



Volume 15 Issue 2

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

June, 2022

SKCC at Dayton 2022

It's back! After two years of "no Dayton (Xenia)" everyone was excited to return. Although the crowds were a bit smaller and a few less exhibitors, everyone there was glad to be back! Of course SKCC was there with lots of keys. CPOs and this year we added "SKCC buttons"...that's so you could tell who the really good guys were from the not-quite-as-good guys. At least that was our story as we handed the buttons out to all the members who signed into the log.

For the first 4-5 hours of the Hamvention, we had no power and the logging computer battery was dead so we missed maybe 15-20 members who dropped by. Fortunately in the afternoon we got power and everything ran smoothly after that.

We had 11 different keys which included straight keys, bugs and a side swipper. There three battery powered CPOs, one for each type of



The booth at Dayton. L to R: Ted K8AQM, Curt K2CWM and Larry KA8HFN



Gathering of the gang at 2 pm Saturday for a group shot

SKCC at Dayton 2022 II



Keys, keys, keys Frank K8FAC manning the booth and answering questions.

of key. This was a new addition to the booth and it worked much smoother so everyone wasn't "QRMing" each other while trying the different key types...even more CPOs would have been better!

We were surprised when many SKCCers said they had never seen many of the different keys. The Viz Key right angle bug and the convert Vibroplex paddle into a cootie were popular items to try. The 100th anniversary Vibroplex bug ("Annie") was also a big hit with its distinctive imitation japan finish. Perhaps next year additional CPOs and keys

can be present for display and examination.

There was no shortage of interests from folks who were not SKCC. Explaining the merits of SKCC to non-members was very easy, some of the best features that seemed to please everyone was "there are no dues, no meetings and you just get on the air and have fun." For those who didn't know CW we talked-up the many merits of the LICW classes for learning code. The Fort Wayne SKCC members loaned us a very fine notebook with printed pages of what people would see when they went to our web site...thanks Fort Wayne.

The fairgrounds provided two hard-bottom folding chairs but five padded bottom folding chair where brought these were greatly appreciated by those who stopped by to rest and rag chew and especially by those manning the booth! Fans had been installed by the fairgrounds in the ceiling and that help keep the air circulating but the box fan brought really was great, no one suffered from heat at the booth.



"I know exactly how a cootie works. Easy!"



"Now how exactly does this "cootie" thing work? Impossible!"

Many members remembered meeting Bert F6HKA, when he showed-up at the last hamfest and along with those who had heard he visited, all wanted to know if he was here this year. So Bert, if you read this, your presence is highly wanted and appreciated! Probably no call in SKCC is more familiar to members than F6HKA!

It was great to see so many of our YL SKCCers at the hamfest and we even signed-up a 14 year old girl who just came up to the table and proceeded to pound out CQ and her call from all three of the different types of keys! "Kate" will have many great QSOs and years in SKCC. Watch for her, KE8LQR...she sends great CW!

SKCC at Dayton 2022 III

So Dayton (Xenia) for 2022 was great fun. Those of us at the booth enjoyed our time together and enjoyed meeting many members we had QSOs in the past. When you work with Curt, K2CWM you're amazed at the number of people who say, "I have you in so many pages of my log from SKCC events." But....beware! Curt loves to pull jokes on you and you never know when he's telling you the truth until he has caught you and you feel dumb because he suckered you! If you've never worked or spent time at the SKCC booth at Dayton then you've missed a great time and a great bunch of SKCCers you've worked.



Curt K2CWM and Frank K8FAC answering questions about SKCC.



L-R Two "very strange" SKCC members, Tony KD8BBK and Scott N3JJT...they ain't right!

There are many things that went very well at the booth but even more improvements can be made. The SKCC buttons were a big hit (and cheap to purchase...learned from the Fort Wayne group), the many keys and CPOs were great and the 9 volt batteries last all weekend, extra (padded) chairs for worker and resting were appreciated. An additional fan, power strip and workshop extension cord were important. We had a cooler with lots of water, chips and other snacks available.

It was suggested we have large screen TV/monitor connected to a second lap top facing the crowd so we go to the web page and sign-up/show our webpage events and even pages from events and the news letter. Internet is available at the booths.



A rare quiet moment at the SKCC booth.



Larry KA8HFN explaining SKCC

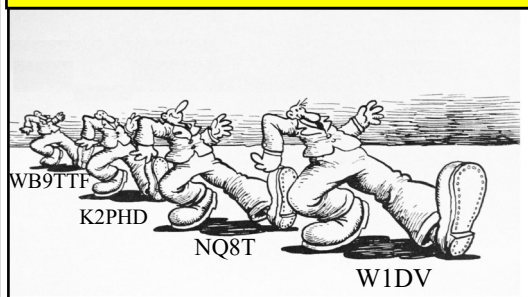
Next year if coming to Dayton (Xenia), join the fun at the SKCC booth!



Ugh! Which is worse, caught in a tornado or stuck in a very "well used" Xenia restroom with 20,000 hams!?

Slow Speed Saunter March 2022

Slow Speed Saunter



No photos sent in this month...darn...but some nice scores. Come on guys, snap those pictures! We like to see those shacks, keys and ops!.....*Editor*

Slow Speed Saunter Results

Results for Slow Speed Saunter: 1-2 Mar 2022

Overall | Soapbox

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
W4RQ	Rich	8699S	FL	3
N4API	Brian	11673	GA	3
N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	4
NN3E	Kevin	19625S	MD	2
W1DV	Dave	1433S	NC	16
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	8
K2PHD	DOC	5669C	NJ	8
AA8CL	Carmen "Bud"	2339S	OH	4
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	6
NQ8T	Steve	5919S	OH	9
KC3NDU	Keith	22980T	PA	1
W4CMG	Cathy	20093S	TN	6
W5H	Mike	11770S	TX	3
KM4GC	Douglas McNulty	20739	VA	2
WB9TFF	Donna	7057S	WI	8
W3NP	Dave	3182S	WV	3

Participants and QSOs by SPC

FL: 1 / 3	GA: 1 / 3	IN: 1 / 4	MD: 1 / 2	NC: 1 / 16
NJ: 2 / 16	OH: 3 / 19	PA: 1 / 1	TN: 1 / 6	TX: 1 / 3
VA: 1 / 2	WI: 1 / 8	WV: 1 / 3		

Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 2 Issue 8
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.....

ARRL International DX (CW) has come and gone while I was in CW Academy's Intermediate class. Everybody made at least an hour's attempt on the contest, and most did okay for first timers. It wasn't stellar for me, but it was fun. I gave it about 6.5 hours in the chair around other commitments. What stood out for me is: first time I have 5 bands in the log. Usually 10m is dead to me, but I did a fair number of Caribe and SA contacts, adding Chile, Curaçao, Cayman Is. to my entities list. Some of the usual suspects were absent from my receiver, or unable to copy me.

Sunday afternoon I managed some Europe, but my usual suspects there were also absent: Germany, France, Slovenia, mainland Spain. Greenland was back for the surprise, really faint and scratchy both ways but the will was there. Other marginal contacts were Italy and Asiatic Russia (another first-time entity). No European Russia this time. Tripped over the UN a few times, finally broke the pile-up on 40m. Alaska was faint on 20m, Hawai'i boomed in on 10, 15 and 20. Worked several stations on all 3 bands. A couple of Finns on 15m, another long struggle in noise. No Japan even with spots all over the place.

I can't say enough good about CW Academy, run by volunteers from the CW Ops Club. If you're serious about learning or improving your hand-sent CW skills, this is the place for you. It's a fair commitment of your time and energy, but it rewards your diligence. This time around has been a very diverse group from 5 countries on 4 continents and ages and experience all over the place. Great classmates. I'll sign up again next year.

I'm going to take a couple of weeks off contesting, get some actual work done instead, but I'll be back for another go in time for the next issue.

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

Improving Your CW and Having Fun!

Amateur radio is all about enjoyment and learning. We SKCCers enjoy mechanically produced CW and making QSOs. We all try to improve our CW sending and copying skills. Here is a great way to enjoy yourself and improve your CW sending and receiving skills. Take a look at the K1USN SST events. This is a group of CW enthusiasts who run an event to slow down sending and receiving and to enjoy making contacts. Everyone is encouraged to send slower than 20 wpm. You don't have to use mechanically produced CW but its encouraged. The following is an explanation of the event and a sample of a typical exchange.



SST (Slow Speed [Con]Test) History

****First K1USN SST September 14, 2020:** Since then, SSTs – with their 20 WPM upper speed limit – have been held weekly at 0000Z Mondays (Sunday evenings in NA).

****Second EU-Friendly K1USN SST Session February 5, 2021:** Since then, SSTs are held twice weekly at 0000Z Mondays (Sunday evenings in NA) and 2000Z Fridays.

SST Background

The [CWops Club](#) (CWops) promotes the art of CW for those wishing to expand and improve their on-the-air experiences. [CWops' CW Academy](#) (CWA) program has produced thousands of successful graduates who have gone on to become everyday CW operators. Hundreds of CWA grads have become CWops members after demonstrating their ability to communicate in CW at speeds of 25 WPM and higher!

CWops' three (soon to be four) weekly 25 to 40+ WPM CWT sprints are exciting, stimulating and a great way to improve CW copying ability, operating skills, and propagation knowledge. The CWTs create bonds of friendship among CW-loving operators around the world.

