG5IEE



73, BOB/27 USN KN4UCN



Thank you fellow veterans for your service to country. 73 to all. Photo of me and my Dad. He was a WW2 Navy vet. I'm proud he pinned my jump wings on me in 1988. 73, Scott KD4EE



Thanks for all the contacts! I really enjoy the WES events. I spent most of my time running on 20 meters. This was my best performance yet in a WES, I made 100 QSOs!. Reached Tx5 with this contact, I hope to make Tx6 before the end of the year maybe even Tx7. I should make Senator in early 2022. I have logged just over 600 SKCC QSOs with my Intrepid bug! I have a vertical for 80 and 40 meters and a Tri-Band 3 element beam for 20, 15 and 10 meters. Thanks to all the veterans for their service! 73, Gordo KG7YU



Had a great time finally being able to do a WES with the trusty Scout! Thanks everyone! 73, Ryan KE0VVW



Another short window to operate. Interfered with by a busy week-end of home chores ... but with a theme too important to ignore. Just had to make time to get on the air ... to our Vets, thank you for your service. 73, Bill KE3O



Thank you all, and a special thanks to all the veterans out there both for their service and for adding to the success of this WES. Yes Mark (AB7MP), we were young once ;) Thanks for all the QSOs. Catch you next one. 73, jack KKØI



I choose this image from the QRZ page of a Special Event Station WW1USA SKCC 15547T I spent some time listening to the Bands and thinking about my Great Uncle Seth Seaton. USA Signal Corps during WWI. Telegraph Operator. Buried US National Cemetery Presidio - San Francisco, CA. 73, John KE0ZUW



Many thanks to all veterans for their service, sorry I did not work to more of you in the WES. Great fun worked and 130 Qs all with 45-year-old transmitter, 42 with 76-year-old AR88, 58 with 64-year-old RA17, 15 with 59-year-old 2B and 15 with 59-year-old EA12. 73, Brian KF6C



First time playing in the WES since June. I took a break from SKCC activities since July to focus on the CW Academy advanced class that I just wrapped up a few weeks ago. A lot of fun this weekend, adding quite a few new numbers. I hope to be on next week for the 2-hour sprint. Rig for this weekend was my trusty KX2 (SN #617) running 5 watts, antenna is a Hustler 6BTV. 73, Steve KJ5T

November WES 2021 V



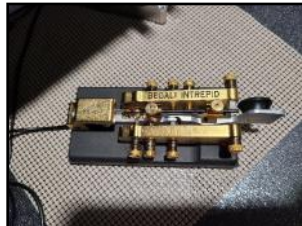
My first serious WES. Had a lot of fun, but my arm/hand really started hurting in the last 90 minutes. Wasn't sure I would make it (using my Novice SK, circa 1966, from Lafayette Radio, now mounted on a new wooden base)....but I did. 73, Doug KR2Q



It was nice to give out some bonus points. Used 4 different radios: KW TS590S, IC746, TT Corsair 2, and a TT Triton 544. I used the Triton for the majority, plus I worked the majority on 80 and a handful on 40. G5RV and 40 Mtr Inverted V and my 90 Degree Vizbug. And yes we were young once! 1981 Basic Training photo! 73, Scott N3JJT



The Fort Wayne Hamfest SKCC booth had a special 2 meter cw station set up promoting WES. SKCC members had an opportunity to contact KS9KCC who was operating a second station at the hamfest. It was a lot of fun and generated a lot of attention! 73, Codie KS9KCC



I always like the WES and using my Intrepid. Being a Vet makes it special to hear all the exchanges and number of years served. Thanks to all who served and continue to do so.. OOORAH !! 73, Dennis N0SMX USMC 1982-1986



Tough condx on all fronts - high line noise, pulse noise from neighbors washing machine and all that RATTY ! Had a good time in spite of the "challenges" :) Golden Ear awards to all stations that worked me. 72/73, AL, N4ow 11375S



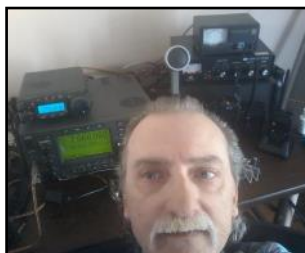
Had limited time for the Sprint... FUN as always. QSO Stats: 5 > 21MHz - 7 > 28MHz TA33 - 30W - Home Made DSK + Mystery "flameproof" style SK (Bendix?). TU everyone for the QSOs. BCNU 73, Walt LW3EX - ... ZUT



