

Volume 15 Issue 1

The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club

“The Rag Chew”

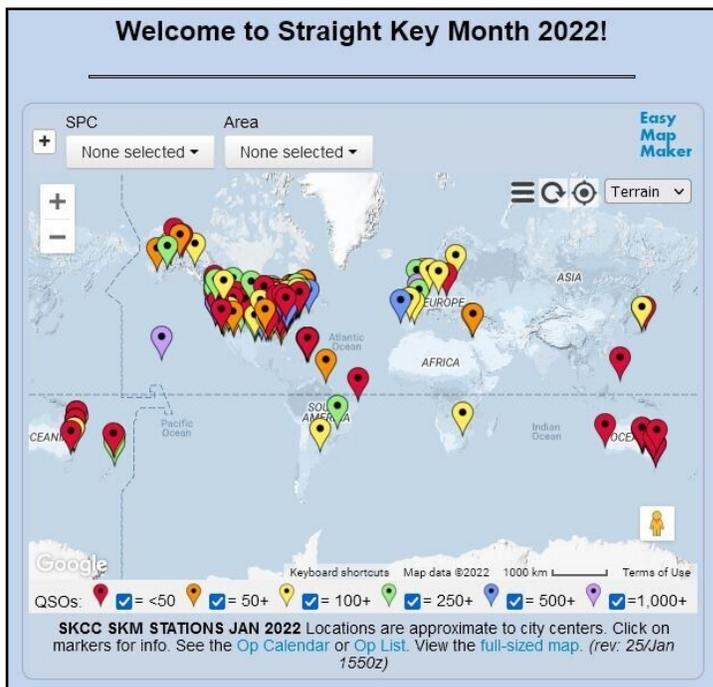
Editor: K8AQM/VE9AQM

March, 2022

K3Y Straight Key Month (SKM) Wrap-up

Certainly if there is such a thing as “CW burnout,” it happened this past January! Over 50,000 K3Y contacts are in logs around the world and lets not forget all those “normal” monthly CW contacts from Brag, Slow Speed Saunter, SKSE, WES and SKS! I for one, currently have my right arm slathered with a soothing baum of “glass arm” pain relief ..ugh. But what fun!

Just checkout the map and its’ legend. The map shows the



areas where K3Y SKM (Straight Key Month) activity took place. In a word, activity took place “everywhere!” It wasn’t all that difficult to work a WAC of K3Y operators! Every state was on during this event and enough DXCC countries to get your SKCC DX Award too!

Much of the credit for this year’s success goes to “YOU,” the many who chased the K3Y stations and the more than 250 operators around the globe that were the K3Y stations and those coordinators who scheduled all those K3Y operators.

Special kudos should go to Drew, AF2Z who organized and did all the computer upkeep for our stats. Here on the next page are Drew’s comments:

Thanks!...

...to everyone who participated in our 16th Anniversary Straight Key Month. It was our best ever: more than 250 SKCC members signed up as Operators and logged over 49,545 QSOs total.

Once again all 50 US States, PR & DC were activated, which thirteen people managed to sweep. In past years there were only one or two who made it to the top of the States tier in the participant stats.

I hope you had as much fun as I did. I gave my trusty Junker straight key a rest this year and used the old Bunnell sideswiper exclusively (I think the SS was a little easier to use, if less accurate, than the SK...) And the old endfed wire antenna was still going strong for the 16th year...

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

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

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

<https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-statistics.php?show=stations> <https://www.easymapmaker.com/map/K3YOPS-2022>

Callers can check their Stats and Sweeps at these links:

<https://>

www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-statistics.php?show=sweeps

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

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

<https://>

www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-qs1-info.php

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

Looking forward to next January! We should do this every year, haha...

73, Drew - AF2Z SKM
Mgr

* Straight Key Month * * Stats Update *

Updated 01/27/2022 2005z • K3Y Station Operators shown in bold.

19 K3Y Areas

AA2XB • AA5VE • AA5XA • AC2C • AF2Z • AG6V • AH6AX • AK6A • F6HKA • K0FG • K0KEX • K0VVV • K1EDG • K1ND • K1PUG • K1YAG • K2FW • K3EW • K3WW • K4DJ • K4GM • K5ZOL • K8NS • KA4UPI • KB1OIQ • KB1WOD • KB4QQJ • KB4WJA • KB8KMH • KD0Q • KD8DEU • KE7VE • KP4SJ • KQ4CW • KR9U • N0SMX • N1FG • N2KPJ • N3MVX • N5CM • N5GW • N7WI • N8KQ • N8KR • N8XI • ND4U • NE1F • NF10 • NJ0U • NJ8L • NN4ZZ • NO8C • NQ8T • NR5N • NS7B • NZ0T • VE3KZ • VE9DCD • VE9VIC • W1TAG • W2SKY • W3NP • W4EAB • W4KLY • W5IQS • W5ZR • W7SW • W8PU • W8YA • W9BM • W9HM • W9HT • WA1JL • WA4FAT • WA4JK • WA7NB • WB7BWZ • WB9TFF • WB9TFH • WG0FLY • WK2S • WM4Q • WO5W • WX1M

150 Band-Area Slots (of possible 170):

K8NS • WA7NB

190 K3Y Ops (of possible 243):

KQ4CW

17 DX Entities (of possible 17):

N2KPJ • VE3KZ • W5ZR

6 Canadian Prov/Terr (of possible 6):

AK6A • K0FD • K8NS • KA3KIH • KD8DEU • NJ0U • VE3KZ • VE9VIC

52 US States (of possible 52):

AA5UZ • KB3RKL • KD8DEU • KQ4CW • N8XI • VE3KZ

[skccgroup.com/k3y](https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y)

My Report for Working K3Y/XX Stations This Year

By Rick N8XI

I decided I would like to work all 19 K3Y Areas and 50 States + DC & PR with 100W and a Tribander w/40M up 30 feet as an INV "L," and an 80M INV V.

Take, JR2IUB gave me the "Grand K3Y Sweep". I watched the Greyline where he peaked (around 5PM EST) and was able to get him in the log a few days later when his signal was good copy.

The more populated States were the easiest of course. Needing SC, I sent an Email to Bruce, WA8OJR. He called me and said he would be starting on 40M @ 1PM EST (Jan 13). In the Log!

Somewhere, in the middle of all of this I Emailed the K3Y/7 Coordinators Bob, AF9W & Bill KJ7GNB to see if they had anymore AZ, NV & UT operators slated and if I could email some that were in my SKCCLogger. They said "Go for it"!! That kinda worked but I missed Derek, N7PHI (UT) on the night of the 21st and morning of the 22nd because my wife was in the hospital having surgery on her foot. On Jan 13th I had 43 States plus DC & PR. That left me with AR, AZ, MN, NE, NM, UT, MS Rick, K7CNT from AZ went portable to NV. Butch, WA0CIE in DE moved from 80M to 40M so I could work him. AZ... Art, WA7NB was on 30M but my INV L was very noisy so I switched to my 80M INV V and hit the tune button on the TS-590S and viola it worked on 30M. WA7NB in the Log!

At this point (Jan 23) for UTAH it leaves Ralph, K7RLN tonight 23rd and the 30th at 7PM EST. And...Cleon, WA7RCT on the 24th at 7PM EST. Thanks to them and Derek, N7PHI for answering my Emails.

Finally, Ralph, K7RLN came thru with UTAH 24-Jan-2022 0040Z on 30M 10.125MHZ Hooray! Grand K3Y Sweep and all 50 States + DC & PR!

Excel and a Dry Erase board was used to keep track of everything.

Quartzfest 2022 Winners

The organizers of the [Distance Challenge](#) at Quartzfest have announced the 2022 winners! This year's winners were Jim, K6SV, in the in the SSB/CW 100-Watt category; Randy, K7AGE, in the FT-8 category; **Jim, WIRO**, in the QRP category; and Marco, AA5ET, in the W7Q Special Event Trailer Operation.

The Distance Challenge was created in 2019 by Bob Wertz, NF7E and Ron Gerlak, KG7OH of the [Northern Arizona DX Association](#), who sponsor the event each year at Quartzfest held in Arizona's Sonoran Desert. Winners receive a Trophy Hard Hat complete with a solar panel, a 3-speed electric fan, light, USB port and a custom built mini-triband on top. The unique hats were created by NADXA member, Larry Gilbert, WB7EIJ, and sponsored by Cable-X-Perts.

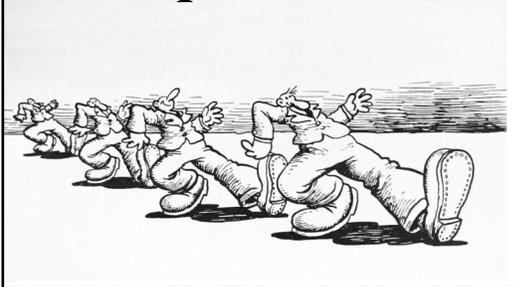


Editor....WIRO Jim, is SKCC member #1379. Congratulations Jim!

December Slow Speed Saunter 2021

Slow Speed Saunter

Lots of entries this month but only a few pictures....need more pictures!



Always a nice way to spend time in the shack 73, Steve NQ8T



Nice to get on the air on the 1st of the month. Chatted with just about everyone. Everyone have a great month looking for Santa. 73, Bud AA8CL



A really fun event, maybe my fav SKCC event. Ran my TS-590SG @ 75w to a multiband vertical (elevated). Used my old (1944) Lionel J38 straight key (gifted to me by a Army MARS friend from Ft Monmouth NJ). 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



My first SSS. Was great fun! Good to be back to pounding brass. 73, Jason N8XE



Had time for a few QSO's on 40 meters during the day. Had just mounted my Navy Flameproof key to the recently acquired 2 lb base - what a solid feel it has now. Used the new IC-7300 with my horizontal loop. 73, Dave W3NP



De...The ARRL Contest Update for December 8, 2021

Pete, N4ZR, has announced that the [Reverse Beacon Network](#) (RBN) team is planning to release a new version of the pattern file that Skimmer Server uses to validate call signs that it copies to be as up to date as possible by the time of the ARRL CW DX Contest.

Why is this important? Depending on how familiar the pattern of the call sign is, Skimsvr will require fewer or more repetitions before it recognizes it as a valid call sign. With the proliferation of single-letter suffixes in contest calls, the system needs to be kept as up-to-date as possible.

If you are aware of a callsign pattern that is not in the current list, please drop Pete a note and let him know. If you're anticipating a change, such as a new set of single-letter suffixes or a new alternate prefix (like VL plus single-letter suffixes in VK, for example), we want to make sure it is included, but not unless it will be in effect before February of next year, and only if you have authoritative information.

Confessions of a Casual Contester
Vol. 2 Issue 5
from the shack of DavidVE4DL

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

Well, it WAS up. For all of 4 days, until the winter storm struck. While it was up, the DX-CC fan dipole was all it was said to be. It was the mast that failed me – seven sections of military surplus fibreglass poles guyed at the 2nd and 5th junctions. Snapped at the lower guy. Sigh. A few days later, I was up on the roof, chipping the coax and mast sections out of the ice with a hatchet (an indispensable tool for any ham.) The choke had been submerged in icy water for that time, so I had to open it (about a pint of ice water in the lap) and dry it. One connection had to be re-soldered. Up it all went again, but now a 16 feet shorter mast and no guys but the antenna itself. Standing proud after a second ice-storm.

So MarkII is not just lower, it is less peaked as an inverted-vee. What I have noticed is that I hear fewer stations than on the 16' taller 90° Vee of the MarkI. Is this just the nature of the configuration? Of the height above ground? (25' vs 41') I don't know enough to answer my own question, but some Dear Reader must.

Which brings me to contesting again – both Sweepstakes SSB and CQ WW CW have come and gone. The MarkII is a better contesting antenna than the GAP Titan, hands down. I suspect the MarkI would have been even better. Maybe in the spring a new tall mast can be installed? Not in winter, that's for sure. In Sweeps I doubled my score over last year, and in CQ WW I quadrupled 2020's effort. Wow.

A much quieter antenna than the vertical, so a lot less fatigue from the hiss and crash. That means running more RF gain, and working weaker stations, in theory. In practice, there were no weak stations. Loud, Painful and Throw the Headset, but very few Quiet. This puzzles me also. I could work 90% of stations I heard, so I was busy enough. The 10% were mostly distant stations under KW assault, no chance of my 100W being heard, anyway. In CQWW I only managed 20 countries, Europe being almost totally absent from my headphones. Picked up a lot of islands in the Atlantic, Alaska and Hawaii, some Central America. Not like last year at all, where DX made up 30% of my much smaller total.

My logger tells me I spent something like 16 hrs in the chair. About half S&P and half running. This was the first year I could work all 5 bands, but 10m was completely silent for me, so I spent little time there – just enough to prove it vacant. It was a pleasure working 15 and 80 for the first time for real. Previous efforts were token affairs against bad antennas. 20m is still king.

One thing that stood out is that I've been neglecting my CW practice, and it showed in being slow to copy some call signs. I have to get back to my instant recognition and slow characters practices from CW Academy. Regularly. Without fail. (faint, ghostly laughter) I have also been neglecting my SKCC work since September. Sigh. K3Y Event is coming in January, and I'm in no shape to be a Special Event station yet. I need an Adrian.

My straight key is a VizKey Camelback, and I doubt I'll ever buy another key. It is comfortable, attractive, solid and set-and-forget. I can run close to 20wpm when in practice (13 when not....). My paddles are now a Vibroplex Vibrokeyer – I've spoken of it before. I'm still tweaking it each session, but it's good at 27wpm now (close to my reaction time, getting old.) In contests I set my winkeyer to match this speed, so if I have to grab the paddles for something out of the usual, it sounds the same. I hear at about 35. Maybe. Slower than 17 also gives me big trouble (my mind wanders between characters.)

RAC Winter Contest is up in 3 weeks, looking forward to putting in real time and getting real results. Last time I was part of VE4RAC, but this contest I'm on my own, to not drag their score down with my ineptitude. See you in the æther!

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

Mystery Solved!... Omnigraph!

In the last issue of the *Rag Chew* the question was asked about the photos below, "what is this." Thanks to Dough N3PDT, the mystery has been solved!



"A similar machine is in the collection of the Ensor Park and Museum in Olathe, KS. Mr Ensor used it when getting his first ticket, and reportedly used it for the 10 years leading up to WWII for "teaching radio by radio."

A quick google says they were first patented in 1903, and Omnigraph Co. was based in New York. There were many changes and models. They were popular for telegraph schools. An amazingly clever bit of machinery - in clockwork!

Video: https://youtu.be/p22MK_XagO4
museum: <http://www.ensorparkandmuseum.org>

Thanks to Ken N8KR and Doug N3PDT for introducing this interesting machine and for the answer to "what is it."

De Facebook



It was great to get back on the air again and pound brass. My Kent key and Vizkey vertical made an appearance on the air. However, my cat decided I did enough CW. He is not conducive for CW activities.. HIHI!! Glad to work some fellow SKCCers again... 73, Jason N8XE



I have the same problem!
73, Lou KB2DHG



This is "Cleo," she is the assistant op here at WS0Y in Fargo, ND.
73, Jay WS0Y

Brag November, 2021



Fun Month. Thanks for all the QSO's and Numbers. Met a lot of new friends, some have been members a long time. Welcome to all the new members and those who are active again. See you in December!!!
73, Bud AA8CL



I don't get on the air very often because I only operate portable, but when I do, SKCC members are usually there for me to work. I was very excited when I heard F6EJN, and especially when he answered my call. He is my first DX since I got back into the hobby.
73, Greg AI5EQ



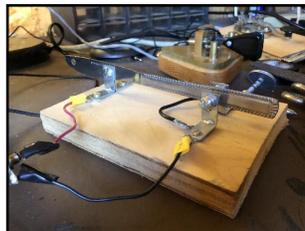
Not a good month for me as I lost half the month by traveling around Tennessee with family. I was also away for the 4 day Thanksgiving weekend. But I did manage a contact with our Brag Bonus Station, F6EJN. In any case, my best wishes to all for a very happy holiday season.
73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Up and down this month with a few solar flares. Got a few on 15 meters this month with 3 guys in FRA! Also got NED and GER on 20 meters so not bad for a wire antenna and 70 watts. Thanks for pulling me out of the noise guys. Wow, already December! CU next month I hope.
73, Allen KASTJS



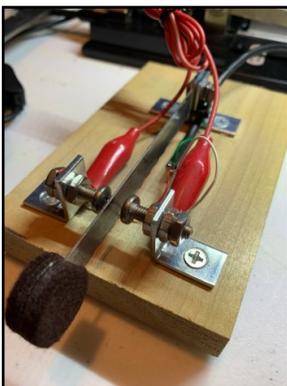
Thanks for all the brag QSOs and where are all the new Ts hiding?
73, Dave KB1WOD



Thanks to everyone for helping me to earn my S. I had a lot of fun operating this month!
73, Mark KB5RXL



Thanks to all the stations out there making it possible and keeping CW alive and well.
73, Ed N2GSL



I received my Senator this month, so I chose to hand it out to those who needed it. Then I made a homebrew cootie to begin my journey to the TKA, and man this thing is fun. I made 116 sideswiping QSOs on it this month! I've also been working on the marathon award, and I had my 20th marathon QSO on 11-30-2021. I was able to have 16 wonderful marathons in November.
73, Rob W1RCP



Activity this month was in spurts plus the WES and QRT here and there. Photo of the lunar eclipse Nov. 20 about 0300 local from the NM desert QTH. Nice clear skies.
73, Paul NA5N

Good to see more activity on 80 and 160. Also, have EU openings in the morning on 15m most days, also with 12m from time to time. I need to have a better antenna for 10-15m. With the leaves down, gotta get to it. to get on the air.
73, John W1TAG



Western Union 2A Legless



73, Virginia/Sam KC5SAM



Thanks everyone, hope this one not get lost like the last one on the sprint. Best regards!
73, Angel N4SNI

Brag November, 2021 II



Trying to get all of my antenna work done before the really cold wx sets in. Replaced the 1:1 balun with a 4:1 on my horizontal loop feed-line. Also secured the feed-line outside the shack. Always nice to take a break for a few contacts. 73, Dave W3NP de WV



Not a lot of radio this month although I did add a new radio into the mix and used it for several QSO's this month. The QCX+40M found a nice place on the end of my bench and shares the keys from the Icom IC761. I like this little radio and it's 4 watts of POWER! Photo of my new Cootie Key. 73, Bill



Another great month of SKCC fun. Congrats to all new TX8 and S award recipients. Hope to talk to you on the air soon. 73 Mark W8YA



A few of the QSOs made QRP portable from Puerto Rico. 73, Pat W5WTH



Always fun working the monthly Brag. 73, Greg WA3GM 10382S



Had a great month working my way up the T ladder, it was a lot of fun and SKCC has made my CW adventure very enjoyable with the advance ladder. I want to thank all who helped me on this path. I'll be coming around now for the coveted S and then settle into some marathons. See ya on the air! 73, Jerry Kidd



Good month. two marathon qsos and a pretty good wes. December has started out very well so I'm looking forward to another good month. 73, Wes WB5JWI

Band Plan Change

The following appeared in the CW Ops February newsletter, "Solid Copy."