After a survey of CWA students and graduates showed strong interest in increased slow-speed on-the-air activities, several members of both the K1USN Radio Club and CWops created the weekly Slow Speed [Con]Test, the SST. First airing from 0000 to 0100 UTC Monday, September 14, 2020 (Sunday, September 13th in the USA), the SST grew in popularity until more than 100 new and experienced CW operators were regularly submitting their SST scores to 3830scores.com. [There is no formal log submission in the SSTs. Instead, all participants making one or more QSOs are encouraged to upload their QSO totals and scores to the 3830 reporting website - easy! See www.3830scores.com].

With help and encouragement from other CWops, including CWops President Stew GW0ETF and Mac G3WZD, K1USN Radio Club added a second weekly SST session starting Friday, February 5, 2021, from 2000 to 2100 UTC, in hopes of attracting more EU participants. Since then, the twice-weekly SSTs have often attracted a total of 200 or more operators, according to 3830scores.com reports.

You are welcome to join us!

K1USN's Slow Speed Tests are especially designed to encourage and assist those who signed up for CWA classes or joined in other programs, such as the online Morse Code sessions offered by Long Island CW Club, to learn CW or to improve their CW skills, but who are not yet comfortable at 25 WPM. SSTs also welcome all others who feel like "taking it slow and easy" once or twice per week, both for their own pleasure and to help others out. All of us old enough to remember our Novice days recall the rush of adrenaline and the sweaty grip on



our J-38 (or Radio Shack) keys during our first CW QSOs. This is what it must feel like for today's new CW operators as well.

The twice-weekly slow speed SSTs are also for operators who participate in regular CWT sessions, but only as S & P (Search and Pounce) entrants. The 20 WPM (and slower) SSTs help build confidence to find an open frequency and begin calling CQ, first in the SSTs and then in the more crowded and frenetic CWTs and other CW contests. Successfully crossing that CQing threshold is another real accomplishment!

We hope many SST participants become sufficiently comfortable with CW contesting to enjoy the higher speed CWT sessions, other big CW contests, and smaller local and regional QSO parties, using N1MM+ (or other) computer loggers, spotting networks, call history files, live online scoring, etc. **But we welcome everybody to join in the SSTs** whether high speed CW contesting is your goal or not, including new ops making their first attempts at completing a CW QSO. In addition to following SST's 20 WPM **upper** speed limit (*there is no lower speed limit*), we ask all to be patient, supportive, and willing to slow down to assist another op in completing an SST QSO. Many of us have been delighted to learn afterwards that the operator we assisted in an SST was making his or her very first CW QSO, or the first after a long period of inactivity!

CWA recommends using electronic keyers and paddles, but if you are more comfortable with some other device, please feel free to join us in the SSTs using a straight key, cootie key, or bug. Unlike high speed contests, where QSO rate is king and a CQing/"running" station expects only the required exchange and confirms contacts with simply "dit" or "R," the SST encourages sending brief friendly greetings to the other op, such as GA, GE, and 73. Friendliness is part of taking it slow and easy!

So please join us in the SSTs! All you need is an HF radio, an antenna, and the desire to become, and assist others to become, better CW operators!

SST: Slow Speed [Con]Test:

Example:

- Suggested SST exchange: Each station sends a first name and state, province, or DX country
- Unlike the higher speed contests, where QSO rate is king and a CQing/"running" station expects only the required exchange and typically acknowledges a contact with simply "dit" or "R," the SST will encourage including brief friendly greetings to the other Op.

Example SST exchange between operator **K1RV (Pi)** and operator **N1DC (Rick)**:

<i>Pi, K1RV sends:</i>	CQ SST K1RV
<i>Rick, N1DC replies with:</i>	N1DC
<i>Pi, K1RV replies with:</i>	N1DC Pi MA
<i>Rick, N1DC replies with:</i>	GE Pi Rick MA
<i>Pi, K1RV: replies with:</i>	GL Rick TU K1RV SST

fyi, CW abbreviations used above: CQ (Calling Any Station),
GE (Good Evening), GL (Good Luck) and TU (Thank You).
MA is the state abbreviation for Massachusetts.

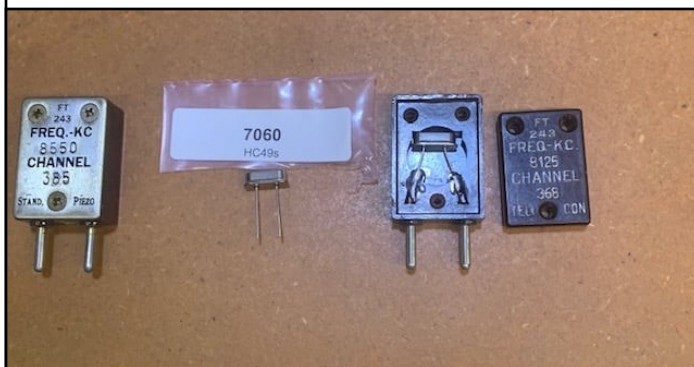
- Suggested operating frequencies:
- 160 meters 1.810 - 1.825 MHz
- 80 meters 3.528 - 3.545 MHz
- 40 meters 7.028 - 7.045 MHz
- 20 meters 14.028 - 14.045 MHz
- 15 meters 21.028 - 21.045 MHz
- 10 meters 28.028 - 28.045 MHz

Normal Date and Times:
20:00-21:00 UTC Friday (3-4pm EST)
00:00-01:00 UTC Monday (Sunday 7-8pm EST)

So why not give the SST a try? The exchange is shorter than a typical SKCC QSO and easy to send and remember. Of course without the exchange of an SKCC number the QSOs can't be used for SKCC awards. Just think of the great CW practice you'll be getting and the many friends you'll make from this event! By the way, to submit a score (only if you want to), the scoring is very simple; number of QSOs times the number of SPC you work.

New Old Crystals

I don't post a lot here so I hope this is OK. Sometimes you execute an idea that you just have to share. I thought maybe some of you might find this useful. I know many of you SKCC folks like to play around with old crystal controlled radios along with your SK. I have a Drake 2NT that I dusted off and started using but decided I needed more crystals. Since good ol' FT-243 crystals in the CW ham bands are getting rare and expensive I've been getting very cheap HC49u crystals, then buying cheaper FT-243 cut for outside the ham bands. Take out the innards of the FT-243's and solder in the cheap HC49 crystals cut for the CW bands. Works like a charm. Then I started getting so many that I needed a place to keep



them organized and safe so I built this little holder today. It will hold 44 crystals. I only have 24 right now so I have a ways to go before I fill it up! Using the HC49 crystals was not my idea but it's still a good one.

73, de Kelly K7SU

February Brag 2022



No top scores to brag about but still had fun. Had a lot of fun as usual. I heard there are other modes other than cw but can't figure out if they are as much fun to check out, lol Oh, did someone say I won the Cootie/SideSwiper at the Orlando Hamcation? What an honor!!! Beautiful Key. Hope the pic posts right side up. Have a great month everyone. 73, Bud AA8CL



I was away in Georgia with my brother who had a bad fall and injured his spine. I was there 28 days and missed all the fun here. I was happy to be there to help and be with him. 73 de KC5 "SAM". 73, Virginia (Sam) KC5SAM



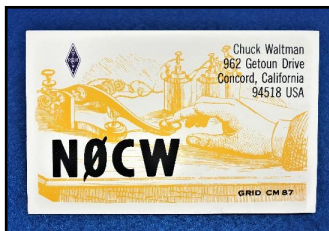
Daytime band conditions were pretty good during Feb. for the most part. Most QSOs were QRP, many on 17, 15 and 10M. Put my old SGC-2020 on the air for about a week; Ten Tec Scout on the others. Worked quite a few with new SKCC numbers - always good to see. K9FW always seemed to have a nice sig in NM. 73, Paul NA5N



Short but busy month. Thanks for all the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM



Another fine brag month. Thanks for all the QSOs and see you next month 73! Dave KB1WOD



It's great to see how improved band conditions especially on higher bands are generating more and more activity. Here in CA long US propagation really helps, there's even been pretty good DX lately. The "Boat Anchor" WES was most enjoyable for me since I am an old school analog kind of HAM. The only digital devices in the shack are an iPhone for the Sked Page and a digital alarm clock for logging purposes. I am looking forward to our next QSO. 73, Chuck



Really put the Viz Bug to work as the Brag Bonus operator. Had a Blast. 73, Al K9FW



Enjoyable as always. 73, Tom KB3CVO



Thanks for all the QSO's gang. It was a fun month. WX has been cold and nasty at times so having an inside hobby helps :~) TU to Al, K9FW for the Bonus Points... 73, Rick N8XI



Enjoyed the February brag with apparently improving solar conditions and despite a couple of late winter storms. Ice on the wire antennas but they survived! Thanks to all and 73, Dick N5KIP



A good month for me. Been cold, cloudy and rainy in ETX so plenty of radio time HI HI. Used SK,Bug and SS this month. Icom 7610 and a doublet antenna. Thanks for all the contacts and hoping all you guys are well for March. CU soon. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Winter is nice. It gives us time inside with our Radios. And...we don't have to mow the lawn :~) Thanks all for the QSO's, especially from the new members I had the pleasure of meeting. I decided to use the Novice Rigs several times in preparation for NRR starting March 5th. 73, Rick KN8RHM



Looking Forward to Spring! Warm Wishes and thanks to the volunteers who make SKCC work so well. 73, Ed W0RJW

February Brag 2022 II



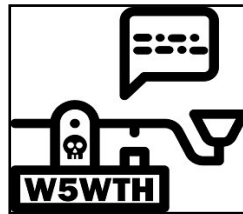
Nice relaxing month after the SKM. Testing some new gear and doing some station rewiring & switch labeling. Even managed to restart my Marathon quest on the very last day of the month.
73, Dave de W3NP West Virginia



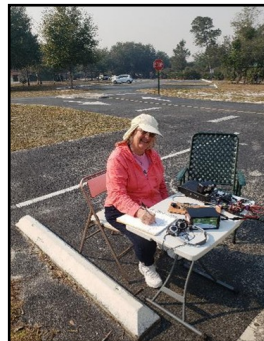
A pretty good month. Got a Marathon, work a couple of non members had some really nice rag chews. 73, Les WB5JWI



A lot changed this month. I closed my MD station and moved my family to our FL QTH. I had no antennas there so I set up a LNR EFHW QUAD (40-20-15-10) antenna on a 15' pole and ran the wire to my 6' fence, Antenna is due East/West and I need to figure out a way to move/rotate it to the North/South. In the meantime I built a QRP xcvr and am having fun making contacts with it and my very low angle antenna. I have the design and will be collecting parts to build an all band FLAG POLE antenna soon. Maybe in March 2022. 73, Bill W3SI
Photo is of my new QRP radio Kit that I built and used for WES in March.