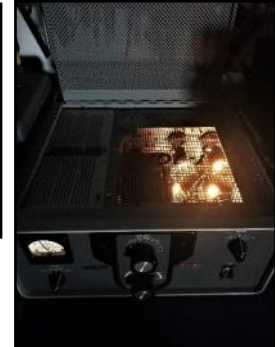
What a fun Sprint and great to work so many fellow vets especially my Navy shipmates! Go Navy! 73, Bob N1MHV



Thanks everyone! Had fun and wish I would have been able to spend the whole weekend doing WES. Someday. 73, Rich N3KQN



Too much RTTY on 40M otherwise I had fun!! 73, Dennis N4WHK



This is a great way to recognize those members who have served in the Armed Services and all who have are well deserving of our appreciation. The bands seemed to only support signals in the 559 range but that was good enough for a successful WES. Had a great 15M opening early on Sunday morning, worked F6EJN and F5JWH with great signals here on the west coast. That doesn't happen every day. The pictured Collins 30L1 kept the garage shack warm. The WES total of T's and S's pushed my "Quest for the S" above the midway point after three weeks of pretty good bands, thanks to all who helped. 73, Chuck N0CW



Limited time to participate but had a nice time. Great theme this month. Thanks to all veterans for their service. 73, Dick N5KIP

November WES 2021 VI



Thank You to all Veterans, Past es Present. We are forever grateful for your service.. * Pic is :work in progress!! 73, Randy N8KQ



Had a great time and got to try out my new CWMorse key, an early Birthday present from my other half. 73, Robin NGT8S



KX3 (10 Watts) with NØSA Straight Key. Thanks for the Qs. 73, Mitch NW0M



WES fell on the weekend we travel to Florida for the winter. Operated WES from our car Sunday helping to break the monotony of the long drive and having some fun along the way. My wife drove some while I operated and then she logged while I operated and drove. (Great for head copy and retention!) I gave out KY, TN, and GA confusing many with my changing SPC! I added toroid/chokes to my coax and connecting cable for the head of the 7100 and it eliminated all of my noise from my Hybrid car! It was amazing as I always suffered with s-9 whenever I tried to operate Hf mobile from it. S-2 was the highest noise today with most of it S-1! I worked Bob - F6EJN on 20 meters while driving through Nashville Along with some of the Fort Wayne gang! Thanks to all of our Vets for their service to our country. 73, Ken N8KR/4



Thanks to all you veterans! I worked 36 vets and every time I did I sent a prayer of thanks for your service. Started out with my K3 and Bencher RJ-2 but it's on the second shelf and not easy to see well with my bifocals LOL. So I switched to my IC-7610 and J-38. All at 100 watts on an OCF dipole at 30' because my 2 element quad has SWR issues. Thanks all! 73, Bill NZ0T



Argo6 5wts g5rv 35ft n/s inv vee.. time flies, only one more WES for this yr.. in 2022 we can make QRM then also..hihi..tnx to the SKCC board mbrs... I now have "only" 82 code keys hr.. good hobby in my basement machine shop..hihi.. pix is last design, but bases are different from scrap aluminum I've had for yrs.. my MAG-NET picks up all the brass and aluminum chips on the shop floor..hihi.. c u in December, take care and make QRM daily, it is LEGAL..hihi..next month, I'll be qrm'ing with that WHITE stuff on my g5rv..hihi. 73, Dave N9ZXL



Very limited operating time on this my birthday weekend. Of course I used my birth year bug as well as my new W1SFR SKCC straight key. 73, Chuck N10C



Had fun with limited time. Special thanks to all the veterans. Why does everyone else's shack look so tidy? 73, Ben VE1AHX



QRP propagation on 20 came in waves. I'd get RSTs 339, then suddenly 579s. I had a good corridor to the NE, ONT and GA it seems. All in all, fairly good band condx both 20 and 40, and a few on 15M. My vet /9 was 10 patrols on a Polaris submarine, SSBN601. Photo shows us coming off one patrol into Pearl Harbor, HI about 1974. Thanks to all Vets for their service to our great country. 73, Paul NA5N



A great opportunity to honor Veterans Day and recognize those who served. 73, Steve NQ8T



I only operated on Sunday afternoon. Nobody on 20m so I switched to 40m; some QRN but manageable. Several new numbers towards my Tx7. Overall, another good experience. Thanks all. 73, Robert VE2KZW

November WES 2021VII



Despite WX conditions, a very enjoyable WES as usual. On the picture, my 2 beauties: SPEED X model 515 and a RCAF-10F/556 - Wilson straight key. Veterans thanks for your service! 73, Ed VE3EKA