Joop, PG4I is a Founder & Director of NTC (Netherlands Telegraphy Club). With the preservation of Morse code as a key aim, NTC has written to VERON (the largest Dutch amateur radio organization with over 6,500 members and a member society of the IARU) expressing concerns about the IARU's proposed new band plans for 12, and 17m. The IARU proposal includes allocating 5kHz of the CW segment to digital modes.

The proposal means that the 12-metre CW band will go from 25 to 20 kHz (24.890-24.910) and the 17-metre band from 27 to 22 kHz (18.068-18.090). NTC is strongly opposed to these plans. DL-AGCW have written a similar letter which has also been sent to VERON.

Editor...Joop PG4I, is a very active SKCC member

SKSE December, 2021

Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	F5UQE	Duc	13468S	FRA	19	10	4/2/0	270
2	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	13	8	3/2/0	169
3	VE3KZ	Bob	22804S	ON	10	7	3/3/0	145
4	PA2DXY	Peter	19003	NED	8	6	3/2/0	113
5	PG6NTC	NTC	24551	NED	10	7	2/1/0	110
6	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	9	6	3/0/0	99
7	WB9HFK	Mark	83S	IL	8	6	2/2/0	98
8	G4PVM	Paul	17810T	ENG	9	5	2/0/0	75
9	DM6EE	Lutz	22780	GER	5	4	2/1/0	60
10	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	5	4	1/1/0	45
11	IK1ZUV	Davide	24440	ITA	3	3	1/1/0	34
12	F8DTU	Frank	8662	FRA	3	1	2/0/0	33
13	IW1BCO	Marco	8669	ITA	2	2	1/0/0	19
13	OS0S	Leon	10688S	BEL	3	3	0/1/0	19
13	I4IKW	Mark	24889	ITA	2	2	1/0/0	19
16	KA1LHJ	John	19120	CT	1	1	1/0/0	16
16	EA3NO	Lluis	6653S	ESP	1	1	1/0/0	16
18	F5JYK	Michel	24409	FRA	1	1	0/0/0	1

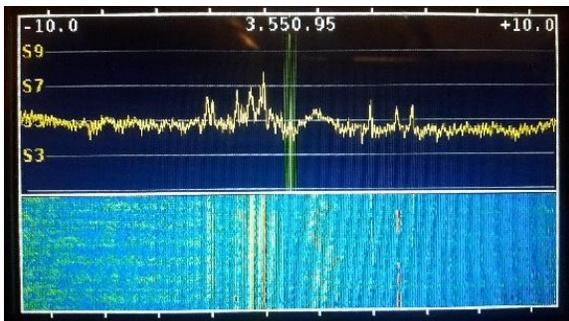
Very nice turnout but more stations are always welcome!



qso with EU :17 qso with Canada 1 on 40m qso with USA 1 on 80M. 73, Duc F5UQE



Second SKSE with the NTC club call, see <https://www.qsl.net/ntc>, The MUF dropped below 7 MHz just a few minutes before the SKSE. So another 80 meter only effort. But fun anyway! 73, de Jo PG4I



Conditions rather shaky. QSO's only on 80 m with fading and noise. But managed to get 5 QSO there. The Junker key did perform well :-) 73, Gerald HB9IRF



11 friends contacted during this last 2021 SKS-E : G4PVM, EA3NO, ON7DQ, F5UQE (2 bands), F8DTU, VE3KZ (2 bands), PG6NTC, IW1BCO, PA2DXY, DL4NAX (NM, I talled him about SKCC) and I4IKW. Always a nice moment to hear and have QSO with SKCC friends. Good luck everybody and have a nice time of Christmas season ! On the photo is my quick and easy method to slow down my Lionel J36 bug key during the first 15mn and the last 15 mn of the SKS-E. See you all soon ! 73, Bernard F5DE



Difficult conditions this evening. Thank you Bernard F5DE, Duc F5UQE and Michel F5JYK for the QSOs. An hour before I heard the US stations on 15m ...See you next time.73, Frank F8DTU



Becareful What You Wish For Or “A Christmas Wish Come True”

Since we are coming up on the Christmas themed WES, I thought I'd share a long ago moment....

When I was perhaps 14 or so, I wanted some stereo headphones for my Christmas gift. This was probably in part to the reactions from my parents to my late night music playing two floors below their bedroom! "Chicago's" horns in the late evening...why not!

Christmas morning came and I opened my anticipated gift from my parents. Inside was my gift... it seemed. Hand-crafted by my father (a handy fellow) the ear-pieces were constructed from the yellow plastic caps from Pledge dust-spray, with green felt ear cushions and a flexible steel roll-up ruler for the headband (ruler spray-painted with the aluminum-based grey industrial paint used by my father's propane cylinder business). I don't remember now, but I can surmise that the wires on this absurdity probably terminated with a 120 volt outlet plug!

I am sure the look of aghast on my face must have been priceless to my parents (always the jokers).

Some packages later on that morning the real 'cans' for me appeared from the back side of the tree.

Hope your wishes come true.... have a Happy Seasonal time.

Brian VE3HI
HoHo

“To Build or Not to Build...That is the Question”

Much has been said in past issues of “The Rag Chew” about “common mode chokes” and how they can improve you receive signals. W3NP, N8KQ, N8KR and K8AQM have all touted the merits of their success using these (both RX and clean up RFI). Others like KB4QQJ and AC2C have been using them for years on their antenna systems and they have big signals and hear extremely well... even KB4QQJ who often runs QRP hears very well! But what about those who are more “radio operators” rather than builders? These adds were run across on QRZ page; “The Rag Chew” nor SKCC club make any claim as to how well these commercial chokes work but do point out they are available. If you're interested then checkout the web site.



W3NP's



K8AQM snap on chokes



K8AQM's



N8KR, Cleaned his radio noise from the car completely!

SKSE January 2022

Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 06-Jan-2022

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

Overall results

Rank	Call sign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	16	9	4/3/1	239
2	G4PVM	Paul	17810T	ENG	16	11	2/2/1	231
3	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	13	9	2/2/0	167
4	HB9CPS	Geo	20350	SUI	15	7	1/2/1	145
5	EA3NO	Lluís	6653S	ESP	7	6	4/2/0	122
6	EA6/GM3ZDH	Bob	6027T	BLI	6	4	2/2/0	74
7	F5UQE	Duc	13468S	FRA	4	4	3/0/0	61
8	DL8FMA	Mane	24047	GER	5	4	0/2/0	40
9	KA1LHJ	John	19120	CT	2	2	2/0/0	34
10	OE1TKW	Helmut	24839	AUT	2	0	2/0/0	30
10	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	5	4	0/1/0	30
12	DJ5CW	Fabian	1982C	GER	4	4	0/1/0	26
13	SN9MT	Mirek	24394	POL	3	2	0/1/0	16



Happy New Year, stay healthy. Tried calling this time. Only QSO's on 80m. 73, Gerald HB9IRF



Nothing heard on 20 m for this first SKS-E of the year. Only two contacts outside Europe : K3Y/3 (K3EW) and K3Y/1 (W1ZAH) on 40 m. G4PVM, EA6/GM3ZDH and ON7DQ contacted on 80 and 40 m bands. Two new members worked : OE1TKW and M6KET. Many thanks and Happy New Year to all. Hope to work you again sometimes during 2022 ! On the photo is my French bug, model Vibro-Mors made around 1950. 73, Bernard F5DE

Some New Rules Going into Effect this Year for ARRL Field Day



After the issuance of several rules waivers over the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ARRL Field Day rules are being updated on a permanent basis starting with the June 25-26, 2022, event. The maximum PEP output for a transmitter used by anyone submitting a Field Day entry will be 100 W, regardless of entry category.

Class D (Home) stations will continue to be able to earn points for contacts with other Class D stations. The club aggregate scoring change initiated in 2020 as a temporary measure will become part of the permanent rules. In the aggregate scoring plan, the scores of individual stations are combined under the aggregate score of a club that is designated on the individual entry form.

Another change, involving Media Publicity Rule 7.3.2, has been modified. Field Day participants will now be required to obtain publicity, not just try to do so. Any combination of bona fide media hits would qualify for the bonus points. For example, posting the details of your upcoming or ongoing Field Day activity, or your Field Day results, on a club or news media site, on Facebook, or via Twitter and Instagram would meet the bonus criteria.

For more information, visit the [ARRL Field Day](#) webpage.

December WES 2021



What a great theme, great fun searching for all of the rain deer and elves. So many other things going on this weekend, wish I could have spent more time on WES. These sprints and SKCC has made Ham Radio much more fun for me, thanks everyone. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all! 73, Bill AA2MX



Could only work WES on Sat. Concentrated on reaching the West coast (See my Nov. soapbox comments) All contacts on 20 meters and did reach Oregon, Washington, Colorado California, Idaho and Missouri. 1960 Collins S line, 100 Watts to a Carolina Windom Ant. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my SKCC family. 73, Frank AA2XB



Cool, worked Rudolph and Olive, Donner, Dasher, Cupid, Blitzen and a bunch of Elves. Do I feel special. I thought conditions were great Sunday, not so much Saturday night, but still had a blast. Thanks all for answering my QRPP call as well as answering all QRP stations. We don't make it easy on you, but from the reports I received, thanks for the great reports. And thanks for not bailing on the QSO cuz you couldn't hear us perfectly. Thanks for just saying "Sri Agn Pse"! Those make the best contacts. And it was my personal best QRPP. Merry Christmas. 73, Bud AA8CL



Storms and lightning ruined day on Saturday. Busy Sunday and got in there for a short time and gave out the ELF for points. Try again next time. 73, John Paul AB4PP



Propagation to Europe and to the south was much better than last month. 47 SPCs last month, 57 SPCs this month. Didn't contact as many reindeer/Santa as I thought I would, got quite a few elves though. Some long QSOs on 80M Saturday night, worked N0CW (California) and some other western states. Pretty neat to have KH6ZM answer my CQ on 20M. Looks like quite a few of the big guns exercised their amplifiers this weekend. Looks like KR2Q is the man to beat these days. Photo shows map of SPCs I worked this WES. MS tough to get these days. 73, Bob AC1GF.



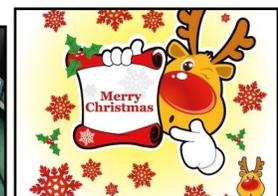
Too many distractions over the weekend. 73, Ron AC2C



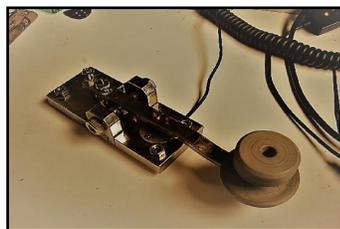
Enjoyed another WES!! Operated as much as I could tolerate sitting still. Hi Hi Used this Japanese Coffin Bug for most of my QSOs and a Vibroplex Lightning from 1929 for the rest. Thanks for the fun and already looking forward to K3Y!! 73, Kenny AF4QK



I was camping at Weiser State Forest FN10om with my HW-8, 1.5w to an inv vee. 73, Jim AF3Z



Had a great time; Ol' Rudolph wore out his Red Nose (and wrist!), but had a lot of fun working old and new ham friends.. Merry Christmas, Happy Christmas, Joyeux Noel, Feliz Natal, Buon Natale, vrolijk kerstfeest, frohe Weihnachten, Nollaig Shona, Veselé Vánoce, Schöni Wiehnachtem Feliz Navidad to ALL! May YOU and YOURS be blessed with joy and happiness for this wondrous season. 73, Larry AH6AX



MNI TKS TO ALL! Looking forward to K3Y again. 73, Take JR2IUB

December WES 2021 II



I got one more QSO and a few more points than my first WES, but I got too cold, so I packed up early. It's still fun, and I'm slowly getting better. Thanks to all who patiently worked my awkward QSOs. 73, Gregory AI5EQ



All QSOs on 40m using a YouKits HB-1B with 4 watts to an end fed wire. Key is Vibroplex Vibrokeyer wired as a side-swiper. 73, Steve AI9IN



A few contacts during the ARRL 10 meters contest and the Xmas WES, a little CW activity this week-end for pleasure. All the best to everybody and have a merry Xmas and a happy New Year 2022 ! I hope to meet you soon ! 73 and stay safe ! Bernard F5DE



Thank you for all these QSOs and Merry Christmas everyone. It will be a pleasure to see you again next year. Let's not forget our XYLs without whom we couldn't discuss so often together. 73, Bob F6EJN



Hello everyone. Thanks for the QSOs. The conditions were not too bad with a good opening on 15m on Saturday. The 20m was in great shape especially with the West Coast. Conditions : K4D and amplifier running 400 Watts. 6 els Yagi on 15m/4 on 20m and 2 on 40m. Inverted V on 80m and inverted L on 160m. Thanks to all the Reindeer stations contacted. I hope to see many of you at the K3Y in January. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. 73, Bert F6HKA



Good fun and 20m quite lively. Also had a QSO on 15m. Kenwood TS-440s, 100 watts, fishing pole vertical, Marconi PS No213A pump key ex GKA coast station. Merry Christmas 73, John G0R-



December WES... after having to miss the November edition due to shack problems, finally ready for this last edition of the year. I had a lot of fun, although the propagation in 10, 15, and 20 meters was particularly poor. Different situation in 40 meters, where I managed to make several qso and meet new friends. Station setup: IC 706 PRO II 100/400w (sometimes I needed to be heard HI!!) GP for 20 and dipole on 40, 38 meters long EndFed for others bands New BUG, commissioned to Wilson MFG by the Canadian Air Force during World War II. Wilson has found a special solution for this bug, which can be used as a traditional bug, or turned sideways as a straight key. By removing the rubber feet, and refitting them to the top of the bug, it can be turned upside down and used by a left hander. 73, Mark I4IKW



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone ...73, Frank F8DTU



Very much fun this week end. 73, Nee NE9EE



Cheer's to all for another great event. Although my time was limited after the Mid-West Super storm across six states I managed some very special contacts. Our Thoughts & Prayers are with those affected by this record WX event. 73, Rick K0KEX

December WES 2021 III



40 and 20 were good on Saturday and 2 Qs on 15. Sunday AM 40 OK 20 had very little to offer. A Merry Christmas to all. Enjoy the Plymouth lobster trap tree. 73, Gary K1YAN



Always a fun event. Some Elves forgot to add that suffix- Thanks Ken for putting out the list to allow us cross check. Conditions on 15 at times was pretty good, but I think the SA stations were busy on 10-meter contest. I did snag a YV but that's all. Conditions on 20 to EU were not great and it seemed everyone moved off of 20 pretty early on Saturday and Sunday to move to 40. 40 again was the money band and 80 surprised with very quiet conditions for a change. Thank you to all of you QRPers who allowed me assess the FTDX10's ability to pull the small signals out of the muck. It fared very well - Boy there were a lot of QRPers calling in all weekend. There must be a very large contingent of NAQCC members in SKCC. I am one of them. Thank you, Ken, for a year of memorable WES events- Looking forward to you outdoing yourself next year. 73, Phil K3EW



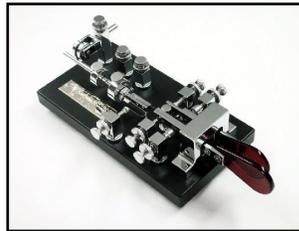
What a fun time!! I was an elf in this one (believe me, I really fit the picture hi hi). Ran 75 watts from my TS-590SG into an all-band vertical (elevated), using my Kent KT1 straight key. Thanks to all who gave me a contact. A very Merry Christmas and holiday season to all! 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Spent about 12 hours in the 10 meter contest, missed a lot of bonus stations. Always a fun theme. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all. 73, Chas K3WW



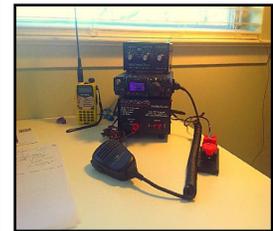
Had a great time operating for a short time, only a couple hours. Bands still a challenge for my westerly station reaching to the east. To my surprise I had 6 80 meter Q's on Saturday night. 100 watts on battery power and a OCF dipole wire antenna up 20' See you all next event :) 73, Rick K7CNT



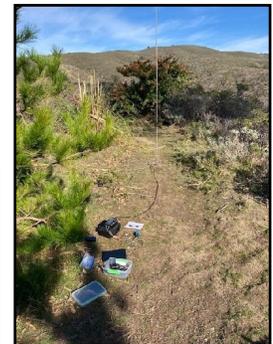
The bands were in great shape. 40mtrs was in my opinion very strong. Was exciting to work Max, KH6ZM on both 10 & 15 mtrs. Was also nice to see many new SKCC members in WES this month. I worked a lot of them. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all SKCC members! 73, Steve K2FW



Nice Sunday Afternoon Portable Buddy Stick setup on 40 meters only ... continued to become familiar with new ICOM 7300 and antenna tuner. A few glitches :-). Looks like mostly regional contacts but also nice contact with F6EJN in France. Had fun and good practice for listening ears. As usual, we have great SKCC folks. 73, Jim K3YMI



Band condx not terrific, stations clumped together, but had fun and got a few new numbers towards my Centurion. 73, Doc K2PHD



The weather was so nice I decided to work the bulk of WES QRP portable from the top of the hill behind my house. The antenna is a full size 1/4-wave whip for 20M with 3 radials. 73, Dave K6NIA



Worked mostly elves & reindeer this year....I wonder why? Well, this is who I found in my shack when I came downstairs. He sure looks like our Newsletter editor too....73, Larry K8TEZ

December WES 2021 IV



Familiar carols fill the cold air,
With holiday shoppers going everywhere.