This month: Short of days. Long on fun.
73, Pat W5WTH



Thanks for the Feb. Brag Bonus K9FW and brag qso's. I was cq'ing at a park in Orlando FL and also was W1aw/4 during Hamcation. We enjoyed the warm Florida wx. We had to return to WI which was a 60 degree drop. 73, WB9TFF Donna



Had some antenna issues and that knocked me down a bit plus a bit of K3Y lag... I'll be picking up speed with fixed antenna and some new antennas. 73, Jerry WA4JK

Bad, Really Bad!

Neutron walks into a bar, asks how much for a martini. The bartender says, "For you, no charge."

Never trust an atom.... they make up everything.

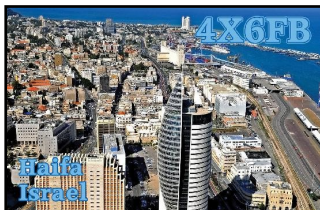
An atom walks into a bar and says: "I lost an electron!" Bartender says: "Are you positive?"

After a long day a frazzled string went into a bar that posted "no strings allowed". When the bartender looked at him and said "aren't you a string?" the string replied, "nope I'm afreyed knot"

I caught my son chewing on electrical cords.

So I had to ground him. He's doing better currently. And conducting himself properly ... just a phase I hope

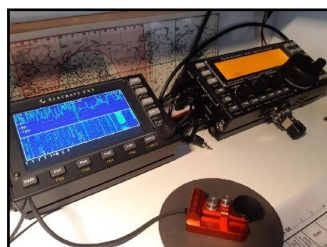
March WES 2022



73, Aaron 4X6FB



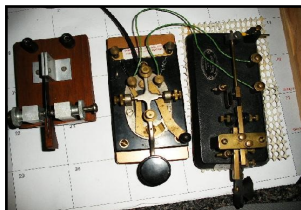
A QSO here and there throughout the WES. Surprised to work Max, KH6ZM at 0234Z on 20 meters. Strongest I have ever heard him and he copied my 5 watts fine. 73 all, Peter AK3X



Great fun even QRP on this side of the pond! 73, Jose CT7AFI



TS-590SG + multiband GP antenna + my good old 1940's Lionel J36 bug key you can see on the photo with its paper clips for slowing it down when needed. Many thanks to all of you and congratulation to Phil K3EW contacted on four bands. Oldrich OK1CBA was contacted on three bands. 73 Bernard F5DE.



I heard a lot of great bug fists this weekend and enjoyed the theme. On Sat. all contacts were made using my 1933 Go Devil bug, made by A.H.Emery in Poughkeepsie, NY. On Sun. all contacts were made using my Kungsimport sideswiper made in Sweden. Only key I have ever seen made with three rubber suction cups to keep it secured to the operating table. It really does a good job. Thanks to all who take part in these events and to those who volunteer their time to make the SKCC club the greatest. " See you next month". 73, Frank AA2XB



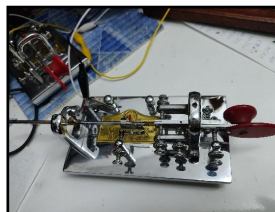
I was impressed by the high fist/timing quality of the signals from all the side swiper / bug operators. Personally I may only operate the straight key (...well so far :). A nice theme and a lot of good "music" to the ears. Thank You! CU 73, DF7TV Tom



Didn't operate as long as planned but was still a lot of fun. Thanks for answering my and all the other QRP signals. We know it's not always easy. See you in the sprint and hopefully brag qso's too. 73, Bud



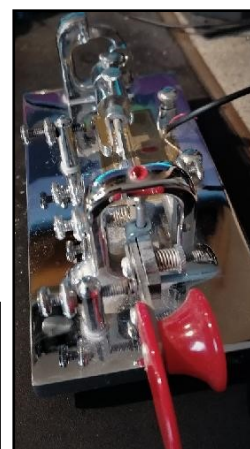
I could not stay longer than about half an hour this time but will certainly participate again. Equipment and key used: IC-7300 adjusted for 5W (QRP) and KT-1 straight key. See you on April ! 73, Joao CT7ABE



Thanks fer qso's dear friends, 73 tu de EA3NO Lluis

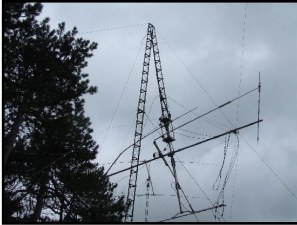


Ran 900mw to the end-fed random wire. Bug used was my old Lafayette Radio Electronics bug purchased via mail order from their catalog back in 1971. I think the price may have been \$14.95. The brass weight you can see through the cover is an Empire Brass Stair Gauge purchased at a local hardware store. Nice hearing some of the NRR rigs on 40M during the WES. Looking forward to the next one. 73, Ted AB8FJ



funny WES as every WES condx could be better here on my side. 73 es hear you on the bands Joerg DL9YCS

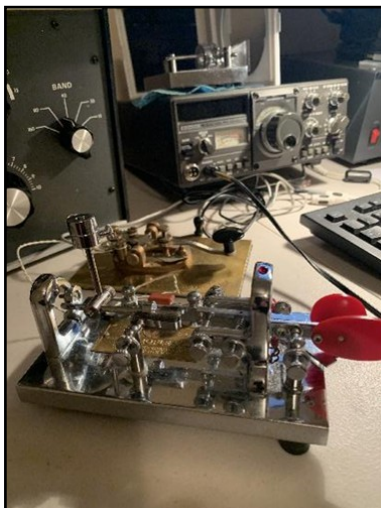
March WES 2022 II



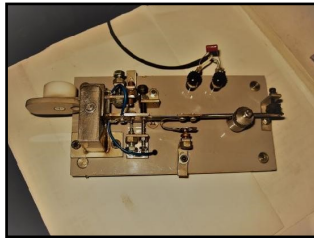
Very nice WES and many QSOs on 15 m. lots of stations on multiple bands and new numbers. Unfortunately my beam suffered from the wind during the night from Monday to Tuesday. Here is the photo of the Fritzell triband tri elements. I hope to fix for the next WES. Thank you for all these QSOs. 73, Bob F6EJN



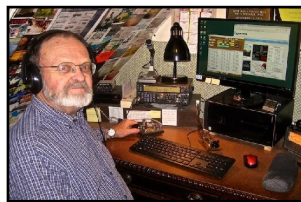
Always good to hear everyone. 15/20 was my hang out for this month. So many nice fists it is a tough call. KH6ZM, K6KHP, and the SS ops are awesome. 73 Thank to all Rick K0KEX 5220S I used my 1959 Blue Racer...it is so smooth



Thank you all. 73, Frank F8DTU



MNI TKS TO ALL ! I hope to see you again. 73, Take JR2IUB from near Mt. Fuji Japan.



Condx pretty good. Nice to see action on 15 and 10! Vy 73 til next time. Lee K1LEE



What little time had playing on the radio was on 20m. 11 QSO's and thanks to CT7AFI, CT1BQH, K3WW, EA5FID, OK1CBA, I4IKW, EA4DWJ, SP7OGP, N9CB, W1GF, KR2Q. Kenwood TS440s 100 watts, vertical. Keys used - Marconi PS No213a big pump key and a Vibroplex Twin Lever Bug #70585 from 1919. 73, John G0RDO SKCC 2133s



Set my goal of 50 contacts and that is what I made. Ran 75 watts from my TS-590SG using a Kent KT1 Straight Key. Maybe someday I'll learn how to use a side swiper (hi hi). Fun event and thanks to all who made contact with me. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Always a fun weekend at WES. Good propagation in 20 meters, with the band of 40 meters that still defends itself well, giving me the opportunity to complete some qso with qrp stations. First qso for me during the wes in 160 meters, with PG4I and his new vertical, with good signals around s9. For the theme of the wes in March, I set up the shack with two bugs, so I can operate QRS at about 10 wpm and QRQ at 18 wpm. I specifically used two #4 Blue Racers (father and son) class 1922/1962. See you next time! 73, Mark I4IKW