The RTTY QRM in the evening on 40 was a spoiler but condx were fairly good. Had contacts on 15 through 160. It was great working all of my Vet brothers. Photo is me at Udorn AB in NE Thailand - 1968 at 21 yrs old. K3 with KPA-500. Ants: Big 160m skyloop on 160-40 and Optibeam on 20 & 15. Both at 50'. Key: Vibroplex Lightning Bug - c1942. 73 Dave W3NP



That was fun, but I'd rather do it from the bush...73, Dave VE3KIU



Limited operating time this weekend. Condx were pretty good. Some impressive Vet bonus points being handed out. Thanks for them and your service. 73, John W1TAG



This was a fun WES for me. Used new Vibroplex bug, SS and J-41(photo). Worked out of my normal 40 meter band and realized I need to optimize my antenna. Thanks to everyone who put up with my weak signal and to those who said it sounded great. 73, Bill W3SI



WAS ONLY ABLE TO WORK A FEW HOURS ON SUNDAY DUE TO WORK AND SOME FAMILY THINGS. THANKS FOR ALL THE Q'S THANKS TO ALL MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY. 73, GREG WA3GM



Always fun to operate in a WES, but, having this scheduled during a RTTY contest certainly stole some wind out of my QRP sail. Thanks to all and a special thanks to those that stuck with me through several repeats of my call sign! 73, Blu



I went back to QRP with my Cootie key and a wire this month and Loved it ! I worked 20 meters during daylight and 80 meters Saturday evening (40m was all RTTY). Thanks to all who endured my Cootie fist! 73, Rich W4RQ



This weekend was not a good one for me. There was too much going on. I spent a collective five hours hunting and pouncing when I could be at the radio. It was an honor to pass out my 4 years of service in the US Army to you all. 73 and see you down the log! 73, Rob W1RCP



Thank You to all who served. 73, Bill/10 W2EB

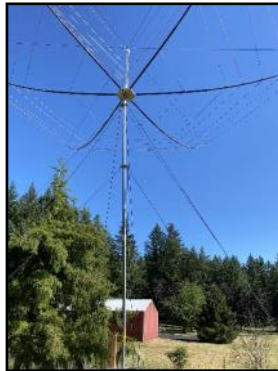


Thanks to all who served and to all of the participants! 91 QSOs on 4 bands, mostly S&P. Found 20 to be the best band as 40 was overrun with RTTY. Several nice DX QSOs on 15 on Saturday afternoon, and 80 was open on Sunday afternoon. Running 100w to either a long wire on the backyard fence or to a fan dipole up 25 feet. Using either a straight key or a bug with plenty of extra weights. Look for me next month as DANCER! 73, Jack W9YY

November WES 2021 VIII



Another fun fill SKCC weekend. Thank you for all of your help towards my "S" Quest. 73, Dennis WA3IGU



Decided to enter the WES this weekend. Started to work 40 m last evening, no luck, 80 m same. Got up this morning to try 20 m and my goal was to get 34 C's, T's and S's for Tx8. Well 20 m was open for me today, worked 100 QSO's, 40 SPC's, plus with bonus points, total ended up 5,307. My personal best in the WES since I joined SKCC. It was great. No to see how my Tx8 standing is; Auuuuggghhh, 399. I feel like Charlie Brown when Lucy takes the ball from Charlie and he misses. Oh well, at least it is now only one to get Tx8. BTW, I do believe my Hex Beam really helps me reach the East Coast now. I had several long runs on 20 m today on one frequency. And only used 20 m in the whole contest. Thanks for the 100 QSO's and that one that I am missing (and you know who you are), I am waiting for you so I can reach Tx8. 73, Tom WA8ZNC



Propagation not at the top over 20 m, and difficult to find space over 40 m with the RTTY, But WES always so nice! 73, Frank F8DTU



"Thank you to all our Veterans" working so many that gave some much was heart warming. My first QSO was "WW1USA", that was a perfect beginning. The "Speed-X" was a fitting key for this event. It had seen News service duty over the years. 73, Rick K0KEX



Great theme, thanks for your service. 73, Ray WB0PYF



Family commitments limited my operating time but still lots of fun. 73, Drexel W4DHT



Mixed band conditions both days, with DATA ops crowding out 40M CW. I dropped down to 7.038 MHz and was rewarded with some EU DX contacts on Sunday evening. Always fun. Stay well & 73, Mike, WB2FUV



Not a big score but had fun all the same. See you next month



Need to plan better so that I can have more time for the contest and therefore more fun!! 73, Ed N2GSL