'Tis again that Noel time of year, but
Yet it finds me lacking in good cheer.

So what's the problem you may ask?
Pandemic fatigue and wearing a mask.

Partisan politics, bad climate, and more
Have made holiday spirit a definite chore.

So what to do, let my doggerel express,
Play the role of an ELF in the December WES.

My fingers on a key, mug of coffee in hand,
I anxiously tune across the ham bands,

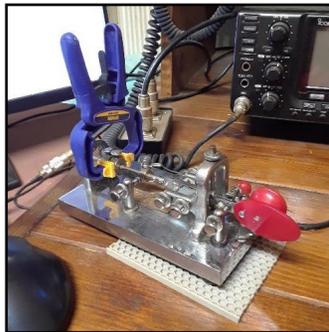
And what do you know, my Yule spirit is back
In search of some QSOs with Santa, and pack.

So Merry Christmas to all, may your code sing with mirth,
For folks of good will, let peace reign on Earth!

73, Frank, K8FAC



Operated from my winter QTH near Tampa Bay. Rig Icom 706Mk11 100watts to a 60ft stealth (HOA) wire 40 and 20 were very good
Thanks for the Qsos. 73, Ray K9EYT



Wow, that was a good one. Use my old beat up Ebay bug for the first time. Finally got it sort of working. Finally found a way to slow it down. Don't laugh, it works!
Thanks for all the contacts. have a great Christmas guys. CU in Jan. IC 7610 @ 70 watts, 80 meter doublet @ 30ft. Cold in ETX this weekend. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Lots of fun, wanted to work a lot more but lots of family activity prevented it. If I didn't have to sleep I could have done better. 73, Randy KA8MNP



This was lots of fun. I popped in and out running 5W or less from home using my KX3, my QCX Plus, QCX Mini, and also used my G90 in the car. I did most of it on the Bug, but got the courage to use the paddles as a sideswiper for the last 13 contacts. I even made two QRP QSOs from the car. 73, Steve K9NUD



Managed to get the winter vintage shack (furnace room) on for a few, but competition from the ARRL 10 Meter contest and wind-induced antenna repair really cut into operating time. It was great fun using my Elmer's Electric Specialty Bug!
Thanks to everyone for a great year of SKCC fun!
73 and Happy Holidays de Scott Ka9p



Portable operations from Mesa, AZ. 20m only. bonus stns QSOs: KF6C, K3EW, AK6A, W9MKM, W7AMI, F6EJN, VE2CRO. MERRY CHRISTMAS. 73, DARYL K9QEY



Thanks to all for another fun WES. Seems like band conditions were a bit better into central Texas this month! Thanks to those who tolerated my sloppy fist! Looking forward to January! 73, Jim KA6J



Another Christmas WES in the books. I hope everyone had as much fun as I did. Nothing like being a Texas Elf. Hope everyone has a safe and Merry Christmas this year. 73, Doug KG5YTS

December WES 2021 V



I was traveling for the Dec WES so I could only operate mobile on the open highway. I managed a few reindeer and Elves but without sked page I could only search up and down the band. No handy list of all the bonus stations while driving. BUT, by far the most exciting was finally working Max in Hi from my mobile. That was my first mobile to Hi SKCC contact. Thanks to some great receive antennas for the ones who managed to pull me out. Logging while mobile used to be a challenge...hee. Ask me sometime how to make it much easier nowadays! KX3 to Hustler sticks and a Whitbrook single lever side-swiper shifter mounted. 73, Randy KB4QQJ



December wes is one of my favorites. See if I can attach my latest Ham Shack picture now in Wisconsin 5 months. Always good to work old friends. Thx everyone for the QSO's. Have a Merry Christmas and see you in K3Y. 73, Jim KD9GDY



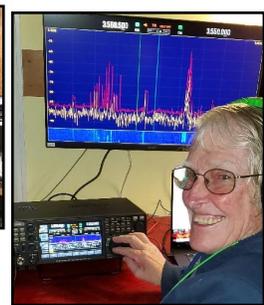
Thanks for all the contacts! I really enjoy this WES events. I spent most of my time running on 20 meters. This was my best performance yet in a WES, I made 116 QSOs!. Reached Tx6 with this contest, I should make Tx7 before the end of the year. I have a vertical for 80 and 40 meters and a Tri-Band 3 element beam for 20, 15 and 10 meters. Thanks to all the elfs and reindeer stations! Next year we need a grinch station and when they work you they get all your bonus points!!! 73, Gordo



Many thanks to all who worked me this weekend. Merry Christmas to all and hope to see you in the New Year! 73, Russ KK4WX



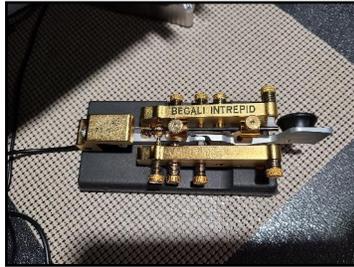
I was at my home in Nashville and took my Radio and delta loop. I set up in my room upstairs looking out the window. I was happy to make contacts at 10W. 73, Paul KN4NVU



ELF with NEW TOY. My K4 was due for delivery on Thursday but there was 3 inches of snow on the drive-way, so I had to drive 30 miles to get it. Spent Thursday after noon and Friday getting to know it ready for WES. My first QSO with it, not WES, was Bert F6HKA QRP at 5 watts out. For WES the K4 was connected to the KPA 1500 running 1500 watts on 40, 20 and 15. Reduced power to 1kw on 80 and 160 to save the relays on my switched dipole antenna. 20, 40 80 and 160 all seemed to have good activity and band conditions. This is my highest WES score, a new radio and good condition sure made it fun. Thanks to everyone for the great activity. 73, Brian KF6C

I sent Santa a letter asking for 18 T's and S's to hit 200 in my S Quest. I must have been nice lately because he brought me 31. Thanks to all and how about some extra cookies and eggnog for Santa, Scrooge, reindeer, and the elves? The key pictured was built around 1878 and has been used for all SKCC contacts made here (Santa is an option when ordering). Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night! 73, Chuck N0CW

December WES 2021 VI



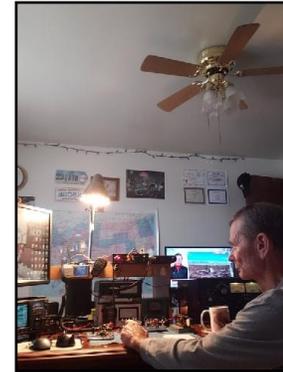
Always lots of fun. I finally collected enough numbers for my TX5... Just plugging along. 73, Dennis N0SMX 11364T



Had a great time looking for the reindeer and Santa's helpers. Even had XYL researching the "Olive" origin story! 73, Ed N2GSL



Thanks everyone for your patience while I learned to use my homebrew side sweeper and let me participate as an elf. Thanks, 73, Angel N4SNI Merry Christmas



Off n On with crazy winds all day Saturday, power off for about 1 1/2 hrs Sunday morning. Other than those obstacles, WES was great. Thanks everyone for the fun - 73 East Central Ohio Randy N8KQ



Band condx were good worked a few on 15M this time. But my Cushcraft A4S tribander w/40M lost its rotatable 40M capabilities, again :(But it was still fun searching for Santa and all his helpers. Another fine WES it was! 73, Rick N8XI



One of my better showings in a WES event. I worked ID toward my WAS-S (two to go, DE & NV). And I got 12 new numbers toward my Tx7 (20 to go). Once I got my fingers warmed up, my Cootie key worked very well. I avoided my RCAF Straight Key because I need more practice with that before I get on the



MNY TNX to all the volunteers who keep this club so active and continue to organize these GREAT events!!! Your contributions of time and expertise are amazing!! Also Thank You to all those who endured my "???" AGN PSE" and patiently repeated your call. I hope all can enjoy some peace and joy ... 72/73 Steve NQ8T



Elecraft k1 5 wts g5rv.. 35 qsos..used hb key, nmbr 83.. tnx to SKCC board mbrs..the other frequency for 20mtrs should be shown as 14114.. i use it when too much other contests are on 14050 area... so, i'll make more QRM in 2022.. hihi.. i do it daily.. so, tnx to all and c u in January, and we'll make more QRM then, it's LEGAL, hihi.. so, takecare and c u agn in the new year..so,,, Pix is key nmbr 83.. hi,,,wutz next..73, Dave Larsen n9zxlqrp@gmail.com



IC-7610 100 watts, OCF dipole at 30" and J-38 key. Thanks all and Merry Christmas to all! 73, Bill NZ0T



In spite of the propagation gods' refusal to help, i had fun. Thanks to all and best of the season. 73, Edwin VE3EKA



Tnx for the contacts. Sunday morning I used an SW-3B into an end fed and a micro key. 73, Ron VE3SIF



Different condx on the bands. Using the MACkey with a boatanchor from the 80's. Tnx everyone for the points. Best 73 es a Marry Xmas and a HNY. Joop PA3JD

December WES 2021 VII



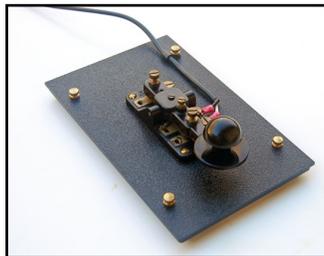
I could only be active on the second day. One US station on 40 meters Sunday morning but I could work Colin, VK2DVA and Pete, ZL4TE which is the ultimate DX from NED. 20 meters opened up around 13.00 UTC to the states for a couple of hours. However, most activity in the states seemed to be on 40 meters. So only worked 16 US stations. We seem to be on the upward slope of the solar cycle but propagation is worse than one year ago and sunspots are back to zero. Ah well... great fun in the WES anyway! On the pic below from left to right: Begali Sculpture Swing cootie, RM31 Czech army straight key and a Vibroplex standard with varispeed. In the back a good bottle of rum. No Bacardi Larry! Hi 73, Jo PG4I



I had fun with my new 40M QCX+ and got to use my Vibroplex Sideswiper and bug for this contest. I also got to work a few bands which I don't usually venture to with the Icom. The smile says it all. 73, Bill W3SI



I tried something new for this WES. I've never operated QRP! I am planning on doing a hike/POTA in a week, and I wanted to test my rig and setup before heading out. My SW-3B and QRPGuys EFHW performed very well while operating from the garage! I made 17 QSOs including Hawaii for my WAS during the couple of hours I was able to operate. I'm happy with my setup, and I can't wait to do some more QRP stuff. 73 Rob W1RCP 15375S



Very little time to get on the air for this WES. Condx seemed good. Had contacts on 15 through 80. Used my new "back up rig" the IC-7300 at 100w along with a key that I have never used before. It is a British W.T. 8 AMP No2 MKIII which I have had for probably 25 years. I picked up one of those heavy bases on Ebay from "ATTLABMGR" to mount it on as it is a very tiny key. Also added the finger rest. It turned out to be a fun key to use with a lot of snappy tactile feedback. 73 Dave W3NPde West Virginia

I enjoyed being an Elf, thanks to all of my good QSO's. I also worked all of the reindeer and Scrooge. but no Santa! I never heard KS1KCC, wonder if they were operating? 73 and Merry Christmas to all, from Elf/Gene W9KMK



Interesting weekend. Prop wasn't bad, though there was a lot of QSB at times. Nice to see a bunch of EU activity -- more than just the regulars. Heard several bugs that BADLY need cleaning and adjustment. Worked 8 of the "main" bonus stations, and a bunch of elves. Not a ton of bonus points, though -- 10pts/QSO might have more effect on scores. Anyway, thanks to all who participated. Great bunch of folks. 73, John W1TAG



The bands were great. The ops even better. If I missed you, I am very sorry. Sometimes the best headphones are not enough. Just last year I was very hesitant to make even one WES contact. What a great group we have, all volunteers helping each other. As a beginner I have much to learn. This weekend was quite a workout for me. Still trying to recover. What a thrill though to do this. Thanks to all. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. See you in January K3Y. 73, Ben W4LRB



All cootie. 73, Pat W5WTH



Did most of my operating on 40 Meters. Had Limited time but as always had fun. 73, Bob W8ARC



December WES 2021 VIII



Thanks for the great time and the few contacts which I made. Here is my new CW transmitter for 160. Operates on 1.8432 MHZ. Built in key. Was a gift from my daughter and it does work! 73, Bob W8BTD



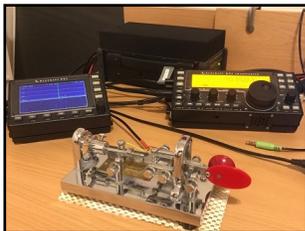
Dancer was very busy on the air. With 260 contacts, he gave out 1,330 bonus points, made contacts in 52 SPCs, including 46 states and territories, 4 provinces, and 3 countries. Thanks to all old and new friends for an enjoyable WES! 73, Dancer W9YY



Lots of fun being an Elf again this year!!! The Dec WES is always a fun event...as are the rest also. Tnx fer all the stations that hunted this Elf and we will see you next month. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all. 73, Greg WA3GM 10382S



Took it easy this Month after the race to S. Lots of Bonus points in this one. I was so Corn-Fussed until I studied the December rules real closely then boom it hit me... I guess I'll get a lump of Coal for my SKCC stocking... 73, Jerry WA4JK



Elecraft KX3, KXPA100 and PX3 - 75 wts to 40M dipole 5 ft above ground...hanging on a backyard fence. My first WES in a few years. Enjoyed the sprint and really, really glad to be operating again! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. 73, Andy WA5RML



Great FUN. 73, Ray Myers WBOPYF/M



Weird bands; 20 mostly closed but 40 open all day. very few weak signals, everyone was 579 es above or NIL. had fun es thanks to all the bonus stations. 73, Les WB5JWI



Thanks to all who participated, especially Santa, Scrooge, Reindeer and Elves. Had a great time. 73, Ken WB2ART



Thanks to SKCC for this fun event. 73, Lane WK4WC



73, Joey WN4AT

Always fun. My favorite CW rig. Great filtering. Ten Tec OMNI VII. 73, Rick WO8L



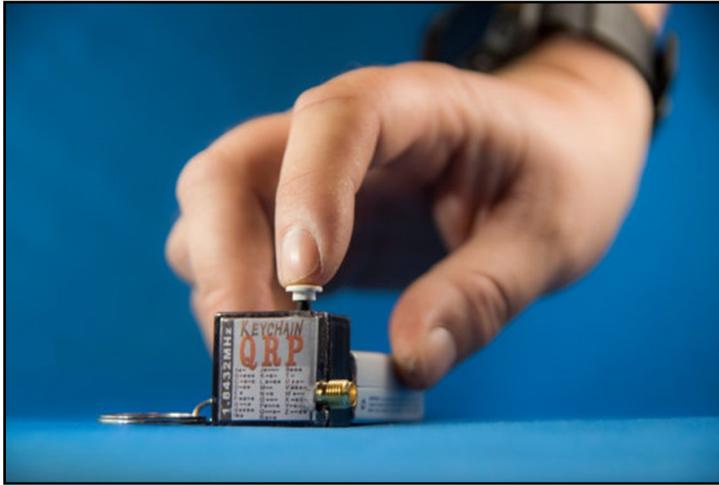
Another Bug Brought Back to Life!

I have had this bug forever. Got it at a thrift store and it did not work as it was corroded. However, resurrected it today. I have never used a bug before today.

73, Chris KQ6UP

Keychain QRP

By hamradioreviews January 23, 2017



Keychain QRP is definitely the world's smallest HF ham radio transmitter.

This little CW transmitter will allow you to have a transmitter everywhere you go. It has an SMA female connector and outputs 160 mW max with a 9V battery. The specifications state that you can just connect any random-length wire on it, ground the transmitter and you are good to go.

It is available in 3 amateur radio bands and 2 AM/FM broadcast

frequencies:

10m ham band: 28.224 MHz – Any Ham license

80m ham band: 3.57954 MHz – Any Ham license

160m ham band: 1.8432 MHz – General class or higher license required

FM broadcast band: 100.000 MHz – No license required (in the USA)

AM broadcast band: 614.400 KHz – No license required (in the USA)

It also features a LED indicator verifying battery charge and transmit when keying. Upon request, the following frequencies are available:

160m band: 1.850MHz

80m band: 3.6864 MHz

20m band: 14.31818 MHz

15m band: 21.168 MHz

15m band: 21.200 MHz

10m band: 28.3046 MHz

10m band: 28.322 MHz

10m band: 28.636 MHz

10m band: 29.4912 MHz

6m band: 50.000 MHz

6m band: 50.350 MHz

6m band: 51.840 MHz

6m band: 53.248 MHz

FM broadcast: 98.300 MHz

AM broadcast: 1,000 KHz

CB channel 4: 27.000 MHz

Note that it is only a transmitter. You will need a receiver to be able to monitor your transmissions. Search the internet for availability.