As they say, "the best laid plans...." And "timing is everything". So my fairly new Yaesu FTdx10 ceased producing power output after I made a band change from 40 to 80 on Thursday night. Luckily my bud Dennis, N8IVN, had a spare rig, his old TS130SE, which he offered to me. Now this is a mobile rig essentially with a Noise blander for mobile type noises and no other noise reduction offering other than a Narrow 500Hz CW filter. This did reduce the noise to a tolerable level. So, this weekend became my "use the old rig" weekend. Luckily it drove my AI-80 A to full output and the keying characteristics were not objectionable. My hearing was definitely put to the test but I managed to almost equal my normal WES weekend output. The demonstrated proficiency of both the Bug operators and the sideswiping cootie users were truly exemplary. It is a testament to SKCC as a group that these operating events provide a much welcomed on the air exercise which leads to high degree of proficiency exhibited across the board. As a long time bug user, I heard very little of the OLE BUG SWING which used to be prevalent in my early days, and I've got to say that most bug and cootie users were getting pretty close to perfect character, letter and word spacing. Kudos to you all. I am proud to be part of this first class group of telegraphers. As to the conditions that I observed: MEH Yes there was a short daylight opening on 20 to VK land on Saturday, conditions to Eu on 20 both days was not great, 15 was much below what it had been the past two weeks, 40 was great inside of US but not great to EU, 10 was almost useless unlike the previous two weeks. Activity level was a bit lower than I expected but I think some of the slower copying speed members might have shied away from all the Cooties and Bugs. Kudos to the participants - I saw very little of folks stepping on or being stepped on. Very courteous weekend was my observation. Let's keep that up gang. 73, Phil K3EW to all and again thanks to all of the QRPers who really gave my ears a work out with me at the helm of a new 1980's vintage transceiver.. Pix of Vibro Original and TS130SE shown

March WES 2022 III



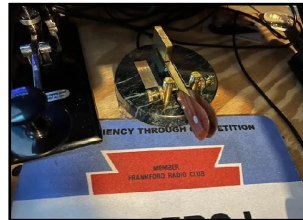
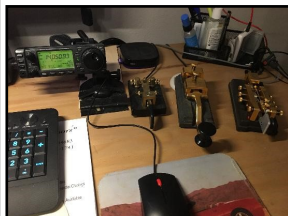
Fun to brush up on Cootie! 73, Mike K3WAS



I only had a couple of hours on Sunday for this WES, but I love using my semi-automatic keys, and loved hearing the music of many bugs and cooties, and the unique swings or lilts imparted by their ops. 73, Frank K8FAC



I only made it for the final 1.5 hours. Used my Bunnell sideswiper. With all the talk about cootie keys recently I expected to hear more of them, but only worked four, vs twelve bugs. Everyone sounded pretty good to me. Thanks for the QSOs. 73 and a tap o' the key to all, Drew AF2Z



Nice to have enough free time to play this weekend. Missed only ND for WAS 141 bug QSOs and 53 cooties. All my QSOs except 3 were made with the cootie. Almost felt like I was getting the hang of it near the end. 73, Chas K3WW



Thanks for all the QSO's. I ran my old KNWD TS-820 with the Autek Research IC active filter-QF-1 (boy that helped with the QRM last night on 40) and enabled me to work I4IKW (Thanks Mark) 73 to all Larry K8TEZ



I believe this is my best WES yet. I used a QCX mini on 20 meters in my car with a Shark ham stick on a mag mount. 73, Greg AI5EQ

Snowbird operating from Tarpon Springs Fl 50ft wire out to a tree. 73, Ray K9EYT



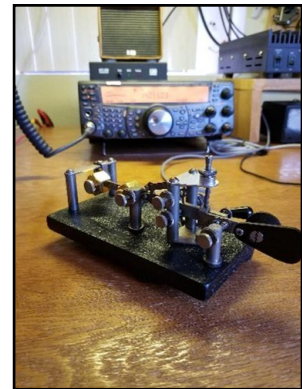
I used the increased activity of a WES weekend to try out a new quick-setup portable antenna I pieced together (a GabilRadio GRA7350T coil/whip, mounted on a tabletop stand from Amazon, using a bracket made on a friend's milling machine, and 3 radials). 73, Dave K6NIA



Snowbird portable operations from Mesa, AZ. 20m operations only. Overhaul good activity. Great time. IC7300 & J38 Key to a Gotham Vertical. Stay Tuned and 73, Daryl K9QEW



Thanks to all who participated in making WES so much fun. The Novice Rig Roundup was also this weekend, so I used my original novice rig (TS-120S) to make contacts in both events. Everyone have fun and God bless you & your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Sorry I don't get on much, but glad to have passed out some bonus points with my '42 Lionel Bug. 73, Art K7DWI



Another fun wes. Reached my goal of 100 qosos early Sunday. Used a different cootie this time. A single lever paddle kit for KX3/KX2 from QRP Guys that I built a few years ago. I see it is discontinued now. Works pretty good after getting used to the small lever. Had several good fist comments. Needed to change KX3 settings to handkey to make it act like a cootie. 73, Randy K8ZAA



March WES 2022 IV



That was a fun one! Great to be a bonus stations. I used the cootie for most of the contacts but did use the bug for a few. Was one of my off days with the bug so did not subject to many to my bad fist. HI HI. Got 5 on 15 meters Saturday afternoon. Used the IC 7610 @ 70 watts and the doublet antenna. Look for you in the egg hunt next month. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Had a lot of fun working some SKCC Qs while finishing up Novice Rig Round Up with the old 2NT, HA5 vfo and SPR-4. Very excited to work Max from KH6 on 10 and 15 with the old stuff. Thanks to everyone I worked. 73, Scott ka9p



On vacation in Arizona for this month's event. I set up the KX-3 in a local park, running 12/15 watts to a home brew 53 foot end fed antenna up 25-30 feet. Beautiful weather but only had about an hour to play. Thanks to everyone who contacted me. 73, Warren KC9IL



Short time this weekend, but always fun. Also nice to get back to the cootie at least once per year. The photo shows 6 ways I can send CW, although I only use the keyboard for 30+ wpm contests. 99% of my CW is on the J-38, including PO-TA activations! 73, Steve KC5F



Strange conditions from Texas this WES. Was in-between working and playing WES this weekend. It was time to start working the yard over and getting ready for summer. Hope we are now past the cold weather down here. The trees are trying to bud but they still are not sure what to do. As always, I enjoy the WES contests and have a ton of fun on the radio. Till next month hope everyone stays safe and best 73 from "The Lone Star State" Doug KG5YTS



Thank you everyone for the fun WES. I used a 1956 Vibroplex Standard and a Vizkey Vertical Bug. Thank you to my friend Tom WB3FAE for letting me use it. Still trying to get him to join SKCC hi hi. 73, Eric KB3NSK



Like most everyone else, too much to do and too little time to do it all ... but I needed to squeeze out a little time for this WES. Great fun! I'm not great using my bug but love the feel of satisfaction after a good contact. Thanks to all who endured the pain while copying me ... Hi Hi. Always fun to work some familiar contacts too ... and 20 was open for me. Using my ole' Les Logan Speed-X, among others, I was delighted to work Bob (F6EJN) and Max (KH6ZM) on Sunday. Finally, celebrating an anniversary of sorts ... 50 years this month as a licensed amateur radio operator ... its been a wonderful hobby for life. 73 my friends Bill KE3O



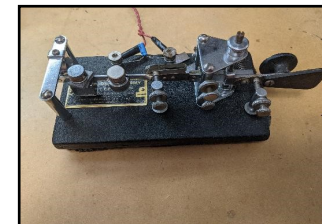
Wow, that last few minutes are really intense! Thanks to all who participated and especially the folks making it happen in the background. Pic is of Novice rig and regular indoor station. 73, Carl KC4FLT



It still takes concentration, but I think I can use a Cootie key well enough for everyday use now. Both paddle keys in the picture are wired as side swipers. All my contacts were made /SS. 73, Tim KE4KE



Not very serious just having fun. Mostly only use the Intrepid these days. 73, Brian KC6F



Restored J-36 1940's. Thanks for the Q's. 73, Jim KG4IKQ

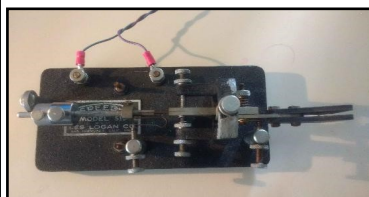
March WES 2022 V



Another limited time weekend, but as always a fun one! I'll look forward to another. Thanks folks for the contacts. CU AGN DWN THE LOG 73, KK0I jack



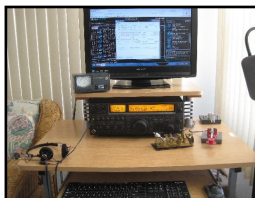
Just received a new AME Bush-wacker paddle kit this week. Wanted a key to use as a dedicated sideswiper. Put it together on Thursday and made my first ever SS QSO's in the WES. Really like the key, but it does take some getting used to after using a Bug and Vibrokeyer for 25 years! Thanks to those who put up with my "learning mode" fist. Hope to get better as time goes on and looking forward to getting the SS portion of the Triple Key done. 73, Ed KJ4R



Spent some time on 15 meters looking for IN my last state needed for 5BWAS. Used my Speed-X Model 515 bug made by Les Logan Co. in San Francisco. 73, Lee N8LJ