Thanks to those I worked, enjoyed the WES again. This photo taken in 1963 on board the USS KITTY HAWK CVA-63. Yep that is me caught off guard. This was the ham shack just under the angle deck. The antenna was a nice long wire hanging over the side. 73, Bob W8BTD



The photo is KJ7GNB-ette meeting me for lunch one day last year. After 33 years of bouncing between ARNG and Army active, I retired in July 2021 by mutual agreement between my birth certificate, the Army, Mrs. KJ7GNB, and little KJ7GNB-ette. It was a good run starting in 1988 as 130 lbs. QM, then OD, then LG, and my last 10 years as a 190 lbs. JA. This last WES, condx were bad to okay in Montana. I was hoping for better. Mrs. KJ7GNB and KJ7GNB-ette were in TX so I figured I'd have all weekend for WES. But, a couple of projects reared their ugly heads. Still, I had a lot of time for WES which was fun. I always seem to get at least 2 replies from non-members who don't understand "CQ WES" and the quick contest QSO. This WES was no different including a QRS ragchew with a guy who is just starting out in CW. WES isn't so vicious that I can't stop and have a nice chat. 73, Bill KJ7GNB

November WES 2021 IX



I didn't spend much time on the air, but I still had fun. I completely forgot about the theme, so my score reflects that...I think...lol I was running 1/2w using my FT-817nd and a diy Delta Loop. Key was an AME cootie. 72, Neil WA4CHQ



I have decided to learn the Cootie key, My hB one in the Pic has no adjustments and vibrates too much. So I modified my unused Vi-brokeyer with a jumper and it adjusts just fine. Used it 95% of the time. I'm hooked now. It's my primary Key now. I do slow on SK all the rest on Cootie. 73, Jerry WA4JK



A good WES. Bands were great for a change and I had fun. Family needs kept time to a few hours but had a ton of fun. Got to use my SKCC cootie and had a ball. Thanks to all the Vets - we have quite a few. I was disappointed I couldn't get to France but otherwise, a great time. 73, Les WB5JWI



Had a good time even though didn't have a lot time on....Thanks to ALL the Veterans who have or are serving. 73, Mike WD0ETG



Only got on for less than an hour for this one. Family commitments came first. As a veteran with 2- years not sure if I get any bonus points for me I did work one member with 27 years. Added photo from Military for the 100 points. 73, Wayne WE7G



Here is a pic of my "new" remote station controlling my K3S in the shop. I used my new SKCC/WISFR straight key for the sprint. Had a good time even though didn't have a lot time on....Thanks to ALL the Veterans who have or are serving. 73, Ken WR7D



Skyhook!

Already a big signal, Randy N8KQ's new skyhook is about ready for his 2 element Hygain 402 40m yagi! The King is on the way!

Fort Wayne, IN Hamfest 2021

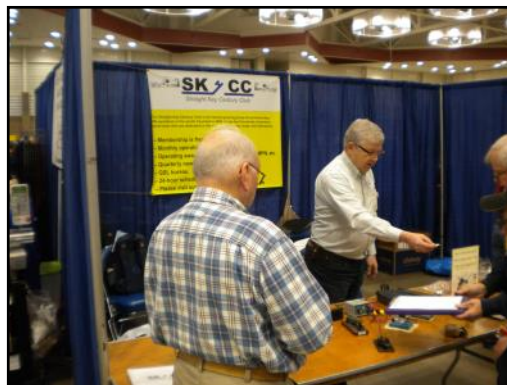
The Fort Wayne Hamfest is a two day event; SKCC was there! The Fort Wayne SKCC group may be the most active group of SKCCers in the country. They have a major presence in all SKCC operating activities and are lead by several strong members; Ed WA9BBN, Ken N8KR and Josh W9HT just to name a few.



Ed WA9BBN “talking up” the many merits of joining SKCC

the distance of the booth, the club had a well presented presentation showing the many features of the SKCC web site. There was also a collection of different keys connected to a CPO where folks could try their hand at the various key types; straight key, bug and cootie. A log sign-in sheet was there for all visiting SKCC members to sign in and for all members and new sign-up members an “SKCC pin-on button” was given....a great idea! While walking around in

The SKCC booth was well equipped and staffed with a live internet connection where according to our membership manager, at least five Fort Wayne amateurs were signed up on site! One interesting fun-feature at the booth were two 2m rigs and asking members to make an honest and correct SKCC QSO right there with the club call KS9KCC to the other 2m rig! The results of these 2m QSOs were submitted in the WES going on during the hamfest! Aside from making QSOs across



WA9BBN Ed, passing out those neat buttons to an SKCCer who just logged in.



the hamfest it was nice to see all the button-wearing SKCC members.