December SKS 2021



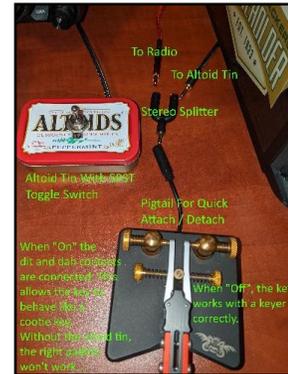
Fun sprint, as always. Even got Santa (thanks Ken). Ran 75w from my TS-590SG into a multi-band vertical, using my Kent str key. A very Merry Christmas and HNY to all. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Boy oh boy was that a challenge tonight from the west side of the country. But it was faun as usual. I stayed on 40m and ran out of folks to work at the end. 73, Rick K7CNT



We would like to wish everyone in SKCC a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. We would also like to thank Santa in Florida for two bands. (ps) Santa, if you land on the garage roof please remember to watch out for the sign. 73, Larry K8TEZ



My first sks. I discovered it by accident when I heard k5uv call cq sks :) Flipped my Altoids tin to cootie mode and away we went! 73, Greg K9CTS



Worked 40m S&P for the entire 2 hours--lots of fun and pretty good conditions here in AZ. My first QSO was with Santa in FL (599/559)! Rig: KX3, Power: 5W, Antenna: EFHW. 73, Paul K9PM



Only got to enjoy the last hour and I am slow and clumsy so only made 7 contacts but had fun anyway. 73, Randy KA8MNP



My first SKS for quite some time - a lot of fun for a short time! Many thanks to all who worked me and Merry Christmas to all! 73, Russ KK4WX



I don't get to participate in many SKS's, so this was a treat for me. Had great luck on 80m tonight. Thanks for all the contacts! 73, Doug N3PDT



Activity seemed down from normal but still had a great time. Fun to be the bonus station. The temporary Inverted L seemed to work well on 80 meters. Nice to have Jo - PG4I join us for SKS. Merry Christmas everyone... HO HO HO! 73, Ken N8KR



Low propagation. Still had a good time. 73, Ne NE9EE



I was decorating cookies for Santa so got a late start! I was set up for QRP so went with it. GREAT FUN!! MNY TNX! to all who suffered thru my shaky fist, QRP signal and all that make this such a great club. I hope all can enjoy family & friends this holiday season. 72, Steve NQ8T



40 started a little noisy es slow the 1st 15 min but came around. Tnx fer the QSO, Santa.. Went to 80M @ 01:15 with gud band condx there to S&P. Thanks for the 2 hrs of fun. Merry Christmas to all es to all a Good Night.. 73, Randy N8KQ

December SKS II



Tough SKS. Only 40 meters open with weak signals and most US stations working each other. Worked N8KR disguised as Santa in the first hour. The second hour got a bit better with 3 stations from IN and 2 from GA. Finally worked Mike K5UV from OK, which is good DX for me. Below my new QSL card, dedicated to the SKCC! 73, Jo PG4I



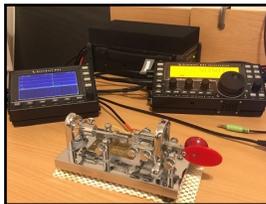
I did search and pounce. So many stations calling CQ and end with AR resulted in me not calling them. AR is the same as the proword OUT which means NO REPLY IS REQUIRED OR EXPECTED. Some sent AR K ... which means OUT and OVER aks NO REPLY IS REQUIRED OR AND EXPECTED and INVITATION TO TRANSMIT.... which do they want??? I learned on voice to never use OVER AND OUT on the same transmission and here we have stations sending the OUT AND OVER in CW. ... IARU has caused part of this confusion and corrections have been submitted through channels to attempt to correct it. 73, Jim W1RO



Stuck with 80 meters for the whole time. Probably should have started with 40 meters. Lots of CQ'n. Conditions were good, and by the end, 80m was quite busy. Thanks to all. 73, John W1TAG



Had 2 contacts on 20, 1 on 160, 7 on 40, and the rest on 80 which was packed with great signals. Used my brand new Begali Intrepid bug in it's first event. Rig: K3/KPA-500/KAT-500. Ant: 160m horizontal loop. 73 & Merry Christmas de West Virginia, Dave W3NP



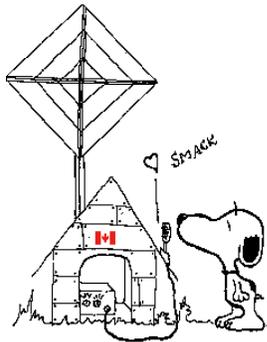
Elecraft KX3/ KXPA100/PX3 at 75 wts to 40M dipole hanging on my backyard fence at 5 ft above ground. Vibroplex bug. 40M only - band was good, but some propagation paths were erratic. Thanks for the QSOs and Merry Christmas! 73, Andy WA5RML



Nothing on 20m, 40m was not too busy, but 80 meters was fun tonight. My thanks to Randy, Lohn, Dave, Ken(aka:Santa) and everyone tonight! All Y'all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year ! 73, Rich W4RQ



It's been awhile since I've done a SKS - I like the short format. It was nice to hear some old calls and some new ones too! Merry Christmas, everyone! 73, RJ WF4W



New QTH for VE9CB/W8SR/VO2AAA SKCC # 12520

Dave VE9CB/ W8SR/VO2AAA has moved to Ontario and also has changed his call. No longer "VE9CB" (which fit so well with the shack photo here) Dave is now VE3KG. What's most interesting is his QTH which is "technically" Smith Falls, ON but is right next to "Bastard," ON! Hmm, what QTH will he send...and who might be offended? Oh yeah, Dave still plans to be active during the CQ WW 160 event from VO2 and will spend a bit of time as VO2AAA for SKCC members.

Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 2 Issue 6

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.....

There is Contesting and there is contesting – this past weekend was the latter. Every month the Straight Key Century Club runs a relaxed contest for the straight-key operator, known as WES, on the first full weekend. Each month is a theme, and December's theme is always – well – Christmas. There are reindeer and elves and the Jolly One himself, all to be found and worked for bonus points. The pace is slow, as a lot of the ops are non-contesters and QRS fists, so high scores are not the goal, so much, as making the bonus points. In a couple of hours on 80m I picked up Blitzen and Cupid and an elf, and a handful of other hunters. Always fun. My ears may fail me, but my fist still is good.

People have commented that I have bad luck.....I say it's because I'm cheap and have lots of well-used gear in the shack. A few days ago there was a power surge in the neighbourhood, and my old power supply (until then rock-solid and dependable,) did the flash-bang-dead routine. At least one electrolytic capacitor blew, and it seems likely the voltage regulator also. Someday I will diagnose it in more detail. In the meantime, I bought a new Kenwood PS to match my rig. Just installed it tonight. Pity there doesn't seem to be much action on 40m at the moment.

I've also been having trouble with my ancient HP keyboard, with keys not sending, or delayed a second or five, or repeating endlessly. Exit old, enter new clicky lit-up keyboard from logitech. Niiiiiice. Reminds me of the IBM Selectric I had in my first job. Writing this blog will be more enjoyable. Fun that the spacebar has a completely different sound to the other keys. And the enter key too. Comes with its' own RFI can, so now I have a spare ferrite for some other cable. How is this germane to a contesting blog? You try logging and sending keyboard code when the keyboard is on work-to-rule! I must have sounded a complete lid in CQWW CW.

Started prepping my logger for RAC Winter Contest, all the macros refreshed, the radio audio files re-recorded. I expect to work both CW and SSB. I might even do some 2m.

And the hat-trick is the stereo plug for my paddles shorted. Re-soldered and re-connected.

Contesting is done for 2021!! I'm okay with my showing in RAC Winter even though I scored higher last year. This year I had more bands and more RAC stations in the total, very nice, including some hard-to-gets. Some surprises included very few VE3s in the headset, almost no DX stations at all and VE8RAC was S9+ in Winnipeg!

Taking a break from radio for a week was relaxing, but all the good propagation happened in the meantime. Such is my luck. It's not over yet, and better still to come for certain. Today I was listening to Namibia at S7 on 20m and McMurdo Sound at S3 or so. Neither fielded my call, alas. I have no mainland Africa at all, and no Antarctica yet.

Have to practice my CW daily now, both straight-key and paddle, as K3Y Event begins on 2 January, after Straight Key Night. I'll try to be on more than last year (wasn't much effort) and see if I can edge my way to Senator (will take some years at my rate.) Ben's Best Bent Wire it is.

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

Brag December 2021



Another year behind us, another year in front of us. Thanks for all the contacts this year and every year. We are a special breed. I enjoy every one of our contacts. Short hellos and Rag Chews. Enjoy the journey. Happy New Year. The picture attached could have been taken yesterday. No snow in the yard for December 31 2021. 73, Bud AA8CL.



73, Ron AC2C



SKCC continues to be my primary source of contacts, and I'm getting more each month, little-by-little. Thank you, everyone. 73, Greg AI5EQ



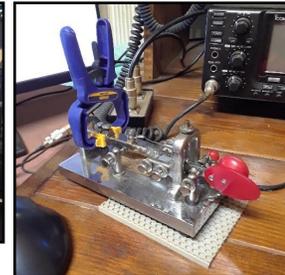
Another year has come and gone. Happy New Year to all! 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas Holiday and wishing you all a happy and safe 2022! 73, Bob K3ZGA



Thanks to all who participated in the Brag Program. Hope everyone had a good Holidays. Hope to see you in K3Y. May the "Love Of Christ" (LOC) be with you always. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Well did not get the bonus station this month but still pretty good. A little DX and started using a Bug for the TKA. Real sorry for the poor fist but I am working on it! Used the Icom 7610 @ 70 watts and the doublet ant. TNX and see you in 2022! 73, Allen KA5TJS



On my way to T. I'm working and learning with a Hi-Mound BK-100 bug. It's a little confusing at times. I am curious about how it sounds on the other end. If you hear me and care to let me know, my email is good on QRZ. HAPPY NEW YEAR to my skcc friends. 73, Keith KC3NDU



Nice month for brags. Thanks everyone es CU next month 73, Dave KB1WOD



Lookin forward to a great new year! 73, Tom KB3CVO



Thanks to all who helped me earn my S, Looking forward to 2022 and helping those who seek to advance. On to Rag chew and just meeting new folks on the air and building friendships to last a life time on



Total QSOs 59, 14 WES, 2 non-members. A good month. Perhaps even better for me I managed 4 marathon QSOs! A really good month. I really like those marathon rag chews. I'm looking forward to more of them. 73, Les WB5JWI



Had a slow month due to sleeping more than playing, and I spent some time with the family in front of the TV. Hope that January yields good conditions so I can start hammering out code on my new KN4YB bug. The image for this month's brag is Billy (rear), KO4NLK, and me (front) hiking for a POTA activation at Providence Canyon State Park in Georgia. We operated CW for about 90 minutes before we froze and went to our hammocks. 73, Rob W1RCP



FELICIDADES GRACIAS POR TODOS USTEDES LE DESEO LO MEJOR PARA TODOS Y QUE ESTE 2022 TENGAS MUCHOS BUENOS DX. 73.Che WP3PW "CONGRATULATIONS THANK YOU. FOR ALL OF YOU I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST AND MAY YOU HAVE MANY GOOD DX IN 2022"

K3Y/8 Multi-multi



Six station layout (only five shown) for the “Dit Dah CW Gang Club station KS8KCC. Shown left to right, 20/160m with KA8HFN, empty 80/15m station, 17/12m with K8AQM, 40m with NQ8T, 30m with AC8W, 10m/6m station not shown but check out the food table!

What is a multi-multi operation? Simply, it is many operators running different rigs but using the same call...just like a Field Day operation. You could say it’s Field Day in a room!” But why do this? We all enjoy Field Day and the comradery that goes along with Field Day; it’s the same with this

“single room Field Day.” We’re the “Dit Dah CW Gang” and our club call is KS8KCC. We’re from all over SE Michigan and Ohio. We have no real club meetings, just “gatherings” to operate, eat and “BS our way through the SKCC events. All the stations are QRO capable and basically do no interfere with each other. When some are operating, others are talking and eating.



There is no shortage of QSOs and certainly no shortage of food! Chips, pretzels, salami, cheese, crackers and pie...plus the chili. Of course there are sodas, coffee and water. Our goal has always been to gather more calories than QSOs...we’re undefeated!

The stations do not run the legal limit because there is no need to, antennas make up for any additional gain needed to complete the QSO. Using SKCC Logger, each station maintains its own log. After an event all logs are merged into a master log for the event. Using the SKCC Logger makes merging logs so simple and we



N8CC on the left and K8JAD sitting at the sixth station (10/6m). Looks like they’re guarding the chili pot to make sure no gets and “excess” of beans in their system!

never worry about missing or dupes...the Logger does it all.

You don’t need a super station to enjoy this type of operation and fun. Two transceivers, a dipole and a yagi/second dipole, and anyone can enjoy the fun of “Field Day” throughout the year with SKCC events. QRO, 100 watts or QRP, makes no difference really, the real fun is the comradery of fellow hams and friends getting together and enjoying operating.

Multi-multi can even be done from different participating stations. Using several different available software you can have stations from all over just as is done with K3Y. We

done several different types using several software programs while Covid restrictions were in place but eye-eye operation is always more fun.



This is Larry KA8HFN at the 20m station. Larry comes to Adrian, MI all the way from Wapakoneta, OH ...at least a 2.5 hour drive and always brings the best pies! Larry never lets a quick QSO get in the way of a chance to rag chew.



“There’s no meters like 40 meters.” If you live in the Midwest then that’s your mantra, your “money” band. It’s our both coasts at the same time band. That’s Lee N8LJ with the “stash” who drives from the Pontiac/ Detroit area and the “deer in the headlights guy” is Paul KE8MOI and Paul is just learning CW...poor guy, he was overwhelmed. (from Grand Rapids, MI)



This is Stan AC8W. We call Stan “Glue Bottom” because once he sits down he rarely gets up! Stan ran 30m and I do mean “ran”... to the tune of 300 QSOs! Stan drove 2.5 hours from Port Huron, MI. Stan has been here for the last 10 K3Y celebrations at least.



That’s Mark NU8Z in the background taking a go at 20m. Mark lives in Tecumseh, MI about half and hour away. Mark is also a regular and often in a multi-multi SKS event from here. The guy in the foreground with the concentration look is Jim KD8YQX. Jim ran 17m and had to work to pull those weak QSB signals out. Jim drives two hours from the Detroit area.



Normally we run just one weekend during K3Y but “KS8KCC” wanted an “S” so a second one day event was added. This is the crew from the second effort. Left-to-right Jeff, N8CC from Battle Creek, MI, Ted K8AQM Adrian, MI, Larry KA8HFN Wapakoneta, OH, Josh W9HT Fort Wayne, IN and Steve NQ8T all the way from Cleveland, OH! KS8KCC sits at Tx20 and about 75 more T/S to obtain our “S”



K3Y/9 – W9TE Multi Event

10 local amateurs operated two stations during the annual Straight Key Century Club anniversary month K3Y special event on Saturday January 8th. With some help from Jim-KR9U, Ken – N8KR got his small multi station up and running for the day-long event. Each of the two stations, both Elecraft K3s, were assisted by Alpha amplifiers and were designated as either 30/40 meters or 20/80 meters. As per SKCC rules, mechanical sending devices were used: straight keys or bugs. (sorry, no cooties in the shack this year!) All logging was done using the SKCC Logger by AC2C.

Al – K9FW was first to arrive early Saturday morning.



Smilin' Al—K9FW on 40m

He was eager to get started and it wasn't long and we had a nice bunch of 40 meter contacts while Ken-N8KR operated the 80 meter station. It wasn't long and Carl – K9LA and Joe – WB9EAO showed up and took over. Both Joe and Carl have participated in this *annual* event for many years. Joe always brings his favorite bug and Carl feels very comfortable with whatever straight key falls under his fist. By the time 20 meters was opening, Ed – WA9BBN arrived bringing Steve – AC9XS. The two of them sat



Jay—W9LW at the 20 meter station

down at the 20 meter station and made some nice dx contacts along with working lots of stateside SKCCers. By the time lunch came around, Josh – W9HT made a pizza run and Jim – KR9U arrived. Lunch was relaxed and changes were made with the 40 meter station putting it on 30 meters. The change was simple as the 40 meter feedline also feeds the 30 meter dipole. Once the 40 meter band-pass filter (DX Engineering) was removed, the station was making



Ed and Steve working DX on 20m

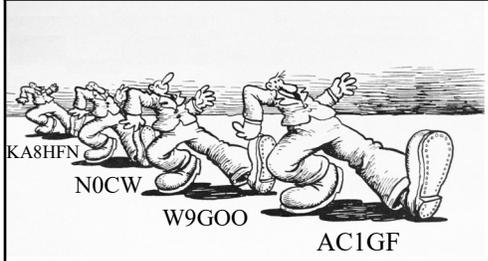


Josh—W9HT; Al—K9FW, Steve—AC9XS, Ed—WA9BBN, Joe—WB9EAO; Jim—KR9U, Carl—K9LA, Ken—N8KR. Not pictured: John—W9GOO, Jay—W9LW

contacts on the new band. It wasn't much later that Jay – W9LW arrived along with John – W9GOO from Auburn. Jay has been a long active supporter of this event and quickly settled in the 20 meter station. This was John's first visit to the station although John is very active with SKCC. By supertime Steve and Ed were left with the evening west propagation. During that time New Zealand, Australia and Japan were added to the log. By the time the day had ended, 350 contacts were in the log. The only casualty was the old, reliable Alpha 76 amplifier. *Snap Snap Fizz Fizz . . .* and that was it! Jim and Joe were eager to find the problem and it wasn't long and they found a blown 450V electrolytic capacitor in the power supply. By the time our next multi event takes place, that amp will be back in full operation. It was a fun day to work and play together. . . A fine representation of the Fort Wayne Radio Club!