Worked both the WES and NRR. The Bands were in decent shape. I worked a Total of 102. There were 99 NRR and 27 SKCC WES Contacts. 24 were neither SKCC nor NRR. 80M = 8, 40M = 85, 15M = 9. I used the Drake 2NT XMTR via XTAL control. Also the Heathkit HW-16 XMTR/HG-10B VFO and Kenwood TS-590 (sometimes in SPLIT) Moved the 1945 Vibroplex Lightning Bug between the 2 operating positions by using a 1/8 Jack on a Western Electric SK at the Novice position and one on the 1972 Speed-X SK near the KNWD TS-590S. I used the NRR Contest Log then used a conversion program. NRR Contest Log/Excel/Text then to ADIF to upload to a SKCCLogger file I named ...NRR2022.adi. 73, Rick KN8RHM



Last WES from FL until next winter. Lots of activity with the higher bands opening, especially DX! Lots of good sounding cooties too. Icom 775DSP at 200 watts and resonant dipoles at 30 feet. 73, Ken N8KR



Congrats all SKCC! Nice theme + Good PROP = Lot of FUN It's been a long time since I've done so many great DX's, nice to meet again old friends Randy, KB4QQJ & Al, N4OW QSO Stats: 9 > 21MHz - 37 > 28MHz TA33 - 30W - Home Made DSK (Bunnell G replica). TU everyone for the QSOs. BCNU 73, Walt



This taught me that side-swipers can indeed be used well -- some of you have amazing fists on those things! Thanks for your patience as I try to master my bug. I've loaded the thing with weights, but can't slow down the dits to match the dahs when I try to QRS. Now I know why all the old-timers had such a swing when they worked me as a novice four decades ago; they slowed down the dahs but couldn't slow down the dits. I've ordered a Vari-Speed from Vibroplex, so hopefully my fist will be better next time you work me. I didn't spend much time on WES this time due to the QSO Virtual Ham Expo (see my screens in the photo), but still had a great time. 73, Todd N0IP



I built a junk-box Cootie/Side Swiper and did a few weeks practice while collecting number for my initial 'S'. I appreciate the pointers from old hands and the patience of those who stuck with me in the air. Best of all - finished up my 200 contacts for that first 'S' and had FUN doing it 100% on the Side Swiper. P.S. That is a 1 pound chunk of lead resting on the back of the HB key to help keep it in place. 73, Joe N0HOV



15 Was a lot of fun Saturday and Sunday. 10 meter activity was quite low. Great to work Walt LW3EX on 10 ! Nice to work so many Sides Swipers. I love sending on mine . 73 de AL,



Great to hear so much activity. 73, Marty N9SE

March WES 2022 VI



Elecraft k2 5wts g5rv n/s inv vee 35ft. 38 qsos at 5wts for QRM hihi.. only on 40mtrs this WES.. tnx to the SKCC board mbrs.. i guess they are busy selling cootie keys from w1sfr.. hi.. i now have ONLY 84 keys hr to make LEGAL QRM..hihi.. I'll put the k2 away now, and use my kx2.. i have only 4 elecraft rigs, qrp ones... so, tnx to all and all takecare and c u in April, time flies.. hi.. this VERTICAL bug was made 8 yrs ago.. i have more..

So,,, 73, Dave Larsen
n9zxlqrp@gmail.com



Busy weekend between WES and making some last minute NRR contacts! Saturday I used my K3 with a Bencher RJ-2 key. Sunday I used my IC-7610 with a J-3. Antenna was an OCF dipole at 30'. Thanks to all the bug and SS ops! 73, Bill NZ0T



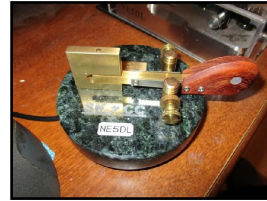
73, Jerry WA4JK



Yes, boys and girls, that's what the bands are supposed to sound like with good propagation (solar flux was almost 130 Saturday), only to get better as the solar cycle moves on. Sure made WES fun. I worked all continents except AF with 5W QRP on 15M and 20M. Worked 40M after local sundown Saturday. Worked 44 bugs and cooties. My bug was an old 1938 McElroy bug (Mac key). I was surprised at the good fists and easy copy from most of the / Bugs and /SS. Hope most has as much fun as I did and worked some of our DX friends . 73, Paul NA5N



Nice to hear so many bugs on the bands! I made my first SKCC QSO on 160 meters with I4IKW this WES. Thanks Mark! Antenna in the picture. 73, Jo PG4I



Fun Wes worked /ss. 15 M opened for a while. 73, Dave NE5DL



73, Steve NN0SS



Thank you to all those who make these Sprints so much fun! C U next month! 73, Steve NQ8T



Used a bug for the whole thing, am out of shape on the SS, and didn't want to make a mess of things. Note the clothespin on the VizKey Vertical in the picture. Did just what I needed for most QSO's. Fun to take it off for some, though. Heard some really nice SS fists this weekend. Our craft has improved in the last few years. Good conditions overall - 15meters was great on Sunday. Thanks to all who participated. A fun weekend. 73, John W1TAG

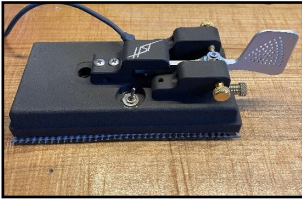


Loads of fun lot of stations on the bands. 73, Nee NE9EE



Saturday was snowy and blustery. That's was my excuse to play radio...I did play (read that as shovel) in the snow a little bit. From 1200 UTC to 2400 UTC I only logged 22 QSOs. The bands were spotty and I never sat down for a long, continuous period of time. Early Sunday 0100-0130 UTC, the spotty trend continued...I watched the ACC Championship game. After that, 40m was pretty good. Moved to 80m and that wasn't so good. I moved the clocks 1 hour ahead and went to sleep. Daylight hours on Sunday - sunny and breezy - included radio and playing (read that as shoveling, walk behind snow blower, and tractor snow blower use) in the snow. The bands were better and my radio time was more concentrated. My QSO rate was much better than Saturday's, but, like Saturday, I didn't spend any long continuous periods of time on the key. All in all, it was a very enjoyable WES. There were a lot of good fists out there. I apologize for my sloppy sending. At times, my fist just wouldn't cooperate with my brain. I definitely have room for improvement - that's a benefit of operating in these SKCC events - great practice. 40, 20, and 15 were decent producers, 80 and 10 not so much. It was a pleasant surprise to have I4IKW, Mark, call me on 40 late Saturday UTC. Europe is tough from here. Thank you for hearing my QRP station and getting me in your log. I appreciate the opportunity to participate and am grateful to those that organize the SKCC events. The SKCC Logger is awesome. I hope to hear you in the next one...I hope you hear me! 73, Will NQ2W

March WES 2022 VII



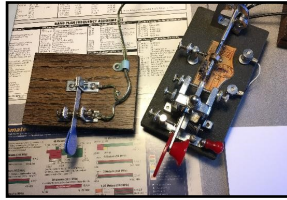
I have really been enjoying trying to be more active in the SKCC events. One of these times it will fall during a time when I don't have so many other things going on. Operated with my K3 at 75w into an 80-10 EFHW and I used my Begali HST Mark III in side-swiper mode. Thank you to all who put up with my sloppiness as I try to learn the cootie. 73, Vin W1VKE



As always, lots of fun. 73, Drexel W4DHT



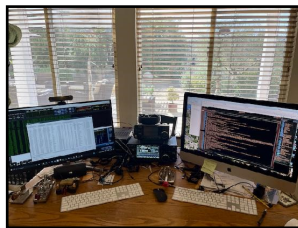
Thanks, guys and gals, for the QSOs! I heard some outstanding SS/Cootie, Bug, and Straight Key fists this weekend. It was great fun! Pictured is the SS/Cootie I used for most contacts. 73 es ZUT Chip W9EBE



Great theme ! Used my Home Brew Cootie and 1945 vintage Vibroplex bug. Worked some FB bug and Cootie fists. Not much time, but lot's of fun. 73, Jim W1WIU



Cootie Power! (an unrelated image....) 73, Pat W5WTH



I always use my bug for WES but it's fun to have other get points for making a contact with me. Only worked about 9 hrs on Sunday (make a couple on Saturday morning. 20 worked great for me and 15 did ok. Finished off the day (1st day of DST) with a contact to my friend Take-san JR2IUB. A good way to end a fun



Best overall condx in a very long time. Didn't have a lot of time, so I concentrated on trying for the maximum number of SPC's. First time in quite a while that I had QSO's on all bands, 10-160 and had contacts with both HI and AK as well. 15 was hopping at times. Even squeezed myself into the contest on 160 to bag 3 Q's there. Over half of the stations I worked (41/77) were using either a Bug or a SS. Most sounded very very good. I split my time about 50% using the Begali Intrepid bug and my Twanger sideswiper. Rig: K3 and KPA-1500. Ants: Full wave 160m horizontal loop and the OB yagis for 20-10. A very enjoyable WES. 73 de Dave W3NP West Virginia



Was operating from my campground hopefully the last of the winter camping season. Tested out a new Bioenno 30 amp hour battery which works great. All contacts made using an old Navy Flameproof, Yaesu 857 @ 25 watts to a L&R Par 40m end fed. Thanks all for the QSOs. 73, Mike W8MDE

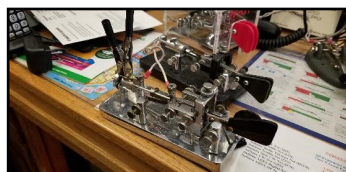


Completed this WES with a radio I built, (tr)uSDX and it was enjoyable. It took me a while to get used to tuning in stations and changing bands but the CAT control made it easier. I had between 3.7 and 4.8 watts output into a LNR EFHW QUAD at 15' and the low end at 6'. Challenging and fun together. Thanks to everyone who stuck with me on my QRP quest. A couple more at this level before I go to QRPP level. 73, Bill W3SI