The “official” SKCC button

An SKCC group photo was taken at 11:30 and as you can see, many members showed up to be included in the picture.

A great hamfest and a great job of promoting SKCC by those SKCCers in the Fort Wayne area.

DokuFunk, a Little Known Treasure House

By Vince, S52CC

A few years ago when in my corner allocated for the world's best hobby the space for the QSL card collection threatened to burst I remembered a leaflet that I took once from an inconspicuous booth at the HAM Radio Exhibition in Friedrichshafen, Germany. It was about an Archive in Vienna, Austria that collects QSL cards. Being a ham for over 50 years I thought that at least part of my collection could be of interest to them. The leaflet itself was quite informative, but to learn more I clicked their website. *DokuFunk*, as their short name goes, turned out to be a huge surprise and much more than just a QSL collection.

The Research and Documentation Center for the History of Radio Communications and



The building in Vienna - Liesing

the Electronic Media (the full name) is the world's biggest organization to collect, save, research and present whatever relates to the history of radio communications, particularly amateur radio and broadcasting, everything from the pioneer days until today. The collections include books, magazines, documentation of all kind, audio, photographs, videos - you name it. And, yes, amateur QSL cards and broadcast reception reports. Their databases respond to even the most intricate search combinations with immediate results from almost a terabyte of information.

Founded some thirty years ago *DokuFunk* is a strictly nonprofit volunteer institute supported by individuals, amateur radio societies, broadcasters and broadcast listeners, archives, historians, publishers and enterprises on all continents. A board oversees the collections and archives, and controls all projects. The main founding institutions and present overseers are ORF - Austrian Radio and Television, OVSF - Austrian Amateur Radio Society and ADXB - Austrian DX Board.

I believe too little is known about this Institution among hams generally so I decided to write a few lines about it and share a bit of my experience from the visit in Vienna with fellow SKCC members.

After reading the QSL Donation Policy I first contacted the institution's secretariat with an overview of my collections and got an almost immediate friendly reply from the then curator, Prof. Wolf Harranth, OE1WHC. So I selected the requested cards (among them almost 200 cards of SKCC members) and some other material and drove the 260 km (160 mi) to Vienna district of Liesing where the archives reside in an adapted industrial building. Well, if the website was a surprise, the reality was overwhelming. Without really seeing those archives it would have been impossible to imagine two stories of a large building with rooms containing a collection of 9 million QSL cards, over 100.00 thousand awards and diplomas, kilometers of shelves with all kinds of written and recorded material.

In Vienna I was met by OM Wolf personally and given a two-hour tour through the premises. What a huge effort it must have been collecting, sorting and recording all this wealth. And it is going on with daily arrivals of mail and parcels. A large staff is kept busy to uphold the institution's motto: *The future needs a memory.*

Instead of a lengthy description I suggest visiting the institution's website (<https://www.dokufunk.org/>), taking the guided video tour there and browsing through many other pages. Even if you don't speak German, go to the German pages, the updated information of what the website offers is there. For the guided tour click the blue square on the opening page *Einladung zum Archivdurchgang*.

There is an exciting detail though I cannot overlook. Remember Yasme? A number of entities on my DXCC list are there thanks to Lloyd and Iris Colvin. It took my breath away as I entered a large room with the biggest individual collection that is now housed at the Vienna Archives. Over 800.000 QSL cards from Yasme expeditions! I was allowed to open the drawer marked YU3 just to find a bunch of cards in there with my previous call YU3TRI. Not hard to imagine my shaky hands, is it?



The YASME collection—almost a million items

This August the Archives' staff together with the broader amateur radio community was saddened by the loss of OM Wolf, OE1WHC/OE3WHC, the founder and driving force behind *DokuFunk*, who passed away shortly before his 80th birthday. A journalist, broadcaster, writer, interpreter, active ham and DXer he will also be remembered for his warm personality. A model for the staff carrying on the work he started.

Having no photographs from my Vienna visit I asked Paulina Petri, M.A., OE1YPP the *DokuFunk* present curator & CEO for some. Within a few hours she replied with a collection part of which is presented here. Our most sincere thanks go to her for this kind gesture.