Slow Speed Saunter January 2022

Slow Speed Saunter



Results for Slow Speed Saunter: 1-2 Jan 2022

Overall | Soapbox

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
N0CW	Chuck	23240S	CA	16
WB6IZG	Bruce	17714S	CA	3
N8KR	Ken	7559S	FL	7
N4API	Brian	11673	GA	3
N9KJU	Ken	19964T	IL	4
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	20
WN4KPG	Rick	4093T	KS	2
VE9VIC	RINO	17873S	NB	5
AC1GF	Bob	19399S	NH	31
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	10
WB2TQC	John	149T	NY	6
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	11
KC3NDU	Keith	22980C	PA	1
W3HMS	John A. Jaminet	20679	PA	6
W15H	Mike	11770S	TX	3

Participants and QSOs by SPC

CA: 2 / 19	FL: 1 / 7	GA: 1 / 3	IL: 1 / 4	IN: 1 / 20
KS: 1 / 2	NB: 1 / 5	NH: 1 / 31	NJ: 1 / 10	NY: 1 / 6
OH: 1 / 11	PA: 2 / 7	TX: 1 / 3		

With all the activities I was involved in this holiday weekend I could only make 10 SSS contacts in this, my fav SKCC event. I ran 50 watts from my 13-yr old IC-7000 into a multi-band vertical (elevated) using a 1943 Lionel J38 str key. Always a fun event. Happy New Year to all! 73, Curt K2CWM NJ

Slow Speed Saunter February 2022

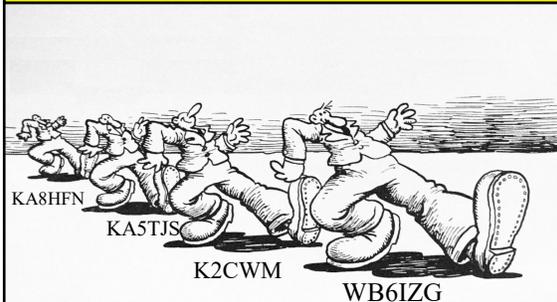
Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
N6DVS	Vic	23236	CA	2
WB6IZG	Bruce	17714S	CA	9
N9KJU	Ken	19964T	IL	1
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	1
KE0ZUW	John	24404	KS	2
NN3E	Kevin	19625S	MD	1
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	7
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	3
NJ8L	Vern	13613S	OH	1
KC3NDU	Keith	22980C	PA	1
W4CMG	Cathy	20093S	TN	2
KA5TJS	Allen	5172S	TX	4
KM4GC	Doug McNulty	20739	VA	1

Participants and QSOs by SPC

CA: 2 / 11	IL: 1 / 1	IN: 1 / 1	KS: 1 / 2	MD: 1 / 1
NJ: 1 / 7	OH: 2 / 4	PA: 1 / 1	TN: 1 / 2	TX: 1 / 4
VA: 1 / 1				

Slow Speed Saunter



I think Curt says it best....K3Y burnout!

I was away most of day but was able to grab a handful of contacts. Seemed like not many were on, so I guess everyone were resting up from K3Y (hi hi). Ran my old IC-7000 at 50 watts to a vertical using an old (1943) Lionel J38. Always fun. Curt K2CWM NJ



Story of Learning CW and the Challenges Getting On-the-Air

By Mark Isom – WZ5K – SKCC Nr. 23914

Greetings All and Thank You for letting me tell my story in hopes that it will benefit anyone wishing to learn Morse code and obtaining the feeling that you have joined a group that is unique within Amateur Radio.

I joined amateur radio in 1987 as a novice when the exams required you to know upwards to ten words a minute (Extra). I thought that was important. To be able to read and send with nothing but dahs and dits. As time went by, I enjoyed making contacts in SSB and studying for higher licensed levels. Eventually, I topped out at “Advanced” in 1992. I could not get past 5 to 10 words a minute. That was my main point on being a ham. As time went by, my work transferred me & my family around the State of Oklahoma for 30 years. I was not involved in amateur radio until our last move where my wife and I said, “No More Moving. That is when my neighbor, Kim, introduced himself with his call sign (N5OP) and asked me if I was one. That is when things changed. Kim helped me put up a dipole and invited me to the local club. That is when I wanted to pick up where I stopped and learn Morse code. Through my local club, I heard about a neighboring club that offered classes on-line (Zoom). I never heard about this new technical marvel and suddenly, I felt like everything was going uphill. That is all I need, something new to learn before I learn Morse code.

Well, after a few weeks, my neighbor Kim, asked how it was going. I was honest, I told him that I was reluctant and had not contacted the President of the club. I told him that the classes were through zoom. Kim was amazed and said that was great. I was a little surprised and then asked him, what is Zoom? Kim pulled out his cell phone and said, here is what Zoom is. It was so easy. It was not this new software language that had I had to learn. That is where I saw something about me that I did not like. If I saw something that was difficult in my mind, my fear response would kick in. I would find excuses that would become barriers. I do not know if this fear was because I was getting old & grey or if I got this fear from someone (haha). No matter, I called the Club President and was enrolled in the CWop Academy.

My first instructor was Terry Jackson – WB0JRH with the CWop. We had class twice a week for one hour each with homework in between classes. I enjoyed it. At the beginning of class, Terry would ask if anyone had questions. We had five members taking class and all five of us always had questions that would end with fearing something, such as, I am not good enough yet to get on the air or I do not understand some of the lingo or I don’t know all the abbreviations.

That is where Terry would take one half hour to answer all the technical questions and then the last half we would go through our assignments. Terry would always say at the end of class, there is no substituting “Getting On-the-Air.” Get On the Air!

At the end of the 2-month course, we could all send and copy at 10 words per minute. He ended the course with one-on-one visits with each member. When he came to me, he asked me if I was on-the-air? I told him that I tried sending CQ, but no one was answering, and I wondered if something was wrong with me. Terry chuckled and said no. He reminded me about CW. If you send CQ and no one answers, that is because there is no one on your frequency listening. That is when I heard the phrase “Search & Pounce.” Terry explained the technic and how easy it is to start the exchange.

My first contact through CW was with Al – W8RBF in Mount Pleasant MI on May 1st, 2020. I must have made twenty corrections to my callsign before I sent my name & report. And Al stayed with me, to my surprise. Boy, was I shaking? Did you know that when your body shakes, the number 5 sounds like a machine gun going off?

After that night, I did another the next night with Chris – WD1W in Colorado. Understand, I only did one each night because I was on such a high that I wanted to enjoy the moment and what a moment. It reminded me when I first learned how to ride a bike. No, this is not a “Ride-your-Bike” story but, it is, I rode my bike every chance I had. That is how I felt.

After Terry’s class, I enrolled in another CWop class that was designed to increase my speed with Tom Weaver – W0FN and David Hall – KB7QHL. I continue to take classes because I do learn more from exchanging information with others as well as knowing others are having the same problems I am. Over time I noticed I was making fewer corrections and it was OK.

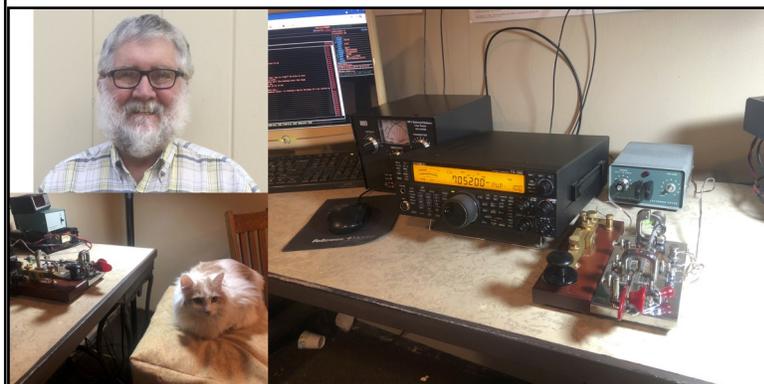
I am now in a class with Lane – WK4WC with the Long Island CW Club learning at a speed about ten to 15 words per minute with about 15 members on average and I enjoy the camaraderie and his customary elephant jokes that end each class.

Now, I know everyone is different (thank God) and each one of us has challenges at a greater degree but if I can suggest the first step. Get yourself in a local club. Interaction with members of the same interest makes it easier to find answers. Then you can join various web societies that offer classes for free. There are many so you can find that one instructor that you “mesh” with and most of them are on Zoom (easy). Understand, the Instructors (Elders) come with diverse backgrounds that benefit you with added knowledge & information. Each one has a story. Kim – N5OP learned CW from his father at an early age, Terry – WB0JRH was a telegraph operator during WWII, Lane – WK4WC is very active in “Parks-on-the-Air (POTA)”. The instructors that I was lucky to find were positive motivators. Once you trust them, any constructive suggestions they make will be helpful, not hurtful.

The instructors (Elders) and the resources I listed (I am sure there are more) are there for you. But you must take the first step. They do not know your needing help unless you ask. You can e-mail, call, zoom or write.

I and my wife have since sold our home & acreage and moved to an apartment in preparations to travel the country. We found the perfect new apartment in downtown Oklahoma City with a patio for my antenna. I included pictures. To all that find interest in this article of mine, Good Luck. To others that are recalling their story in learning Morse code, I hope I did justice to the art of sending CQ.

The resources I know are the Long Island CW Club (<https://longislandcwclub.org/>), the CWop group (<https://cwops.org/>), local Amateur Radio Clubs (<https://www.arrl.org/clubs>), SKCC (<https://www.skccgroup.com/>), FISTS (<http://www.fists.org/>) and the ARRL HQ – W1AW On-the-Air (<http://www.arrl.org/searches/results>).



I am the SKCC "bonus" operator for December. The shack is a very basic station, a Kenwood TS-590sg, a MFJ-974HB balanced tuner, 600-ohm open ladder line to a 110 foot doublet, up only 15 feet. I use a Vibroplex bug, made in 1950, and a Kent straight key. Here is a picture of me, my 'assistant' in the shack, Cleo, and the shack. Look for me on the sked page. Starting December 3rd. Straight Key Month is coming soon, so if you're kinda rusty, let's have a good "brag" in December. Jay, WSØY, Fargo, ND

Brag January, 2022



What a fun month. With all the snow in NE Ohio, K3Y was a great way to spend the time. Didn't get everyone I wanted but had a great time chasing and being a K3Y/8 station. All the best to everyone for February. Stay safe, be well, call CQ. 73, Bud AA8CL



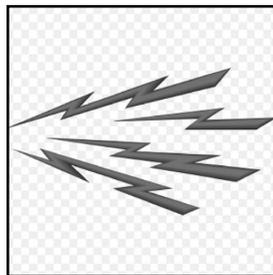
Wow, great month for me. Thanks to all the K3Y ops and all else who heard me this first month of 2022. Used my Icom 7610 at 70 watts most of the time and an 80 meter doublet up 30 ft. Mixed SS/SK/Bug. I got the TKA this year. The home made weight for the bug slowed it down to about 18 wpm. I still prefer the SS because I can change speeds as required but the bug is fun. 73, Allan KA5TJS



January is always a fun, and busy, month. 73, Ron AC2C



Nice month for all. Ran my TS-590SG mostly at 75w to my multiband vertical using a Kent straight key. I didn't get the grand sweep but it was fun. Many thanks to all who gave me a contact. Also many thanks to our Bonus Station F6HKA who spent countless hours on the air for all of us. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



240 of these were when I was operating as K3Y/2. 73, Jim N2ZUT



Lots of fun in the K3Y 2022 event again. Thank you all for the nice contacts ! A very special "thank you" to Bert, F6HKA, who was managing our -EU logs !!! 73 es hear you on the bands, Joerg



Great month for SKCC contacts. I did pretty well despite the fact my Flex-6400 went on the fritz. I had to use my old Kenwood TS-520S, which does not have the WARC bands, but it worked admirably. I even got my last region, KL7, with it for the grand sweep. Thanks for all the contacts and to the ops who volunteered to be K3Y ops. I always enjoy the K3Y event. Hope to be around for many more. 73 CUAGN SK TU dit dit, Dave KB1WOD



Hi everybody. Thanks a lot for the QSOs. A very busy January with K3Y. Some good openings on the high bands but too short particularly on 10m. 73 to all. Bert F6HKA



Always a great time, 73, Tom KB3CVO



Second best brag! Thanks for been there! 73, Angel N4SNI

"We are but humble radio operators with simple tools."

It was great being a K3Y/6 operator this month. A heartfelt thanks to all who called and were called. This effort yielded hundreds of QSOs, many with members I have not had the pleasure of meeting before. It also brought the numbers necessary to apply for several awards. For this I am most appreciative. A special thanks to Jim, W6JIM, our 6th call area coordinator. Now it's time for my right hand and my 143 year old straight key to have a bit of a rest! CUL, 73, Chuck N0CW



Brag January, 2022 II



Thanks everyone for the fun SKM! Spent some time in the shack as K3Y/8 for the third year. Thanks to Take, JR2IUB for the "Grand K3Y Sweep" and to all that filled my log for WAS + DC&PR. 52 States... Also during SKM my INV L was kinda noisy and found out my 80M Inverted V works on 30M, 20M & 17M too :-~) 73, Rick N8XI



Enjoyed K3Y and being K3Y/5 (439 QSOs). Used TT Scout at 50W for 76 slots. Stats: went through 237 cups of coffee; changed Scout band modules 3,817 times; told wife "be right there, hon" 48 times. My old 1938 Mac key now sends "CQ de K3Y/5" by itself. Just signed up for some K3Y-anon recovery sessions. But, still think the bands were a bit better last year. Hope you all had as much fun as I did. 73, Paul NA5N



My first K3Y was fun, and now I can't wait for next year! My image for this month is from a POTA activation in December. 73, Rob W1RCP



What a great month. Might be my best brag month ever. I got DE and NV to finish my WAS-S. And for SKM, I swept the 10 call areas, filling 27 of the K3Y band slots. I finished my Tx7. I need 28 more to reach Tx8. I wish we saw this much activity in other months. I have to mention that Tomas NW7US went above and beyond for me. I had asked about a K3Y log being uploaded. He explain that the guy who did the upload was out over the weekend. Tomas came back 2 days later to check that it went through and sent me a PM. I am impressed and grateful for his follow-through. 73, Ken N9KJU



This was my first SKM and I had the pleasure to operate as K3Y/3 for a few evenings. I almost reached a personal goal but with all going on at the W3SI household, I am happy to have been able to operate at all this month. All is well that ends well and we had a great ending to the month. Looking forward to next SKM! Photo is my little piece of the world on Chesapeake Bay. 73, Bill W3SI



Not a bad month but very little operating time. Zero QSOs in the WES, 20 QSOs for brag and one nonmember. Unfortunately no marathon this month. Lots of family visiting, trips, weather and some poor band conditions. I hope to do better in February. 73, Les WB5JWI



Fun K3Y month. It was nice to have more use of the "upper" bands this year. Funniest moment was when I was halfway through sending the time instead of my SKCC number in one QSO. It was in the 15:00 hour, and my brain fastened onto the 15. Also, in sending the K3Y/1 call sign, I kept starting with K1, probably a reflex from the K1VHO call I gave up 25 years ago. Fun to get old. A big thank-you to all who participated in any way. 73, John W1TAG



Wow! What a year! With a sunspot count higher than the last few years, and the resulting 10.7-cm Flux double of that from just a few years ago, the upper bands were alive. But, that did not mean that the lower bands were dead. Far from it! It was great that I could hear so many stations. Of course, part of that is that I am living in a new location where local noise is non-existent. I can hear a pin drop, on any HF band. I was using a 220-foot doublet antenna, and my Icom IC-7610, barefoot. My location, the antenna, the radio, and the propagation conditions all helped me achieve one of my best totals since I started participating as a K3Y station. I operated a number of shifts as K3Y/8 (made 393 QSOs as /8). It was very good to hear so many of our members hitting the ionosphere with straight-key-fired Morse code CW! I can't wait until next year! 73, Tomas NW7US

Brag January, 2022 III



This month included a few QRP by the fire QSOs. 73, Pat W5WTH



Great time with SKM and all of the new NR's while folks were out participating. Lost the Delta loop in a storm but got it back up before too much time was lost. Thanks for all of the DX stations who work under weak conditions. 73, Jerry WA4JK



73, Brian WB8QZM

Observations from the January WES

From personal observations again this weekend (*January WES...editor*), I do have a couple of strong suggestions for SKCC operators which has been voiced before:

- 1) Send your information clearly ONCE. If you receive a 5XX that means the other station is reading you without any difficulty.
- 2) If you have just broken through in a pileup to make a WES QSO, keep the exchange brief and don't do a normal signoff with my call and then yours. The others in the pileup would appreciate that. Let the called station end the qso with his call.
- 3) There are two ways of abbreviating a Zero that CW operators worldwide use: One is the letter O, three dashes instead of 5, or the letter T, one dash instead of 5. I use the letter O, which does result in requests for a repeat. Most of SKCCers utilize the Letter N for 9.

Eu guys have gone brevity crazy:

#1=letter "A"

(And there might be more which I forget at this moment.)

There is a definite plethora of QRP SKCC stations partaking in the WES. The QRPer is easily identified as the one to whom I give a 339 or 449 and get a 599 back in response. I am continually using my rig's signal processing features to pull the small signals, with QSB most times, out of the noise. I am glad I have those features - these old ears don't process information as well as they used to. Thank you to all of the stations who showed patience as I dug their signals out. I think I missed about three today- Just too weak and too much QSB.

Thank you, Ken (*WB2ART..Editor*), for organizing the monthly events. 73, Phil K3EW

Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 2 Issue 7

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.....

Planets aligned this past weekend for ARRL RTTY Roundup. I was able to work the whole contest uninterrupted by work. Joy! As a result, I tripled my score over last year. I like RTTY, my brain is still fully engaged in the exchange, but I don't have to listen to the crash of atmospherics for many hours. I just turn off the external speaker, and put on some nice music in the background. Now, that's civilized. The flip side is poached eggs for eyeballs Sunday night.

I run FLDigi for RTTY and the N3FJP logger. Simple, intuitive, easy. Not a single issue.