It was "challenging", I would call it. Solar storm. Three state QSO parties. Fewer people answering my CQs relative to RBN spots. So, overall, fewer QSOs per hour compared to other WESSs. Still, a lot of new faces and old friends. A bunch of CA contacts on 15m and 20m, which is very unusual. So, fun nonetheless! And got some good bug practice on my BK-100; finally starting to be able to use a light touch. 73, Jordan W7VC

March WES 2022 VIII



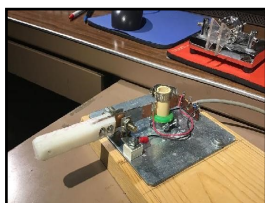
Wow, tough weekend! 1. Our Anniversary and celebration associated with that. 2. Big Ten basketball tournament that I wanted to watch. 3. WI QSO party on Sunday afternoon which resulted in QRM and numerous bogus non-WES replies. 4. NCAA tournament selection program that I wanted to watch. Oh my, hard to work WES when priorities just outweigh operating time allotted. I managed to work quite a few anyway. de W9GT



Very little time to get on the air. I really enjoy these events. Heard a lot of good bug and SS fists. Band conditions were pretty good from my perspective. Used the old Novice Rig Roundup stuff for all QSO's: Eico 720 w/vfo plus Drake 2B Rx. I switched between my 1938 McElroy Bug, 1957 Vibroplex Original Deluxe and my favorite, the Begali Sculpture Swing. 73, Mike WB0SND



Enjoyable WES, I mostly worked 20 M with an excursion to 15 M and 40 M. Had some DX activity both days. Did all contacts as /bug. Thanks for all the good QSO's. 73, Gene W9KMK



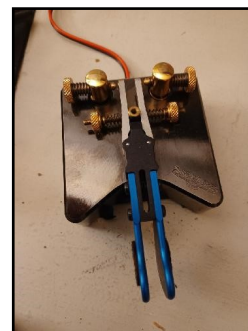
Had planned to participate in the March 2022 WES. However, I only realized there was a Bug/Cootie bonus on the day before the WES began. I scrounged my "stash" and found stuff to home brew a Cootie Key from what I had laying around. See the included picture. It might be ugly, but it sure is slow! Hi Hi. 73, Dave WJ0Z



Enjoyable sprint with good signals and band conditions. Good to have 15 meters open also. The sprint theme gave me an opportunity to hopefully gain back some skills on the bug. Everyone did a great job on the keys and side swipers! That's me and my twin brother testing out the Heathkit receiver project in 1960 A.D. Thanks to all and 73 from Yukon Oklahoma Gerald WA5AFD



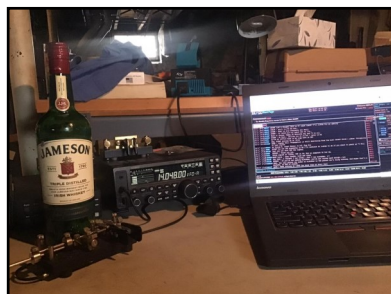
Hacksaw blade cootie that I put together this week. 73, Brian WB4IT



Great WES. From the middle (TX) got out in all directions. A lot of daytime activity on 15, including Japan and Spain. The forest was alive with song! Picture is my new (used) Begali Simplex wired as a cootie and built like a tank. It has a nice feel. 73, Ken WA5RSR



Could only get on Sat but a lot of activity. really enjoyed myself. I loved the theme es handed out both /bug es /ss. 73, Les WB5JWI



Smooth Operation!

Now "THIS" is smooth operating! This fine picture is from the shack of KD1JT:

Dennis KD1JT.....Booze...To honor the day ... hey, it's 1700 UTC somewhere!

Above and Beyond

Many of you have commented on what a great club SKCC....and you're right but it's a result of the many fine people who go "above and beyond" what is expected of them. One of these members is the "Membership Manager" Randy, N8KQ. Randy helps members join, change their calls and often goes "above and beyond" his normal duties. Here's an example of Randy's "help" that goes far above and beyond his normal efforts. This was sent to me, enjoy....and be thankful for members like Randy who volunteer for club management.

Ted I am just sending the translations between Orestes and I. All this was done by me using Google translate in all email correspondence between us. Spanish to English for me to understand, then my reply's in English translated to Spanish, copy to notepad, then re-copy to email. Had to use Notepad to get rid of the Translate structure of the page (boxes&fonts) This took 3 days to get accomplished.

1.

Dear colleagues. I am the CL3OR with number 22215s and by this means I let you know that I take exams to raise my category and I was approved, so my callsign changed to CM3OR. I would like to know how I identify myself from now on in the Group with my new callsign..

I wait for an answer to know if you change it.

Fraternally.

Orestes.Thanks. 73.

2.

Hello Orestes,

Congratulations on your update and new callsign.

Here is the link to update your information on SKCC. "Link"

Enter your old callsign and click Submit. On the update form, check option number 1 and type in your new callsign. At the bottom of the page, enter your email address twice, then click Submit Changes. That's all and I will receive and update it for you.

Thank you

73..Randy N8KQ SKCC #8934S SKCC Membership Manager
SKCC QSO Group Manager

3.

I did all the steps but I don't show up as CM3OR.

Wait. Thanks.

Orestes

22215s. (I never received any update request)

4.

Orestes,

I went to make the switch for you to update your call sign to CM3OR, but that call sign belongs to someone else. It is noted that CM3OR belongs to Ovidio Ramirez. So now I'm confused. Can you explain why it shows this? Maybe there is a bug with the call sign? Please let me know.

Thanks Randy, N8KQ

5.

Comrade Ovidio Ramirez died 15 years ago, so my indicative statement was given to me.

Thanks. I am looking forward to your response.

73.

6.

Orestes, I have a hard time wondering how a person who has been a silent key for 15 years is still listed on QRZ.com. If I change your call sign to CM3OR, anyone who looks it up in QRZ will see that different information and I'll get lots and lots of emails. Is there a way for you to have that updated information in QRZ? Or what should we do? I really want to help you, but this is a strange situation. Do you have any paper or anything showing that CM3OR is now your call sign? So I can show the other board members that the call sign is now yours? I'm sorry for all the confusion and I hope we can sort this out for you. Thanks Randy, N8KQ, 8934S

7. I am sure that something so easy for you will be so difficult for me. But I live in CUBA.
73

8.

I understand your problems with QRZ. Let me see what I can do to help you get your QRZ information updated with the new call sign. It may be tomorrow before I email you again as I am going to seek help from other SKCC Board of Director members. I am sure between us we should be able to help you get this all fixed up for you. I will email you as soon as I have some information for you. Take Care Orestes and I will get back to you. Thank You es 73 Randy, N8KQ,8934S

9.

Hello Orestes,

I have sent a support ticket to QRZ asking for help on how to get the new call sign (CM3OR) changed to show your information. I will let you know as soon as I hear from them. Thank You Randy, N8KQ,8934S

10.

Hello Orestes, We have been able to solve the problem. After explaining this to the QRZ staff, they were able to update CM3OR to show you as the current holder of the call. They may have been in touch with you, I am not sure, but I have updated your SKCC information and you should have received confirmation of that. So all is good now and hope to hear you on the air some time soon. Take Care Orestes and 73

11.

Dear brother. You do not know the favor you have done me, from here everything is very difficult. The connections are very slow and they drop adding to the problem of the language that they do not allow to have a translator. I thank you again and if one day you travel to Cuba I offer you my house with all my heart for you and your family.

Eternally grateful.

CM3OR 73

12.

Good Morning Orestes,

Thank You for the very kind offer of your home if I ever get to travel to Cuba one day, I am very grateful. I am just glad that we were able to get your information on QRZ and in SKCC all updated for you. If you ever need anything else, Please let me know. Take Care my friend and hope to hear you on the air for a qso soon. 73 Orestes.. Randy, N8KQ, 8934S

Randy N8KQ SKCC #8934S

SKCC Membership Mgr

SKCC QSO Party Mgr

March SKS 2022



Celebrating my 15th year this month in SKCC. It's been a fun trip. Ran my TS-590SG at 75w to a vertical using a Kent Str Key. Managed to find the bonus station as well. Thanks all for the contacts. See y'all next month. Curt K2CWM NJ



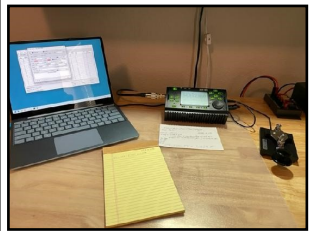
Only had a few minutes but I always enjoy the activity. See you next month. 73, Bob K3ZGA IC-7300 at 100 watts to a 40M Delta Loop. Keys were a PB213 a Begali Swing and Intrepid



Lot of fun, good to see 20M open to the West Coast. Thanks to all who pulled out my 4W QRP signal. 73 Steve K4JPN



1st Sprint with my latest acquisition. I absolutely love this key! 73, Fredrick K8NGW



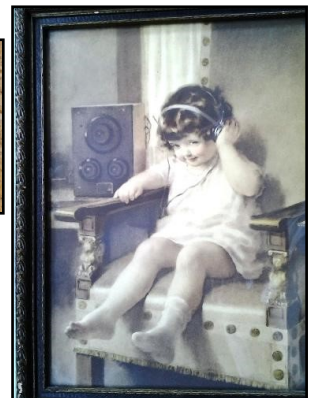
My QRP SKS with wire antenna. Sure made things more interesting! Thanks to all who pulled my signal out! It was good to hear so many participating....73 Jim-KA6J