Paulinna, OE1YPP & Wolf OE1WHC (SK) at Handover 2019



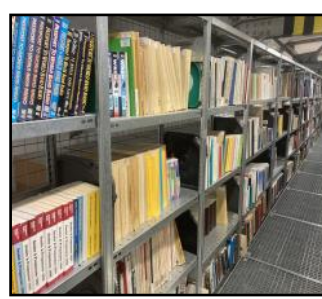
Suitable QSL Card



Cards, cards and cards



Library-magazines



Library - manuals

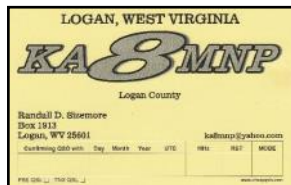


Part of ORF archive

November SKS 2021



Got a late start. Forgot it was Sprint Night. Bands were quiet for a while but picked up. I always thank you for responding to us who want to torture you with our QRP Signals. Thanks for the great responses. Happy Thanksgiving to all and your families. 73, Bud AA8CL



Wish I'd made a few more contacts but some signals not so good all six I did get were 599 plus. Finally realized my RF gain was turned to almost zero. It was fun anyway. 73, Randy KA8MNP



80M was the money band. Had a CQ dry spell that affected the total Qso count. Had a fun time working so many new S stations helping me out in my S quest. Looking forward to next month's WES and SKS. Looking forward to 12/15/2021 when we can start signing up for K3Y slots. 73, Vern NJ8L



Operated for 45 minutes then got called away, but still managed 7 contacts, one on 40m and six of 80m. Used my TX-590SG at 75w to a multi-band vertical. Kent str key. Always a good time. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



I wanted to CQ on 40m for the first hour, but it was slow and long. Every time I thought I'd go to 80m I'd get another call. Sorry about a couple I couldn't pull out. CA to NH to NED (thanks, Jo!), and the closest station was 800 miles away. Then some S&P on 80m, which was much more active, with good signals. Thanks, all! 73, Steve KC5F



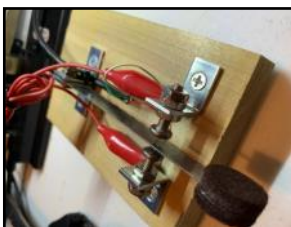
Always a good time. Managed to stumble on to N8KR in FLA but could not catch up to Randy N8KQ! Enjoyed a long rag chew in the process. Enjoy Thanksgiving Day 73, Steve NQ8T



Did not have much time to work the event, bands I used did not seem as active as usual and I weemed ot have local noise on 80 again. Did what I could. 73, John K8JD



First SKS in quite some time, running my KX2 @ 5W into a Hustler 6BTV ground mounted with 40 33ft radials. Band conditions weren't that good for me, was glad a couple of stations pulled me out on 80M. 73, Steve KJ5T



I played using my homebrew cootie working towards the TKA. I did use my G0NVT straight key for one QSO. I had a pretty high noise level during the event, but that didn't stop the fun! 73, Rob W1RCP



We would like to wish everyone in SKCC a Happy Holiday Season this year. 73, Larry K8TEZ



Spent the time on 40 meters. Lots of stations calling with qsb! First event of the season at my portable FL station with dipoles on 15, 20, and 40 meters. Northern friends KA9GKE, N9DGL, WA9BBN, KD9GDY, KR9U, W9HT, and K8TEZ along with K7CNT and WE7G from AZ managed to find me! Happy Thanksgiving! 73, Ken N8KR



My first SKS in quite a while. The 7-9 P.M. local time schedule fits well in the winter months. Stayed on 80 meters for the whole thing, and had a slow start. Thanks to all who participated. 73, John W1TAG

November SKS 2021 II



Some of worst condx I have seen for a SKS. 20 only yielded 2 contacts, 40 was sparse and weak with 7 Q's, had 2 Q's on 160 and the rest on 80 which was THE band for this event. Used my new IC-7300 in an event for the first time. Driving the KPA-500 at 500w. (Let the K3 rest) Ant was the 160m full wave horizontal loop at 50'. Keys: Vibroplex Lightning Bug and Navy Flameproof SK. 73, Dave W3NP

Why the Letters "CQ"

"Calling any station" is the general call when requesting a conversation with anyone. Like many other telegraph terms that originated on the landlines, CQ was brought over into radio and used as a general call to all ships by the Marconi Company. Other companies used "KA" until the London Convention of 1912, which adopted CQ as the international general call or "attention" signal.

But why the letters CQ? From the French, *sécurité* (which means "safety" or, as intended here, "pay attention"). The pronunciation of the first two syllables sounds like the English letters C and Q, which led to "CQ" becoming a call to attention for all stations.

What to Do, What to Do?