I spent some time this past year trying other digital applications, but the FLDigi is the one that plays well with my TS590S. A modern app for a modern radio. Other apps have great features, but they're all stuck in the 20th century for rig control and audio. Not interested in regressing with my 21st century radio.

Still puzzling over a fan dipole that transmits better than it receives. Maybe I should read some more books on propagation and antenna theory/practice. Upside is I was never drinking from the firehose, downside is I have a lower score than otherwise.

Remoting your radio is not a trivial task. I have a modern radio, designed with remote ops in mind. It has factory remote software that should play well, and in the beginning did so, but does no longer. The culprit is the usual suspect: MS Windows Whatever. It seems to constantly decide that one or other 3rd party app has become a dangerous trojan, and quarantines it, deletes it or otherwise deactivates it. Also, IP providers can do some voodoo they do, and all stops working. I tried RemoteHams, and that worked for a while, then stopped, and I get no answers from the support forums. I dislike forums as a lazy substitute for product support, but most of this software is written by volunteers, so what else is reasonable? What is, is. I will try yet another software answer, before prying open my wallet for the hardware solution. {cheep cheep}

Survived NAQP CW. 9 hours in the chair, maybe I'm becoming a contester, after all? (nah....)

More than doubled last year's score again, so overall it's being a good year for me. If I keep doubling for a few more years, I'll be top of the heap! No worries. I did operate assisted, so I could see where desirable stations were, but still tuned through the bands to find my contacts. I figure about 1 in 12 stations that I worked, were spotted before I found them. And a lot of spotted stations were inaudible at my antenna. Strictly S&P this time, I was busy enough without buying into pile-ups. I still do MorseRunner most days for pile-up practice, though. And join CWT of an occasional Wednesday.

Ooooooh, it's a trend! Doubled my score (almost) in the SSB NAQP also. Worked 90% of stations I could hear, but didn't hear most that were spotted again. I'm going to blame the low height of my antenna, until I have a better excuse....

Managed to squeak into another session of CW Academy - Intermediate, trying to get my instant recognition and head-copy back up to speed. Every time, it gets harder for me. It's a better class than last time I was in it, and this time I have about half the group offshore, which is fun. If you want to improve (or acquire) your CW skills, I can think of no better way than CW Academy. You have to commit to put in the time and effort, but it does pay off in the end. (Some of us need more time and effort than others....)

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

WES January, 2022



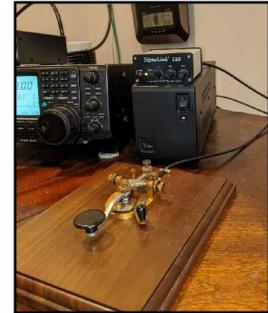
Outside of 3, basically just worked Sunday, and only after a late start. But a good day it was because still had a great time. As always, I want to thank everyone who responded to my QRPP signal and for answering all the QRP stations out there. Hopefully we didn't make your task too difficult. Made contacts with some for the first time. Some contacts were from folks we haven't chatted with in a long time, and thanks again for those we chat with almost monthly. This is a fun event, not just this month, but every month. I liked the bonus for 160 & 80. It got me on 80m earlier than normal. Excellent!!! See you thru the month of K3Y. 73, Bud AA8CL



This was a better than average WES for me. Made QSOs with 61 SPCs which ties my best. Worked 47 out of the 50 states except HI MT, and Utah. Worked AL7JX (Alaska) on a "dead" 15M band. Also worked 2 new states towards my 5BWAS quest, W1GF on 15M and KE7VE on 15M. 80M was very good this WES, made over 100 QSOs on 80M. RTTY killed 40M for a good portion of the contest. Higher bands seem to be getting gradually better. I'm working on a 3 element loop antenna for 10M, hopefully will be ready this spring. Thanks for all the QSOs! 73, Bob AC1GF



Had more time than usual - Lower bands were fun! 73, Ron AC2C



Bands were in pretty decent condition for this WES. Lots of strong signals. The old EF Johnson Model 590 straight key mounted on an award plaque is still loads of fun and I never get tired of it! Thanks to everyone for a great time! 73, Jeff AA9WJ



WOW! K3Y and WES on the same weekend, our cup runneth over! And still K3Y goes on. I hope to work everyone again when I'm masquerading as K3Y/0. 73, Jim AD0AB



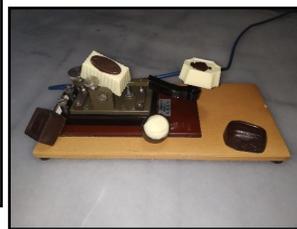
Little propagation except at the end of the afternoon over 20m for Europe. During the night, a little propagation over 40m. Only 16:33 of total traffic over the 36 hours. To complete an electrical black out caused by the wind and rain storm. Always great fun to contact many new and old numbers. Thank you for all these QSOs and to all happy New Years and above all good health for you and your families. See you on K3Y and WES next month, 73, QRO Bob. F6EJN



Not much time as usual but fun anyway. Used my J-45 leg key for this WES. 73, Peter AK3X



Not a great participation this WES, between hunting K3Y stations and WES. Hope to make more qso's the next WES. Thanks to all and Happy New Year. 73, Phil F5JWH



Heard a lot of stations, but very, very difficult to make myself heard. So I took revenge on Christmas chocolates !!!!! Happy New Year everyone. 73, Frank F8DTU



QRN here over the weekend and propagation poor, so only 6 QSO's - but these were great fun. Thanks to F6HKA, EA5FID, OK2VWB, CT7AUP, CT1ELZ, KF6C. all on 20m. Kenwood TS440s, 100 watts, 20ft Vertical. 73, John GORDO



The "Winter Bands" were busy in NW Mo. The weekend was busy with family activities which limited radio time. Thank to everyone for a fun event. The Laves LTA SKCC 101 was a Christmas gift from family. Imagine my surprise when I opened that one. 73, Rick K0KEX

WES January, 2022 II



Always a fun event. Ran 75w from my TS-590SG into a multi-band vertical, using a Kent str key. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Well another great WES: Weekend had it all; Great SKCC operators dodging QSB, the RTTY Contest ops, poor conditions at times on Saturday, then the report Saturday that the SFI shot up above 100, which resulted in US and SA propagation on 10, a wide open 15 to EU, SA, US and better conditions on the other bands Sunday. I had a pipeline from MD to Tucson Ariz QTH of a friend WA7NB on 10-Well over S9 for couple of hours. Also was snagged by AK6A in OR on 10. Worked my first JA SKCC member Rico JJ1CKN-who handed out a lot of QSO's on 20 on Saturday night. Was able to work Stan ZL2BLQ with 559 sigs both ways for a change - rather than usual 339. Those two completed my last two world areas for the World Sweep. Thank you, Ken, for organizing the monthly events. 73, Phil



I put a new (to me) Vibroplex bug on the air this weekend. Unfortunately, I'm still a little rough. Grateful to all those whom I worked, and their patience with me. 73, Ralph K7RLN



Had a great time with K3Y/7 and WES. Thanks to all who worked me. 73, Rick K7CNT



Being unable to be with the ks8kcc gang up at K8AQM this year i worked from home looking for more k3y stations for my log....They sure had a lot better things to eat up there than i did from what i was told. I was able to work ks8kcc on 160-80-40-30 & 20 from here so that helped some. Thanks to all for the contacts this weekend. 73, Larry K8TEZ



60 Ft wire at 20 feet wrk 20/40 IC706mk11 Begall Blade key 20 was good on Saturday .Tnx fer the Q's. 73, Ray K9EYT



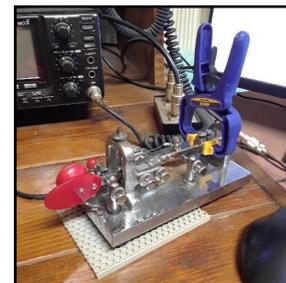
I didn't attack this too hard, just popped in and out as time allowed. The bands were pretty decent. 73, K9NUD



Snowbird portable operations from Arizona limited to 20m. IC7300 and J38 key to a modified Gotham vertical. Stay Tuned! 73, Daryl K9QEW



First WES with my new 6400. Thanks for all the QSOs! see you next month. 73, Dave KB1WOD



Got 28 on 80 meters, great fun. Don't have 160 here. Maybe someday. Got 4 on 15 meters Saturday afternoon. Sent in my TKA app. Finally got the bug contacts! Thanks for putting up with the poor fist guys. Icom 7610 @ 70 watts and a doublet antenna for 80 meters. Still working on SKM. GL to all. 73, Allan KA5TJS



Not much time to operate, but enough to check out the Boatanchor receiver for next month. Conditions on 15 were great but darn few ops there when I checked and CQ'd, hoping to find more action on 10 and 15 next month. Thanks and 73, Scott



20 meters, 40 meters, 5 on 80. Thanks for the qsos. 73, John KA1LHJ



WES January, 2022 III



Storm damage took my 80/160 bands away but did the bet I could with a 40 EndFed. Lots of activity and not nearly enough personal time to play. I managed several new member chats and was surprised to work Bob in AK! 73 es HNY Randy KB4QQJ



Not able to make the trip up to Ted's "K8AQM" to play K3Y/8 "KS8KCC" this year. So played a little radio from the home shack es worked K3Y/8 on 160, 80, 40, 30, 20. Stayed inside all weekend with heat es dryness.. Wind, snow, rain, sunshine. All 4 seasons in one weekend. Thanks for the QSO's. 73, Randy N8KQ



This month I was able to get my last QSOs with my KN4YB bug to earn my TKA. I was also able to find the elusive Nevada Senator to get that WAS-S. It was exciting with all of the pileups this weekend and chasing those tougher to get QSOs. 73, Rob W1RCP



Happy New Year all! Fun event as always. About half my QSOs were on 80 meters (not that the RTTY contest had anything to do with that...HI HI). Fantastic to see quite a few "new" entries in the logbook this time. Catch you down the log...73, jack KK0I...dit...dit



A great time running as K3Y/8 in this event. Six stations and 10 ops through the weekend; N8LJ, KA8HFN, AC8W, KD8YQX, NQ8T NU8Z, N8CC, KE8MOI, KB8ECG and K8AQM. 73, Dit KS8KCC



Took my TS-120S to the island of Ameland (IOTA EU-038) and made 12 QSOs with 100 Watts, a homemade cootie key and a small vertical doublet antenna. Fun operating a bit of the WES during holiday! 73, Jo PG4I



Thanks for all the contacts! I really enjoy this WES events. I spent most of my time running on 20 meters. This was my best performance yet in a WES, I made 132 QSOs!. Reached Tx7 with this contest and I only need 30 more to earn Tx8. I hope to make Senator this year. I have a vertical for 80 and 40 meters and a Tri-Band 3 element beam for 20, 15 and 10 meters. I also have a home built 2 turn 160 meter loop. I did not do so well on 80 and 160 meters; however, I did make my first ever SKCC QSO on 160 meters, thanks to N7DR! 73, Gordo KG7YU



Had very limited time this weekend, too much going on. Was able to use the non-WARC band QSOs of a K3Y/1 shift for WES, though. Had a number of 80 and 160 meter contacts on Saturday, which was nice. 73, John W1TAG



ARRL RTTY Roundup was tough to compete with. Thanks to Bob, WL7WH for the K3Y/KL7 I needed. Looking forward to the next WES! Happy New Year everyone! 73, Russ



Kx2, 5wts, g5rv 35ft n/s inv vee.. actually i was running 2000 wts, minus 1995 wts.. hi..i got my 30 qsos.. more QRM,,hihi.. home brew key nmr 84.. nmr 85 is being worked.. QRMer, ,hihi.. so tnx to the SKCC board mbrs.. i keep thinkg for each WES, we all need to send a \$1.00 bill to them.. stop and think what they are doing for YOU... so, cu in February so we all can make QRM, it is LEGAL, hihi.. tnx to all.. 73, Dave Larsen n9zxlqrp@gmail.com

WES January, 2022 IV



QRN was bad on low bands. Had 3 qso's on 160 & 4 on 80. Split time between K3Y hunting and the WES. Some good signals on 10 Sunday afternoon, WA7NB was pounding in from AZ 599+. Had 5 QSO's on 10 & 11 on 15. Used my new IC-7300 along with the KPA-500. Ants: Big loop on low bands and Yagis on high bands. Keys: Begali Intrepid for most contacts with Flameproof for QRS. 73, Dave de West Virginia W3NP



Been playing in the Week End Sprints for 14 years now -As long as I've been in ham radio. Still love it. My most notable low band qso was with Mark, WB9HFK, SKCC #83s. I like to see who the lowest member number I can work during a sprint. That was the lowest I've seen in a while. Rig TS590sg 100w full size 1/4 vert on 80m, 80-10 endfed wire and 10m Moxon @28' Nice to make some qsos on 10m finally. Good sigs from West Coast USA to Ohio. Keys: Vibroplex Original (early 2000's vintage) and NT9K pro pump standard for SK. Thanks all for the good times/qsos. 73, Mike W8MDE



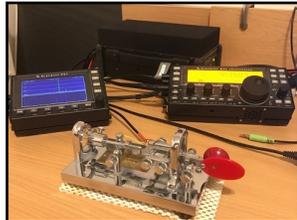
Very busy weekend for me. I didn't have a lot of time to get on the radio. Assistant operator Skipper helped out with the K9 duties in the station while I took care of W9 functions. 73, Jack W9GT



Multi-op for K3Y and WES from the Fort Wayne Radio Club - pictured from back row to front: KR9U, K9LA, N8KR; K9FW, AC9XS, WA9BBN, WB9EAO; W9HT (W9GOO and W9LW not pictured). A 2 station multi operation running K3's. Lots of fun when the group gets together! 73, Ft. Wayne Radio Club



I was one of several members of a local QRP Club who spent the weekend in a cabin at the Daniel Boone Homestead near Reading, PA. On Saturday, I headed out to another section of the historic site and did some portable operating from my truck. I haven't been able to participate in a WES contest in a while, so it was fun to operate in this one, even if only for an hour or two. 73, Craig WB3GCK



Elecraft KX3, KXPA100, PX3 at 75W to a 40M dipole hanging on a backyard fence at 5 ft. What a beat down. Lots of weak signals (including mine!). Thanks for the QSOs! Happy New Year and 73, Andy WA5RMI



I made most of the qsos on 80, 40, 20, with the Drake 2-NT and 2-C. 15m with the Heathkit HW16. All other bands with the TS2000. Good fun for all! 73, Dan WB8JAY



Many contest going on this weekend but of course this was the most fun of all. Tnx fer all the Q's. C U Next month and for the rest of the winter from Florida 73, Greg WA3GM DAH KS3KCC



Another Great time. Thanks to all. My pic is my Grands with Murphy, an Irish Wolfhound. 73, Mark WZ5K

My Participation in SKM

My first and last SKM operation was in 2020, in 2021 I was QRT because I was renovating the QTH and building a new shack. Back in 2020 I was able to operate several days. This year I operated just 9 days, but with the new radiating system I managed to reach the same number of QSOs as in 2020; reaching 338 QSOs and with a novelty 4 QSOs on 80M, including the addition of 26 QSOs on 40M. I was the only K3Y-SA station to do QSOs on 40M and 80M.

The station is not in full swing yet, I couldn't count on the WARC bands (SRI), which were much requested by the American HAMS (as my friend TOM N7WI said, "I'll see you in the next year.") I'll probably be QRV on the WARC bands by next year.

For the first days of operation this year, the pile-ups were very intense! I believe that small stations were left out. I focused the operation on 20M to try to deliver a K3Y-SA to the largest number of stations possible and also to try to win my "S" (Senator), and I still couldn't! When activity was low, I'd take the opportunity to rag chew on the sked page with friends.

In the end I got 338 of the 671 QSOs made by K3Y-SA (50%). I wish to thank my K3Y-SA coordinator LU7DD for scheduling my operations. It was really worth the fun and I thank everyone who called me and especially my friend Mike K8NS, who always announced my activity with excellent RST. Mike worked K3Y on 157 out of a possible 174 band slots, he has an amazing RX!

73 DE PY2FRQ Renan Ronchin - NAN

The Bug "Lip"



The Bug Lip

Editor...From an article by Mike AA7WU, in CW Ops February newsletter, "Solid Copy"

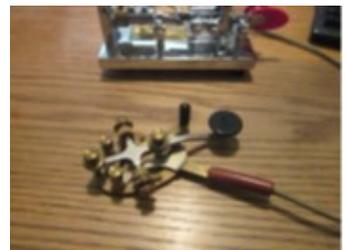
This was passed on to me while sitting in the radio shack one night with the Chief Radioman aboard the USS Klondike who claimed all *Real* CWops know what is a Bug Lip. His father was a telegrapher for Western Union back in the early 1900s. WU operators were paid by the word (five characters per word) to send and receive messages. Then about that time "bugs" came on the market and many telegraphers started using them as they were much faster.

But, Western Union would not allow the wiring at their operator stations to be modified to accept the bugs, so an enterprising WU employee found that by changing the plug on the bug to the type used on telephone switch boards, the telephone plug (bugs could be ordered with these plugs) could be inserted into the WU key and the bug could be used. That place was on the key was slightly modified and eventually became standard on many keys. It became known as the "The Bug Lip".

BTW, that's his "bug" (mine now) in the photo. The S/N dates it to 1940...So there ya go...Another use-less bit of trivia? Perhaps, but now you're a "real" CW guy.



Telephone switchboard plug



Operating K3Y Portable SKCC - 2022

Adventures in ham radio make the hobby extra special! The adventures have no limits as the mind can be so creative with things to do. During the SKCC K3Y month of January, it was apparent that two of our contiguous 48 states were going to be lacking of K3Y operators. Nearly 250 volunteer operators, the majority from the US, made nearly 50,000 contacts during January. And as the SKCC community was looking to work all states – K3Y operators – during this time period, Nevada and Mississippi was lacking.