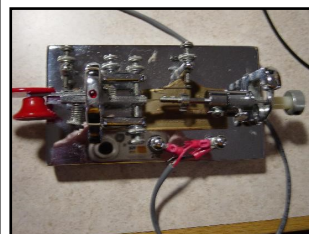
15 meters was still open at sprint time, so I was able to work NQ2W with a great signal. Didn't get to stay much longer. FT 817, 80 meter dipole, and CWMORSE Straight Key. 73, Terry KE5YUM



Been a while since my last SKS, but had a great time mostly on 40 meters. Used the 7300 and the KN4YB dual paddle right-angle bug. Thanks for all the contacts folks! CU down the log...73, jack KK0I



there tonight & almost everyone was 599 here. Thanks to all for the QSO's...73, Larry K8TEZ



I kept "looozing" my frequency after the 1st hour so bounced around on 40 & 80. ALWAYS NICE to have Randy & Larry get me right off!!!! TNX! all! 72, Steve NQ8T



Another fun evening. Nice to work Rich-W4RQ on 20 (FL to FL!) Only worked one station from IN . . . thanks - W9HT! Spent the first 45 minutes on 20 meters with lots of activity. 40 was very noisy but was productive. Will be back in Indiana next month! The picture of the sunset was taken minutes before SKS - and as we watch the sun disappear we all sing, "God Bless America." 73, Ken N8KR



Good conditions on 40 tonight. Operating from our home on the road ... 73, Dennis N4NR



First hour was pretty iffy, switching between 20 and 40M.. But the second hour was great on 40M. Thanks all! Used my Icom IC-7610, OCF dipole at 30' and a J-38 key. 73, Bill NZ0T



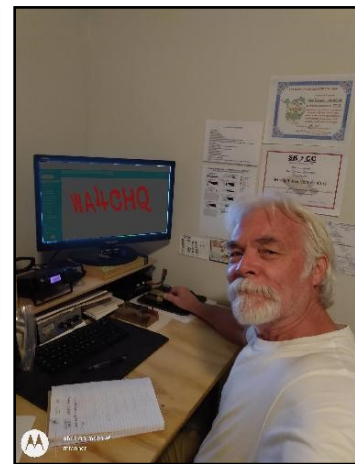
March SKS 2022 II



Last hour this time on 40 and 80. Vertical on 40, inverted vee on 80. Great QRP fun! Next time 2 hours! 73, Bob VE3KZ



Only had limited time but fun event as always. Spent almost entire time on 40 meters. As others have said, it sure is good to hear condx improving. See you all next month / semper cw. 73, Dave W1DV



Well, that was fun! Using my FT-817nd @ 1w to a Delta Loop. Key used was a cootie. 40m was hopping. Tried 80 and 20 but 1w wasn't cuttin' it. 73, Neil WA4CHQ



Another FUN SKS ! 73, Rich W4RQ Photo is at the Orlando Hamcation in Feb 2022

CW to the Rescue!

Here's a submitted brief, but unusual CW-Story. About 3 A.M recently, I was awakened hearing S O S repeatedly from a nearby car horn. Grabbing an extra-long metal flashlight, I dashed down stairs Pronto. to the nearest carport; to find a stranger sitting in her car. I asked her, if she was the one sending "Emergency Help Needed" on her car horn? She smiled, replying "Yes." Then asked me if I had an automatic-gate opening device, because she didn't have one to get out ! Adding, that she guessed a response might be quicker, if she sent S O S instead of the normal "leaning on a car-horn" ritual. Looking at her watch, she ended with - "You responded in under 30-seconds"! de John, WE4-IAS.

Jefferson, WI Hamfest March 27, 2022



Jim KD9GDY

When I contacted the Jefferson, WI Hamfest organizer regarding a table for SKCC, he was very enthusiastic about having us there since it would be the 1st time SKCC would be represented at this event. They made us feel very welcome.

I set up the table with a straight key, a bug and a cootie. I had them all connected to my MFJ 442D electronic keyer (Oscillator). Quite a few people stopped to test out the different keys and to chat about the keys they use. My left-handed bug threw a few for a loop though. Hi Hi.

I was happy to have 19 SKCC members sign in and 3 new members sign up. Each one received an SKCC button to sport on their hats, vest, etc.... The turnout was more than I had expected and has me looking forward to having a table at future hamfests in the area. Thank you Ken, N8KR and Ed, WA9BBN for being an example for me to follow.

73, de KD9GDY

Jim Plummer

SKCC #18156S



Pictured L to R are:

W9GOC, NO9B, WA9AVS, K9TVG, KD9GDY, W9XAN, KX9RT, N9AFR, WB9EGZ

March Brag 2022



What a fun month. Lots of great contacts. Worked KA4UPI this morning. Just in time. Thanks Everyone have a great April. The picture posted is reality this week. Still Snowing in North East Ohio. Be safe out there and remember to call CQ. 73, Bud AA8CL



I used my Club Call, KN8RHM for the NRR (Novice Rig Roundup) between March 5th and March 13th. I had quite a few SKCC member contacts too J Using the Rigs pictured and moving the 1945 Vibroplex Lightning Bug between this position and the Kenwood TS-590S position by using a 1/8 jack on the Western Electric STR Key at the Novice position and the 1972 Speed-X STR Key near the TS-590S. Many thanks to all for the Contacts. Take Care es 73, Rick KN8RHM



73,
James



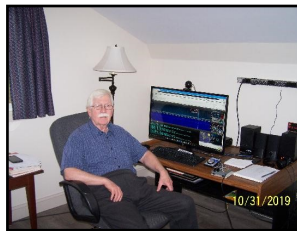
Used either my old IC-7000 or my newer TS-590SG running 50 to 75 watts. Always a straight key. Was able to get the bonus station as well. Always fun. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



IT WAS NICE TO GET BACK FROM GEORGIA AND GET BACK ON THE AIR. 73, Virginia "Sam" KC5SAM



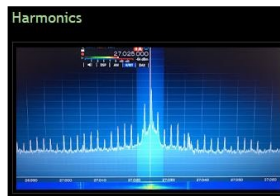
Spent some time at the beginning of the month working the Novice Rig Roundup with my Knight T-60 and Drake 2B - all using crystal control. Wrked a few SKCC stations there. Ended the month with 3 Marathon QSO's trying to get back on track with my Marathon quest. Went more for quality than quantity this month. 73, Dave W3NP



Thanks for QSOs! See you next month. 73, Dave KB1WOD



It certainly was a pleasant surprise to have a few more new member brags than I normally do in a month's time. See you all again next month. 73, Jack KK0I



Unrelated screenshot of CB splatter on the CB 'Super Bowl' channel. 73, Pat W5WTH



March was a disaster month at the W3SI QTH. Antenna was moved and disguised as best as I could, HOA is the DEVIL and noise levels are S9 at best. I will spend some time trying to find/isolate the noise but I think it is a magnitude of issues. Time will tell. 73, Bill W3SI



It is a beautiful day to CW. 73, Tom KB3CVO



Thanks to everyone for the Brag exchanges and Mark, KA4UPI for the Bonus points. I had several first exchanges/ QSO's with new and older members with low numbers. My favorite band is 40M and at times I would still create a mini pileup calling CQ with new members climbing the ladder. I wish all success with their efforts. GL es 73 to all, Rick N8XI

Great month, over 50 QSOs in the month including 2 marathons. 73, Les WB5JWI

Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 2 Issue 9
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.....

CQ WW WPX phone is up this week, have to tend to the station in preparation. Last phone contest was a complete frost, but I'm not discouraged. Not really. (Okay, I'm just a sucker for another contest.) The weather has still not moderated enough to get to my antenna, so I'll just have to trust in it for a while longer.

In the shack, I will download the latest logger and countries list, update the history file and SuperCheckPartial files, test that all the connections work. New CQ files will have to be recorded, as well. I spent some of my off time working on better settings for the various microphones I might be using: Heil Goldline as primary on the boom. Heil ProSet HC5 on the headset. MC-60 desk mic as back-up. Each needs different settings for mic level and processor. Do I put the station monitor back inline? I'll need a new patchcord then.

WPX has an award for unassisted ops, so that makes it an easy choice to not use the spotting network. I generally prefer to be unassisted anyway – who wants to be dropped right onto every pileup, really? The unponderable is how many bands will be usable to me on the day? Sunspots turning into view, no recent CMEs, marginal solar flux numbers. Not expecting to break any records.

.....

It's in the log now. Slow, but I enjoyed it more than ARRL DX a while back. More than 5X as many Qs, some interesting DX, even more DX not worked (barefoot and a low antenna don't help) and some real surprises, like EI100C out of nowhere. Aland Islands showed up for 2 minutes, answered me but was gone before I could send their exchange (drat!) I noticed a lot of the people I worked were similarly struggling to copy others, so I didn't feel lonely at all. A Club member who usually blows my headset off was barely a whisper the few times we crossed paths (relief!) Switzerland, the Bahamas and Estonia were new in my contest logs. A lot of the calls I see most contests were missing, I worked a lot of newbies. I found the usual assortment of lids (few) and gentle-to-newbies (many) operating. 10 was empty and 80 almost so. 15 nudged 20 out of its usual top spot, and 40 bringing up the spare.