If you had a new tower, new 2L 40m beam ready to put on that tower but you have/did run out of warmer tower climbing weather, what would you do? The 2L is all put-together but weather is too cold and windy...not to mention several days of rain and more wind. What would you do? You might do what Randy, N8KQ did...you would put the antenna balanced on the wooden railing of your pool deck! Here is Randy's result of pool mounted 2L 40m yagi:



Well got the 40M 2L all back together and it's laying across the banister(railing) on the back deck facing west. After a little adjusting of the beta match by moving the coax connectors to where it called for in the manual and changing a bad piece of coax, this thing has almost a perfect SWR. Don't need my tuner. Yesterday afternoon, I worked a TN station @589 (80W) Last nite I called cq on 40 with it and worked AR es MN, both 599. 40M here last nite was horrible, I called cq for over 20+ mins es got those 2 qso's but on the rbn, I lit up the west coast es I think every country in EU while facing west! But short stateside was dead. So I moved to 80 es made a few contacts, came back to 40 es worked Ken, N8KR in FL, both @599 like he was in IN. Band was so strange. Anyway, I got a couple pics, but not the best to see the antenna laying on the deck. Man this thing is a monster es can't wait to get it in the air.

And Randy has a 2nd TH-6 ready to go up...bet there is a banister on the other side of the pool deck! Way to go Randy...."Radio N8KQ, The Voice of Eastern Ohio" LOL!

Ferrite Choke Magic de N8KR

Anyone who attempts a mobile HF adventure knows about internal noise. The biggest noise source includes the alternator, electric fuel pump, computer, shark plug wires, and other electrical devices. Most of that noise is often eliminated with a good radio noise blanker. Those who have a hybrid automobile face an even greater challenge with the noise generated by the hybrid system. One of our vehicles is a Toyota Camry hybrid and after many tries with various mobile installations in it, I, like many, gave up! The noise is s-9 all the time, and that happens on all hf bands. The noise blanker does little to nothing to improve the situation. My last attempt a couple of years ago had me pulling off the road and turning the car off to complete qso's.

This year my trip to FL happened during WES. I decided to throw the magnet mount on the roof of the car and operate during our evening stop at the end of the day. While assembling the car station, I decided to try a couple of ferrite chokes on my system. The first was 31 mix (that's important) snap on choke with an inside diameter of 5/8 inch. That allowed me to wrap 6 full turns of the rg-8 coax right at the base of the antenna. Inside the car, I wrapped 9 turns of my connecting cable from the base of the Icom 7100 to the head with another choke.

At our first rest stop, we switched drivers and I decided to put a 40 meter hamstick on the mag mount so I could attempt to hear a station or two. Was I surprised as the noise on the radio was S-1 to S-2, and that was without the noise blanker! No more hybrid noise and I spent the day making WES contacts including evening contacts of 80 meters! I found the secret to eliminating my mobile noise!

There's much to read about common mode chokes and you can search online for that info. What I can tell you from experience, is that the 31 mix ferrite chokes (snap on) that I got from DX-Engineering were magical in eliminating my noise. (I read, also, that there are cheap knock-offs that are not effective. The 31 mix is important for hf use!)



De Facebook



Working SKCC stations on my WW2 U.S. Navy Flameproof key. 73, AI5DD Joe



Hi can someone help me? This is my Vibroplex J36, I can't find any matches on the nameplate, different from the two in most common use. As you can see, the spaces that should contain the punches with the production data are intact. Do you have any information about this? Thanks! 73, Marco I4IKW



W3SI Bill... Took a selfie the other day and that is when I realized that I needed to clean my radio desk area. But I needed to wait till the QSO Party concluded b4 starting on it. So I wanted to share my mug shot. W3SI



De Erik KG5WOY



My latest key and it works great! 73, Greg WA3GM

USS Indianapolis Then and Now



7.060 USS Indianapolis radio room WW2IND De Ron WB9DKL



USS Indianapolis (CA-35) underway at sea on 27 September 1939. de Wickapedia



The USS Indianapolis today. Photo by Gary VE3DZP photographed in the Welland Canal

If you don't know the story of "the Indy," you should! Glorious history yet a terrible tragedy. SKCC #18377

Christmas Miracle

The following has appeared before in the Rag Chew but it's a story worth repeating. 2021 has not been a good year by all accounts but we still need to be thankful and appreciate what we have.

Enemy Sub Delivers Unforgettable Gift

By Deseret News Jan 2, 2003, 3:38pm MST

Lee Wayne Maloy as told to Kathie and Scott Armstrong, Special to the

Lee Wayne Maloy

In the war years, I served my country as a merchant marine. By the time I was 19 years old I had traveled around the world three times. It was a great adventure for a young man, but life as a merchant seaman was very rough, and I had to learn to be tough to survive.