Ken – N8KR decided to travel to MS from his FL winter home with a mini vacation with his wife. Ken operated K3Y/5 for two stints over a couple of days and gave out the much needed state of MS. His operation was very simple: a mobile HF radio, 20 and 40 meter hamsticks, a straight key and logging computer. Perched on the top floor of a parking garage contacts were made throughout the US and even into Europe. (Ken also operated from his Florida QTH as K3Y/4 and his Indiana QTH as K3Y/9.)



N8KR – K3Y/5 MS Mobile with magmount Hamstick, Icom IC-7100 HF radio with Speed-Key and Netbook

The second expedition was much more extensive. Rick – K7CNT from Kingman, Arizona lives about 30 miles from Nevada. Twice Rick packed up his truck with radio and antennas and solar power and headed for the mountains on the Nevada side of the Colorado River. Rick was the only station to be heard from NV during January. Choosing a desolate site with a clear view to the east, Rick erected his home brew vertical antenna, powered up his trusty Yaesu FT-840, and hammered out contacts on both 20 and 40 meters. His second trip was two days before the month ended and included 4 hours of operating time. (Rick also operated other times from his home qth as K3Y/7 AZ.) Check out the pictures on the following page of Rick's operation. It's pretty cool to bring along your battery/solar power source. Rick remarked that his receiver was totally quiet. Thanks, Rick, for putting NV on the air and for stirring the SKCC pot in Kingman and encouraging more locals to get on the air!



K7CNT location and antenna – view from the “shack” The view to the east, Colorado River and AZ mtns



The view to the east, Colorado River and AZ mtns



WES February, 2022



HW-16 Xtal, 50 watts, and 48 years old this month. In other words, got my Novice ticket 48 years ago this month and built the kit waiting for the FCC to approve my test results. 1974 was a great year. Was only able to get on the air on Saturday evening. Was doing well on 80m so went to 40m and got nothing the rest of the night, even coming back to 80 to no avail. 73, Bud AA8CL



MNI TKS TO ALL ! I hope to see you again . 73, Take JR2IUB



I was only able to spend a few hours on WES this weekend as I had many family obligations. But it was fun using the old vintage Collins S-Line & the companion 30L-1 Amp with the Fratini Bug. Both 15 & 20 mtrs were in good shape. Was a little disappointed in the lack of vintage gear during this WES though. I hope next year there are more vintage rigs on the air. Perhaps there should be an incentive in points per QSO to encourage more to use their vintage rigs! 73, Steve K2FW



Great WES but just too many distractions to spend enough time on it. 73, Ron AC2C



Hi everybody. Thanks for the QSOs. Conditions were not to bad with a good opening on 15m. Had fun as always. 73, Bert F6H-KA



Ran 75w from my TS-590SG into an elevated vertical. Kent str key. Nice time as always. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Thanks for all the Qs, I hope to see everyone next month. 73, Jim AD0AB



Thank you all for the QSOs. WE shared between radio and stroll to take advantage of the good weather conditions in the Basque country! Looking forward to meeting you next month. 73, Frank F8DTU



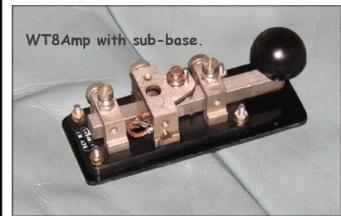
Lots of fun as always, it was my first time on the air with my HW-101 that I have repaired. I only made 2 contacts with it, I spent most of my time on my Icom 718. 73, Russ



Radio used: Yaesu FT-817. 73, Tom K8KUF



Good propagation on the 40, 20 and 15m bands, also on 80m. lots of multi-band QSOs. A treat for many months. Thank you for all the QSOs. 73, Bob F6EJN



Good fun on 20m had here. 7 QSO's and thanks to EA3WX, K3WW, OK1CBA, W4LRB, I4IKW, YU7AE, KR2Q. TS-440s, 100 watts, 20ft ground mounted vertical. 73, John GORDO SKCC 2133s

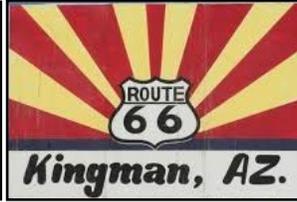


Always enjoy the Boat Anchor WES. Only operated on 20M when open. Used a Kenwood T599D and Drake R4C(8 tubes). Key was a 1942 Vibroplex Lightning bug which I bought during ARRL on line auction in 2018. It's fun to go back to time when we had to zero beat and tune up, but glad we've advanced from then. 73, Joe K0IVK

WES February, 2022 II



Not a lot of QSO's but had a great time using the vintage station and handing out 20 tubes. Okay, I cheated a little with the homebrew dds VFO. 73, Doug K4NYI



Only was able to operate for a couple hours on this one. 80m didn't pan out for me this time, only 5 Q's. 15m on Saturday was best I've seen in a long time on that band. Anyway was it was fun to participate. Thanks to all that worked me. 73, Rick/ K7CNT Kingman CW Operators



This month I managed some QSOs on all HF bands used in W.E.S, the best band was 80M with 20 QSOs and worse was 10M with 2 QSOs. Ran out of room on my large log sheet Sunday afternoon and Went QRT. It snowed all day here, good day for indoor radio operating. 73, John K8JD



Another fun WES. This month I brought out one of my Heathkit HW-16s with a HG-10B VFO. The key this month was a Vibroplex Original manufactured the year I was born, 1959. Took a bit to work around all the RTTY but was still fun. See you all next month. 73, Noel K8NB



Started at 2pm est Saturday. Lots of stations on. Had a fun time. Used the VIZ BUG. 73, Al K9FW



I popped in and out when possible and had a great time. Thank you to everyone who dug me out ;-)
Toggled between my QCX+@ 3W to a 6BTV or my Elecraft KX3 @ 5W into a 132' End-Fed Inverted L up 35', alternately using my Kent paddle as a cootie and my KN4YB bug. 73, Steve K9NUD



Always a fun WES. Only got 6 ops running boat anchors this year. They all sounded great. Lots of multiple bands this year with same op on 2 or 3. Running the 7610 at 70 watts and 80 meter doublet at 30 ft. Used my Vibroplex Original with a new weight and the W1SFR cootie for this one. Got a few on 15 meters Saturday afternoon. None on Sunday. CU next month guys. 73, Allen KASTJS



Used this opportunity to use the portable station. FT-891, vertical, and battery power. 20 watts most of the WES. (When I was able to get on the air). Enjoyed the WES very much. Thanks to all! 73, Jim KA6J



Snowbird portable ops from Mesa, Az. Limited to 20m ops only. IC 7300 & J38 to a 1/4 wave vertical. 73, Daryl K9QEW



I had a lot of fun as usual. Thanks for all the QSOs will see you next month 73, Dave KB1WOD



Great WES! I tried my new Yaesu FT-891, running 100 Watts into attic dipole at 25 feet. Thank you all. 73, Sergey KD9EBS



Glad to have a reason to put the old Kenwood TS-530S back on the air. Really enjoy this event. 73, Roy KD1RT

WES February, 2022 III



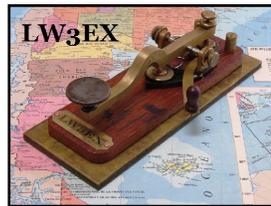
Activity seemed low, so, I just leisurely enjoyed playing with this hybrid setup giving out a few bonus points. Using 26 tubes, well maybe not the RA17 Demod and audio amp, and few billion transistors. The RA17 has 100kHz IF output which is connected to a home brew Raspberry Pi SDR, based on the HPSDR Hermes board. The SDR provides filters, demod, pan adaptor, waterfall, sidetone and with some other home brew parts boatanchor and KPA1500 (not used this time) keying. An Arduino reads the RA17 VFO frequency and sets an Si5351 as a VFO for the T-599, giving transceiver operation. 73, Brian KF6C



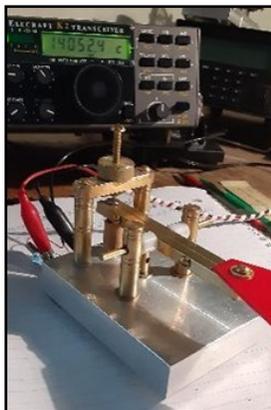
Fun time as always and many more stations on the air. Thanks for the contacts and see ya'll down the road. I still need that "S" from NE to complete my WAS. 73, Dean N2TNN



Fun theme. Used the Drake TR-4 for most of the contacts giving 20 bonus point for the tubes. 73, Randal KG5IEE



I couldn't be QRV for a long time but it was Fun I was only in 10m, the conditions were quite good, was surprised to contact Will NQ2W / QRP and Mike K8NS / Mobile... WTG guys! TA33 - 30W - Home Made DSX & Camelback SK TU everyone for the QSOs. BCNU 73, Walt LW3EX - ..



Hello. K2, 5wts, g5rv 35ft, n/s inv vee..35 qsos..nothing new for me. The pix is my key nmbr 73, but now have 84 keys.. 85 is coming.. i only use magnets..brass and aluminium now.. worked f6hka, and v31ax in belize.. a new country for me..328 qsos so far this yr..hi..i have a long ways to go.. more QRM. Agn, tnx to the board members. Hi.. they now have ONLY 25658 mbrs..hi.. its busy for them.. so, c u all in March as QRM is legal to make then also. I can sell keys 73, Dave Larsen n9zxlqrp@gmail.com



Was a short run for me and was only able to get on for a short time on Superbowl Sunday. Had a lot of cooking to do for the big game. Had a good time on 40 meters for a few hours. It was however hard to keep up with my key since I had so much help. Looking forward to next months WES and spending more time on the good-ol-radio. Did get a couple of contacts with tubes which helped and they had 599+ signals into the big D. 73, Doug KG5YTS



WXman said flurries today, not sure if that was before or after the Blizzard?? hihi Not much time, trying to finish up inside projects before spring and antenna projects. 73, Randy N8KQ



Soapbox 2/13/22 Revised 2/14/22 Thanks for all the Contacts. Used the Heathkit HW-16 and HG-10B on 80M & 40M with 11 Tubes. But at one point near the end someone gave me a 569C and Randy, K8ZAA gave me a 588. Then the Rig Died :(Update: Repaired 2/14/22. So it was fun while it lasted but I did do some tube hunting with the KNWD TS-590S...The bands were in good CONDX. I used the TS-590S on 20M, 15M & 10M. Antennas used were a Cushcraft A4S Tribander w/40M up 30 feet and an 80M INV Vee. Keys used... a Western Electric Straight Key pre 1940 and a 1945 Vibroplex Lightning Bug. 73, Rick KN8RHM



Thanks for the QSOs everyone! I turned the amp on to 500 watts to my 43 foot vertical, and mostly called CQ. I did slightly better than last month. This is always a fun contest. 73, Larry N9CB

WES February, 2022 IV



This WES was fantastic! Not only were the higher bands open and in great shape but participation seemed huge. This year I decided to bring out a couple of my more rare and obscure collection pieces. The 83 pound, 23 inch wide, 18 tube B&W 5100 transmitter from 1954-56, the Collins 30L1 winged emblem amplifier from around 1960-62, the RME-6900 receiver from 1959-62 and RME DB-23 preamp from the mid 1950's. The Hallicrafters R-42 Reproducer is from the late 1940's and the straight key was built 1878-80. There are 37 tubes in total inside these beasts so many bonus points were made available to those contacted. Now back to my "new radios" from the late 1970's. I am in CA but the license plate is from my home state of Colorado vintage around 1984. 73, Chuck N0CW



Station upgrade to Hallicrafters HT32B which offered a new boat anchor feature of semi-breakin cw not available on the HT32. No longer had to rotate a function switch or throw a toggle switch to transfer the antenna relay between the TX and RX. Now that I am fond of the 32B feature, what's to become of her older sister the 32? Does she sit in the corner during the big dance? She's still pretty and puts out...RF that is. Just doesn't have all the glamour. 73, Lee



Worked an hour on Sunday . 20M only and seemed in good shape here in TX. 73, Dave NE5DL



Used my old green boxes full o tubes, Heathkit HW16/HG-10B and HW-101. 11 tubes and 20 tubes respectively. I want to thank W7AMI for messaging me that the 101 was warbling around in frequency just before Noon Central Sunday so I quit using it and switched to my 3 tube Kenwood TS-530S until I decided to call it quits. I hope it didn't sound too bad and apologies if it did. HW-101 and TS-530S both about 100 watts with the HW-16 at about 50. Antennas were OCF dipole at 30" and a 160M full wave loop fed with window line. Keys were a J-38 and Bencher RJ-2. 73, Bill NZ0T



Special Event station at the Orlando, FL Hamcation and the ARRL National Convention. Yes, ARRL has an SKCC number and it was an honor to operate the station. Jack - WB9SCT joined me (N8KR) at the last session and also operated. It was special to work friends from IN:



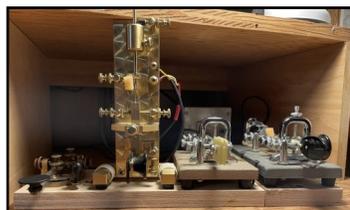
Nice to see signals picking up. Thanks to all for having to endure my shaky "bug" fist. 73, Dave VE3KIU



Had fun using my old Viking II & 122 VFO. I have owned them since Feb of 1980. RX was a Drake 2B/2BQ. Used a Johnson T/R switch. Apologies for the drift/chirpy signal on 40. 80 & 20 were fine. Was having trouble with the new grid block and differential keying circuit and no time to troubleshoot. I should have checked it sooner but couldn't get excited about the event knowing the horrid RTTY contest would be on. Keys used: Vibroplex Lightning Bug and a German Telefunken straight key. Antenna was the horizontal 160 meter loop at 50'. Wrked 9 other boatanchor stations. Mine had 30 tubes total. 73 de West Virginia Dave W3NP



I had a lot of things going on this weekend. My 6 y/o (Ollie) begged me to take him fishing on Saturday. We only caught one, but he was so happy to get to hold and release it! 73, Rob W1RCP



Life intruded, and I didn't get much time this weekend. Conditions seemed to be pretty good, with a big North American Es "cloud" on both days. The 15 and 10 meter bands would have been more useful if folks had given them a try. -- sounded like a pretty large group. 73, John W1TAG



WES February 2022 V



First WES in a while. Operated mostly 20 and 15. Did 40 and 80 near the end. Used my Knight T-60 the first day and the Heathkit DX 60 on the 2nd day. An Eico 722 VFO provided the drive to both transmitters. 73, Dan W3DF



As always lots of fun. I enjoyed working several stations on 15-meters. I was also happy to work 59 "newbies". 73, Drexel W4DHT



It was a fun one. thank you. 73, Mark W8YA



I enjoyed my first SKCC WES! I was not intending to stay up all night, but things happen. I used my Ham-Key straight key the whole time running my Yaesu FT-991a at 100 watts into a OCF dipole up about 35 feet at the peak, legs in trees around 25 feet. I believe the radio and key were saying "Thank You" when I finally decided to stop at 2252z. I accomplished my goal of being able to apply for Tx2 and surpassed it with being able to apply for Cx2. Thanks for everyone working me! 73, W4JL Dave in NC 15400T



Mixed conditions on the bands with only a few QSOs on 21 MHz. Glad to work 7 EU DX !! Always fun. Rig is 90 watts to inverted vee up 40 feet. Key is Bench straight key. 73, Mike, WB2FUV



This is my favorite WES theme. I nearly always use my boat anchors for this event. This time i used my Collins 75A-4 receiver and 32V-2 transmitter. Amazing what you can do with 70 year old gear. Unfortunately I had precious little time available to spend this year. I was a bit disappointed that only a very small handful of participants were using vintage tube gear. I was also suprised there was not much DX on given the SFI. I used a bug for the whole event which is new for me. 73 y'all and see you next time. 73, Mike WB0SND



Very happy to participate for a little while using my EF Johnson Adventurer Crystal TX and Hammarlund RX with 12 Tubes in total, plus a teeny tiny bit of Chirp on my CW for vintage tube authenticity. This year was a little tricky finding a frequency I had a crystal for that was mostly free of RTTY. Best 73 to all for a healthy and happy 2022, 73, Chris, WB2VVV, 14078T



I operated "Stationary-mobile" from two different parks during the contest. On Saturday, I was at Marsh Creek State Park (POTA K-1380), and on Sunday, I was at Ridley Creek State Park (POTA K-1414). The picture shows my portable "shack" (aka the cab of my truck). The rig was a KX3 (5W) and a homebrew 19-ft vertical mounted on the back of the truck. The key is an American Morse MS2. Thanks for pulling my QRP signal out of the noise. 73, Craig WB3GCK



Band conditions were very favorable. I made at least one QSO on every eligible HF band 160-10. Worked 1 non-member OX3XR Peter. Which was a treat. TS-590SG 100W, 200' Doublet, 40/15M Center Fed Inverted L, WW2 US Navy BRELCO Flameproof Key. 73, Jon WS1K

WES February, 2022 VI



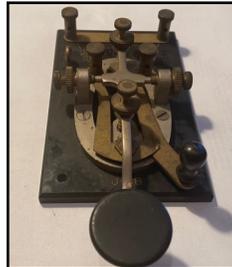
It was a pleasure to work a couple of stations from the QTH of Hanz YL3JD, about 25 km from Riga. I have been using his equipment and a Begali Sculpture Swing cootie. Pictured is the fine radio shack of Hanz where we spent many hours during my stay. 73, YL/PG4I Jo



Nice activity, on 80 and 40m only RTTY QRM, highlight was JR2IUB on 15m. Using my old FT-101B (1975.) 100W output, Vibroplex Presentation bug and 2 el. Steppir yagi at 10m. Tnx for QSOs, 73, Kare YU7AE

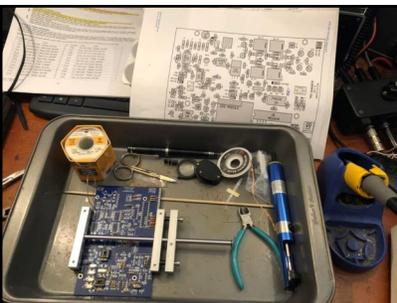
Return of Glory Days for a J-38

I just finished up a J-38 I picked up on eBay for \$40. Before and after.... All it needed was cleaned and mounted.. 73, Jim NJ3B



Ed...Isn't it amazing what a bit of elbow grease and TLC can do to bring a "champion" back to life! Well done Jim!

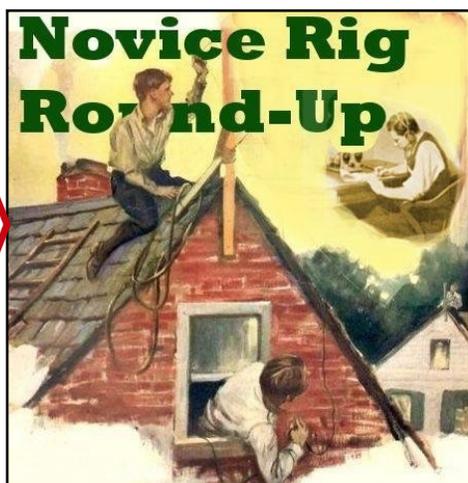
Kit Building



Meltin' solder on a Thursday afternoon. KD1JV Tri-Bander kit in progress. Building for 15m, 17m and 30m. Passed first smoke test! 73, Doug N3PDT



Novice Rig Round-Up March 5-13, 2022



By the time you read this the NRR will be about to begin! It's so much fun to put those old Novice rigs on the air...or any old rig you can fire-up and even if you have only a modern rig then enjoy yourself chasing those whoops, chirps and clicks through out the bands! Checkout the web site at: <http://www.novicerigroundup.org/> For full details of the fun.

No doubt you can relate to these pictures if you were a Novice. How many times did you try to figure a way to get more wire in the air? Did you have to ever do what this poor guy had to do in snowy weather? But if you were involved in these situations I bet it was all worth it when your first CQ was answered with a "new and improved" antenna or one you fixed when your fingers were near frozen with frost bite!

It's not the score that counts, it's the fun you have making the contacts and the rag chews you can have while remembering your Novice rig, your Novice QSOs and your Novice days! Just check out some of these station pictures submitted in past NRR events...beautiful stations!



The beautiful HW-16 transceiver and HG-10B vfo belonging to Bill NZ0T. The old Hw-16 sounded much better with a vfo then it did with being crystal controlled and the Heathkits were fun to build!



Here's a real power station belonging to KN8HRM ... aka N8XI Rick. Yes the Hw-16 and vfo are nice but ooooh, the Drakes! Many Novices would give about anything for the Drake 2-C receiver and the Drake 2NT transmitter. That receiver was/is something special!

Novice Rig Round-Up 2022 II



This was my first NRR that I actually submitted a score. During my first NRR, AF4K told me that my Argonaut 515 qualified as a NRR, and got me to participate some in NRR years ago. Maybe the first one you did not get a number, been too many years ago. Well this one, I got to hear lots of rigs that I have read about, but never heard. This would include Viking Adventurer, Globe Chief, Globe Scout, EICO 720 and Ranger. And many rigs that I have seen Drake 2-NT, HW-16, DX-40 and DX-20. My novice rig that I used this time was an estate sale jewel from many years ago, that I just recently re-capped and got it finally on the air, like my old rig from 1978, a HW-16/HG-10B. Finally figured out how to spot it on frequency, like I did years ago, with my light bulb dummy load. I had several crystals in the 7100 and 3550 khz range, but choose to use the VFO. During NRR, I also got to contact the WCC Amateur Radio Association, WA1WCC in the 40 meter novice band section on their Drake Twins. This station is now home to the Marconi/RCA Wireless Museum and during its life worked many ships at sea, and was constructed by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company in 1914. 73, Brian N4API



As always, I had a great time in the 2021 Novice Rig Roundup. This year, I started with the Drake 2-NT and 2-C, but the 2-C went "numb" and is going to need some work so I brought in my Novice dream receiver, the 75A-4. I had my Drake 2-B in reserve but the 75A-4 is new to me this year and I just had to use it. For my Novice-2 rig this year, I used a Drake TR-4Cw transceiver which also worked great. The antenna this year was a doublet. I also had my original Ameco AC-1 at the ready but didn't use it. I will try to use it in some Novice Rig Night work this year. I have an excellent supply of 40m xtals and I'm always looking for new rocks on 80m. It is still as hard today to work the east coast stations as it was back in 1966! Thanks for the NRR contacts! 73, Dan N7SU



I had limited time to operate in NRR this year, but did have 10 contacts with my Homebrew 6AG7 TX and Mosley CM-1. Used my first key I received from my Boy Scout Master 57 years ago, a trusty old J-38. TNX 73, Mike W3TS

Another fun Roundup! Didn't use my HW-16 this year, just the Drake 2C/2NT/2CQ rig with crystals to a G5RV at 35 feet. Lots of fun, made some new Qs with new folks. Looking forward to the next one! 73, Steve WB4OMM (WN2TAW)



Enjoyed 2021 nrr very much. A lot of tube radios were in use and sounding great. Thanks for all, very nice qso. Made a very lasting memory for me. Drake 2nt final tube went out during the qso. Drake tr4b finished out the week. Many thanks to kr8p es ns8s for keeping me encouraged. My copy speed is a tad slow but working on it. Hope to meet you cw ops down the log. Hope return next year. 73, Wayne WN8BLX



The novice rig corner of the W0BW shack. Great participation this year and enjoyed the many fine commercial and home brew TX and fists. Was fortunate to add two 15m QSOs with BC and Nova Scotia! Currently trying to bring a DX-60 to life to help carry the NRR and NRN load. Hats off to the NRR staff for all they do! Be sure to consider donating to the fund. 73 to everyone and thanks for the fun! 73, Mark W0BW



Well, it was.....interesting. A little disappointed in the number of unconfirmed QSO's, but that did not detract too much from the overall experience. Given the conditions and my modest antenna, it provided some practice completing weak signal contacts. Looking at qrz.com, I found that the majority (74%) of operators I worked had nice write-ups about themselves and their stations; of these, almost half (49%) spoke well of their Novice days and/or early experiences with amateur radio. Which I liked. I may be back. 73, W4VN



I enjoyed the chance to fire up the Homebrew 6AG7/6L6 transmitter and Knight R-100A receiver. The transmitter includes parts from an old stereo, a DX-40, and a S-38 I found by the side of the road.

. Thanks to those who dug out my mighty 10 Watts and tuned around to my XTAL at 7.116. I worked only one station with less power than mine. Good to hear the old classics on the air, whoops, chirps, hoots and all. Once I get some coax cables to make it easier to switch among radios. 73, Mike, KE9EX (WN0RBY, 1967)

ORLANDO HAMCATION 2022 de Rich W4RQ

February 2022 the Orlando Hamcation returned to favor us with a very good, and much anticipated, Hamvention.



Front: Donna WB9TFF

Neil K8NP

Back row L-R Josh W9HT, Mike K8NS, Karen W4KRN, Rich W4RQ and Ken N8KR

The SKCC was well represented with our booth located in the main East-West Hall. Ken Rogner N8KR and Rich W4RQ manned the SKCC Booth all weekend with the help of several other SKCC members. Josh W9HT had quite an experience just getting to the Hamfest, but that's

another story, Josh finally made it to Orlando late Friday and was a big help all day Saturday, explaining to non-members what the SKCC is and what we do.

We experienced a very good Hamfest with a good showing all day Friday and Saturday. Sunday morning a cold front and rainy weather put the damper on the attendance, however Saturday morning the indoor Fleamarket/SWAP in the North Building was packed full to the point where it was difficult to move! I didn't get out into the large tailgate area, but Mike K8NS # 10580 was set up out there as always.



Rich W4RQ

Karen W4KRN

At the SKCC booth we had 95 SKCC members stop by, chat, and sign in to our log. At least that many non-members questioned us about the SKCC and left with our SKCC info cards, usually not before trying the various keys we had on display and connected to practice oscillators. Ken's Vizkey 90 degree Bug got a lot of attention.

Ken operated the ARRL's W1AW/p4 station at the Hamcation in the February WES event being held that same weekend. Stations contacted in the WES should send their QSL card and QSL request directly to ARRL Headquarters.



AA8CL Carmen...aka "Bud"

At Noon on Saturday we gathered in the booth for our group photo and Karen W4KRN drew the lucky winner, Carmen AA8CL, who received an SKCC Cootie Key made by Steve W1SFR, as the winner of our 2nd Annual SSS multiple Participation Award! CONGRATULATIONS CARMEN !



February SKS 2022



Late dinner then only ended up running last 20 minutes. Still fun. Thanks for the contacts. 80m was very active. See you next time. 73, Bud AA8CL



Thanks to K6PB, Pete for pulling my signal out of the noise. Started out on 15 mtrs, could hear a few stn's in Japan. Didn't work any of them so qsy'd to 20 mtrs. Used a FT818 to a longwire antenna. That's my mascot on top of the FT818, member of the Flying Pigs Qrp Club. 73 to all, John AL7JK



Nice conditions on 40M, limited time tonight. Thanks to all 73 Rick K0KEX. Note: The image was put together using Net Control Manager. The Program developer is a good friend.



Always a nice event. Ran 75w from my TS-590SG into a multi-band vertical (elevated). Kent str key. Thanks for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Wow, for my station here in Kingman Az the condx must have been bad. The first hour was like pulling teeth hi hi. But I did have a good time. 73 to All, Rick K7CNT



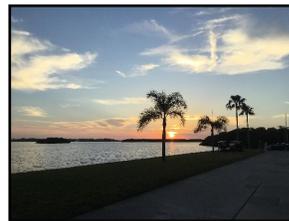
The bands had a lot of "snap-crackle & pop" tonight (and it was sort of like listening to one of my old Edison cylinders on my 100-year-old phonograph). Thanks for those we were able to get into our log. 73 & stay safe everyone, Larry K8TEZ



Almost missed it! Fun times. 80 had a lot of static crashes but yielded the best signals. Thanks all! 73, Steve K9NUD



Made only one QRP contact tonight in the SKS with my new (to me) Jardillier miniature straight key. I have had my SKCC number for a long time but have not been very active. I'll try and participate in more events going forward. 73, Steve N0XC



Slow start with weak signals but 40 seemed to improve throughout the evening. Ran about 300 watts into my low dipoles and managed to keep busy! Another beautiful sunset here in Florida less than a half hour before the start of SKS! 73, Ken N8KR



Snowbird Ops from AZ 20m operations only. Band condx fair first hour. IC 7300 & J38 Key to a modified "Gotham" vertical. 73s & Stay Tuned! 73, Daryl K9QEW



Should have stuck to QRP! Most signals were very strong here on the South Coast. I struggled with both fist and copy so I thank all who suffered with my bad night! 73, Steve NQ8T



Some fun, put the VIZ BUG to work. 73, Nee



"I know we just met but he's so amazing, great smile, nice car and he only operates CW"

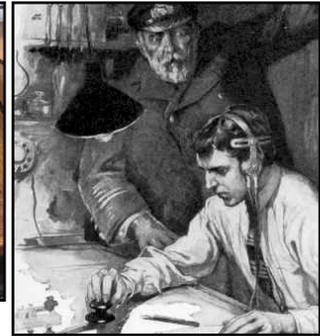
SKS February 2022 II



11 QSO's on 20 then to 40 for a while. Tried out 80 which was good, then back to 40 and finished up back on 80. Condx were fairly good. Used my SKCC / W1SFR cootie for all contacts. Rig: K3 and KPA-1500. Ant: 3 ele on 20 and the horizontal loop on 40 and 80. It was an enjoyable evening and I worked a fair amount of newer members. Nice wrking Bill W0EJ. 73 de West Virginia Dave W3NP



This was my first QRP sprint and great fun. I only joined the fun in the second hour, but started out with ND, then CA, FL, NY, VT, CA again NC and TX. I have attached a photo of my TR-25 Xceiver, and Bioenno battery. The key is my old novice key. 73, Gene W9KMK



Newest SKCC Award Presented to:

This certificate is awarded to amateur radio operators causing extra ordinary radio frequency emissions. This interference includes but is not limited to: gizmos, gadgets, doodads, doohickeys, widgets, thingumajigs, gimmicks, tools, utensils, implements, machine mechanisms, apparatus & devices.

This certifies that **Randy KB4QQJ**
Station Call Sign

has received sufficient complaints of extra ordinary radio frequency interference and has qualified to receive the

Worked All Neighbors Award

Post
1 on each border of property
4 Neighbors
Dave W1DV
Verifonice Signature

Nuisance
10 Neighbors
Drew AF2Z
Verifonice Signature

Pain in the neck
50 Neighbors
Roger VE3RDE
Verifonice Signature

Criminal
Unthinkable
100+ Neighbors
Mark K7MIG
Verifonice Signature

Complaint documents can be any of the following: Nasty notes, threatening letters (anonymous or not), letters from the F.C.C., copies of signed petitions, letters from lawyers, police visit reports, ransom notes, court "Notice to Appear" or law suit documents. Also acceptable are pictures of bullet holes in antenna system, cut coax and guy wires, or any other unexplained damage to the radio equipment.
Inadmissible are: Dirty looks from the neighborhood and/or passing cars, undocumented gossip, hand gestures, missing dog or cat without ransom note.

Special Thanks from
The Magtag Repairman
Thanks for all the bogus service calls I had nothing better to do.

Special Endorsements

Group 1

- Television (Antenna)
- Cable Television
- Video Cassette Recorder
- Telephone
- Telephone Answering Machine
- Cellular Telephone

Completed Group 1
Randy N8KQ
Verifonice Signature Date

Group 2

- Stereo
- AM/FM Radio
- Audio Cassette
- Phonograph
- CD Player
- Computer

Completed Group 2
Dough N3PDT
Verifonice Signature Date

Group 3

- Garage Door Opener
- Porch Light
- Christmas Lights
- Microwave Oven
- Car Alarm
- Toaster

Completed Group 3
Ted K8AQM
Verifonice Signature Date

Worked ALL Appliances Endorsement

Ron AC2C
Original's Signature Call Sign

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Good evening from Two Rivers, Alaska



Operating K3Y/KL7 was such a pleasure. Who knew it would actually generate small pileups? That's not something I thought about with SKCC. HIHI Mind you, the pileups weren't anything like I find on DXpeditions or during contests when everyone seems to want Zone 1. Most pileups don't intimidate me, and usually I can unwind them no matter how chaotic. Aside from a little bad behavior I observed, like tuning up on my operating frequency, I did see some issues repeated. These are common with operators new to CW or perhaps inexperienced in trying to break into a CW pileup. It occurred to me to offer a few pointers to help those of you trying to snag a badly needed contact.

The biggest thing you can do to improve your chances of a contact is to LISTEN. It should be obvious, but there's a lot you need to grasp while listening, not just whether or not the frequency is in use.

1. Is the frequency in use by someone other than the desired station like me? If so, it would be helpful to let me know. You can do that via chat or put a comment in a spot to the DX Cluster. I can try to QSY.

2. Listen to the QSOs I am having. Can you hear the other station? Where are they? If you can't hear both sides, then listen very carefully to where I am in the exchange.

Don't just hear me say BK and then start calling. I may be trying to dig out a QRP signal, and you make it harder for everyone by delaying a complete exchange.

3. Oftentimes I can only grab a partial callsign. I may respond by sending W7D? or KB5AG? Unless your call is anywhere close to what I am asking, please do not transmit. Some folks are rather aggressive and when I'm struggling to get a complete call, they will parachute in with their call sign. I'm tenacious, and I normally don't respond to interruptors like that until I complete the QSO I am focused on. I may send AS a few times to get the callers' attention.

4. Timing is everything. Every operation has a certain rhythm, including what speed I'm working. Am I answering calls immediately or do I wait and work the "tail-enders"? It varies even throughout a single session, so get a sense of the rhythm and then try syncing to it.

5. In addition to getting in sync with timing, try varying your sending speed. That's one way to get my attention, because it distinguishes you from the rest. (If you need me to QRS, I'll be happy to do so.)

6. Another way to get my attention is to change your frequency offset. That results in different tones. When many folks have zero beat to my transmit frequency, it's nearly impossible to

tease a single signal out. The op with a signal 50-100 Hz away from zero beat is going to get my attention fast. Don't get too carried away, though! I usually run pretty narrow (250-300 Hz) filters plus a peak filter. If your signal is 0.2 kHz above or below me, chances are I'm not going to hear you very well, if at all.

7. Last and not least, don't call in the blind! Several times with K3Y I heard folks calling when I was in the middle of a transmission, which tells me they weren't listening to my signal, or they couldn't hear me. That's calling blind. And above all, don't just assume I might have gotten your exchange. I will confirm if I did. I might send RRR or QSL or both. If I fade, you can check with me using SKCC sked page chat.

BTW there's a certain demographic of European operators (non-SKCC), who will see a spot, go to the frequency, and just send their call signs over and over again without actually exchanging information. A bit later I will get an email asking, "Can you check your log? I called you at 1234z, and I really need KL for my award" without actually acknowledging we did not make any exchange. They HOPE I sent them a report and entered them into the log, and they never bothered to send me their information. Never be like them. NIL!

Thank you again for letting me play in SKM. Let's get out there and have some fun. CU on the air. 73, Leon N1TX/KL7

De Facebook



There's a blizzard outside,
It's cold in the shack,
My BOAT ANCHOR is ready,
For a WES attack!!!



*Editor.....Ray is very active
and a sought after North
Dakota "T"*



KG9NF Randy... Hot off my printer. Just need to finish wiring it up.



I made three QSOs tonight and they all asked for my SKCC #. That's never happened before. Though my last QSO was my 20th ever so there's that. 73 and thanks to N0CW, KYKQV, KN6KNE....de Justin KF0GZB