New men went through initiations called "smokers." This is where you either sank or swam as a merchant marine. I found myself in a small boxing ring fighting the toughest man on board. I was knocked down time and time again, but I kept getting up, and each time I pulled myself to my feet, I got a little better and a little more confident.

Though I never knocked the big guy down, I learned one of the best lessons of my life: to never give up and just keep trying.

My efforts proved to be the right thing because everyone came over and patted me on the back and gave me a big hug. Even the biggest and toughest guy on board became a fast friend who always looked after me from then on. These were the men with whom I would share so many amazing experiences. Though many of my memories have become grayed with the passing of the years, there are a few that still stand out as vivid as if they just happened. Let me preface this Christmas experience with the fact that even at my young age, I had faced death before.

There was the time we were in the Indian Ocean on a tanker carrying war supplies to the troops. The year was 1944, and we had all been on alert for the entire week having heard several ships had been sunk by U-boats. The Germans were relentless and usually traveled in "wolf packs," making it most difficult to avoid being torpedoed.

The moon was bright that night, and I could see very clearly. I was on watch on the bow of the ship with binoculars in hand. I surveyed the horizon keeping myself sharp and alert for my task. My older brother was on board with me and was down in the galley having his coffee. I had been on watch for several hours and was getting a little cold and hungry.

The sea was a fluorescent green, which made every white cap and fish glow. As I scanned the horizon I suddenly noticed two fluorescent streaks in the distance. I blinked my eyes just to make sure of what I was seeing. Yes, it was two torpedoes coming straight for the bow of our ship. I quickly grabbed the phone to warn the bridge, but it just rang and rang without anyone answering.

Later they told me they saw the torpedoes as I rang and didn't think we had a chance. I didn't think we had a chance either, but as the ship rose on the swell of the next wave, the torpedo on our starboard side missed us completely. The one on our port side was invisible and I was invisible, and I wrapped my arms tightly around myself and closed my eyes as though I could protect myself from the impending explosion.



I waited frozen in that moment of time with my shipmates as we heard the torpedo skim down the ship, clanging as it went. It banged into us four or five times, and then silence. By some miracle the torpedo's warhead never came in contact with the ship, and we were saved. Several months later on Christmas Eve, I had just celebrated my 20th birthday on Dec. 21. We were on our way home from the Mediterranean approaching the Straits of Gibraltar on our way to the North Atlantic. We were happily bound for the East Coast of the good old USA. It was a stormy night that Christmas Eve, and I was once again on watch at the bow of the ship.

The sea was covered in white caps, which make it almost impossible to see "turkey feathers," a term we used to describe the white plume that flows behind a submarine's periscope when it is close to the surface. Understandably all of our thoughts were of home and of Christmas and of hopes of soon being with our families.

The past days had been unremarkable, and the sights, sounds and smell of the ocean lulled me into a sense of well-being. Then it all seemed to happen in an instant. I saw the plume of a periscope appear off the port side of our ship. It couldn't have been more than 100 yards away. I had no chance to ring the bridge this time. They must have seen the periscope at the same time I did because the ship was suddenly alive with alarms and shouts of men scurrying to their battle stations.

But there was no time to ready ourselves for a fight. There was no time to protect ourselves in any way. The submarine was already on us, rising up out of that choppy sea. The enemy had us dead to rights. I'll never forget what happened next.

There was a flashing. Dash dash, dot dot dash dot. I mouthed the letters as I saw the German submarine blinking its Morse code message. I couldn't believe what was I was seeing. M-E-R. Could I be reading it correctly? Another "R" and then, dash dot dash dash, a "Y." It was happening so fast as the second word flashed to us in the darkness. C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S. Then it was over. As fast as the U-boat had appeared it sank back into the blackness of the sea and was gone.

We all stood transfixed. No one moved for several seconds as we recovered from our shock and surprise. We had escaped death before by a twist of fate or maybe luck.

But on this Christmas Eve we had been given a gift. As the reality of what had just transpired and the words "Merry Christmas" took hold in our minds and then our hearts, we unitedly sent up a cheer. A cheer of relief, and of joy and true celebration.

I have had many wonderful Christmases since that Christmas Eve in 1944. I was able to marry and spend 56 years with my lovely wife and help to raise our three children.

Each consecutive Christmas has been surrounded by grandchildren and now, great-grandchildren. None of these memories would have ever been possible if it wasn't for that fortuitous night when the "enemy" gave a ship full of men the gift of peace and one of their best Christmas memories possible.

New Gear



Christmas often brings new shack "toys." If Santa brings you any toys please post to Facebook (please include your call) or send pictures and message directly to the editor (K8AQM). Everyone enjoys seeing shack toys!