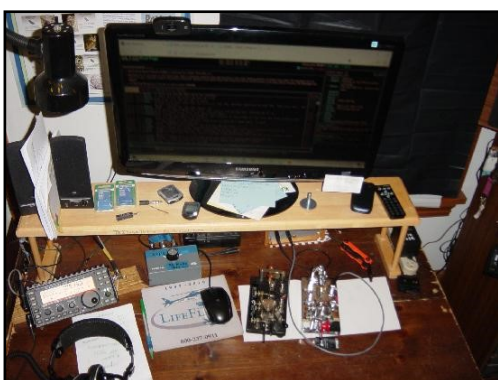
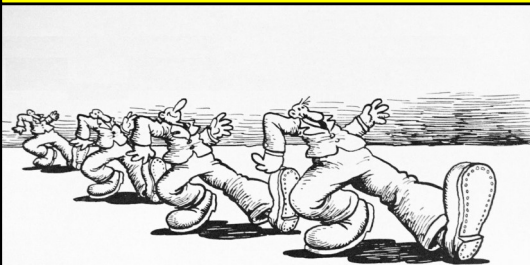
I worked most of the contest with HS-5 headphones and Heil Goldline on the boom, but by Sunday my ears needed a change, so switched to the Heil ProSet. I still don't think I could do a whole contest with it, but it sure is a nice change. The preliminary work I did on the noise filter settings was time well spent, it saved a few Qs in the noisier hours of the day, and no ringing ears in bed. Still more room to experiment on the IF filters in software, not what I want yet.

Spring is sprung, the snow is grey, I'll work on my antenna another day.

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

April Slow Speed Saunter, 2022

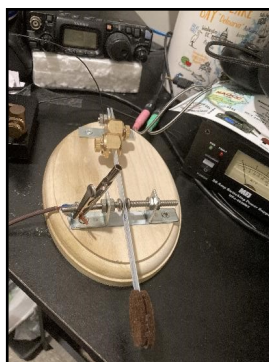
Slow Speed Saunter



Really nice to while away a couple of evenings visiting with old friends and making a few new ones! 73 ... C U all next month. 73, Steve NQ8T



WOW, it was like someone turned off my radio! Bands were way down but still managed to make a few SSS contacts and have a few more chats. Always fun to work the SSS. 73, Randy KB4QQJ



Thank You all for your patience with my side sweeper key. 73, Angel N4SNI

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
N4API	Brian	11673	GA	7
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	5
4X1ST	Tim	20403	ISR	6
IK2CFD	Graziano	22069T	ITA	3
N4SNI	ANGEL	11075S	MD	15
NN3E	Kevin	19625S	MD	5
KB4QQJ	Randy	3508S	NC	13
W1DV	DAVE	1433S	NC	11
AC1GF	Bob	19399S	NH	25
KC1MIU	Robert Butcher	22262	NH	1
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	10
N2RIC	Rich	18534	NJ	2
AA8CL	Carmen "Bud"	2339S	OH	3
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	10
NJ8L	Vern	13613S	OH	49
NQ8T	Steve	5919S	OH	28
N5ILQ	Randy Dunn	23427	OK	6
W4CMG	Cathy	20093S	TN	14
KA5TJS	Allen	5172S	TX	4
W5H	Mike	11770S	TX	5
KK0I	Jack	2370S	WI	6
WB9TFF	Donna	7057S	WI	3
W3NP	Dave	3182S	WV	7

Participants and QSOs by SPC

GA: 1 / 7	IN: 1 / 5	ISR: 1 / 6	ITA: 1 / 3	MD: 2 / 20
NC: 2 / 24	NH: 2 / 26	NJ: 2 / 12	OH: 4 / 90	OK: 1 / 6
TN: 1 / 14	TX: 2 / 9	WI: 2 / 9	WV: 1 / 7	



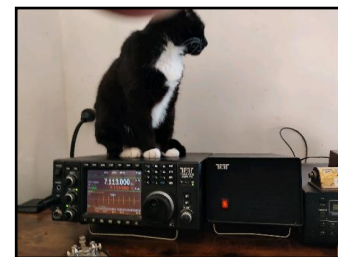
Re-acquainted with a couple of stations that I haven't talked with in a long while. Made a new friend along the way too. Always fun. Have a great April everyone. 73, Bud AA8CL



Had time to get a few contacts in this month. Used the Navy FP for all 7 - trying to keep the speed <13 wpm. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia



Ran 50 watts from my 13-yr old IC-7000 into a multi-band vertical using my 1943 Lionel J38 straight key. A really fun combo. Just sorry I couldn't spend more time in this 24-hr event. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Six of my 11 contacts had numbers higher than 22,000. I was first cw contact for one station, and the first cootie contact for two others. Super low threat level event; see you next month. 73, Dave W1DNV

Youkit Improvements

The following text was gleaned from our reflector and may be of interest to those who have Youkit transceivers.

FYI users of Youkits EK1A and other fixed IF QRP transceivers

From: [Ryuji AB1WX](#)

Date: Fri, 01 Apr 2022 02:09:37 EDT

This is not exactly a straight key topic, but I thought there may be some overlap of interest here.

An unofficial update for Youkits EK1A users. This also applies to other Youkits transceivers with a fixed IF filter bandwidth (EK1C, etc.).

The transceiver's 6.00 MHz IF filter bandwidth is wide enough to hear SSB. This is probably by design, but that is not optimal for CW. Who would listen to SSB with this thing? Not me, so I modified my EK1A to achieve the IF filter bandwidth of about 500 Hz by tripling the shunt capacitors in the crystal lattice network (new values: 330pF for the first three, and 100 pF for the final one). All four of them are SMD and on the top side of the board. The fix works well without perceptible increase in the filter loss at the center frequency. The only "downside" is that I have to turn the dial a bit slower not to miss the signals. I actually prefer that.

Simultaneously, I found a simple fix to eliminate the interference from a nearby cellular tower and other strong RF signals broadly. In my RF-noisy city environment, the receiver now sounds quieter than before. The fix is to add a bunch of bypass caps to the AGC line going from LM386 output to the second SA602 (the detector stage) through the signal strength indicator LED. External interference signals are picked up by the earphone cord and goes through the volume and the LED to reach the detector input. That line benefits from addition of bypass caps. I added a 1uF SMD and a 10nF SMD in parallel to 470uF electrolytic. Then a 10nF shunt on the cathode side of the LED at the volume. Then a 68nF to shunt the volume swiper which goes to the earphone output. All additional components are mounted on the back of the board. This fix also lightens the interference from Radio Habana Cuba at 6000 kHz. At least at my location, I don't hear their carrier beat anymore.

Many thought that the interference came in from the antenna port and through the first SA602 stage (mixer) leakage. There certainly is that pathway, but I found much of the interference came in from the headphone cord.

I also reduced LM386 output coupling capacitor from 100uF to 33uF since the latter is more than enough for 700Hz tone and lightens the unpleasant low frequency pulse when keying.

These fixes require working with SMD components under a microscope, so this is not for everyone, but the mod itself is simple if you read above while referencing the schematic and the board layout.

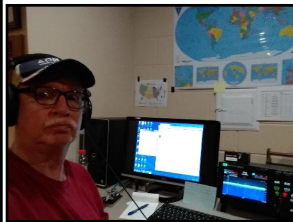
Also, I'm in search for earbuds that have low impedance and high efficiency, 110 dB SPL per mW or better, since this transceiver's AF output is rather weak. The best I found so far is 22 ohm 112 dB SPL per mW. Please let me know if you know a better earphone.

AB1WX Ryuji

WES April, 2022



Thanks to all who answered my first ever WES in Israel. The antenna was an End Fed Half Wave sloping from third floor balcony to the garden below. It was very exciting to log 8 US qso's and one Canadian qso, considering the setup and poor band conditions. Your yagis and amps helped. Giving out Israel Easter Eggs was very nice as well. 73, Ben 4Z1BC aka W4LRB



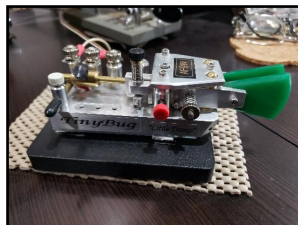
As always a lot of fun. I was surprised to hear one of my CQs answered by Bob in Belize. That was great. 73, Jim AD0AB



Great fun but propagation again not great from here. All my eggy contacts (8) were on 20m and many thanks to F6EJN, CT7AF1, DF9TS, I4IKW, EA7E-GU, EA3NO, IK7FPU, F5RIJ. Kenwood TS-440s 100 watts to a 20ft vertical, key a Marconi PS No213A big pump key, circa 1920s. 73, John / G0RDO / skce 2133s



Fun weekend, couldn't find peter rabbit but did find 6 of his eggs, one of which rolled all the way to France. Nice to have "met" with new and old friends, like Drew, AF2Z and Dave, W1DV who I met at a hamfest about 20 years ago. Rig was a Yaesu FT 891 which I bought to use as a portable but find I am using it daily as a base rig. 100 Watts into a Carolina windom up 35 feet. Key is a WW 11 J-38. Thanks to all that participate in these events. 73, Frank AA2XB



First WES that I spent any time on. Kinda fun actually. Used my "Little Tramp" Tinybug. 73, Bob AF9W



The April WES is always a great event, the elusive "Rabbits" and the "Eggs" along with the "DX" stations made it a fun time. Thanks to all...73, Rick K0KEX



Short and sweet busy weekend between work and family. But scored some points. Thanks, 73 Bud AA8CL



In general the bands during the day were poor, but they were pretty good at night. Was pleasantly surprised to work VK2GR on 20M with my loop. Some good strong European stations booming in at night: F6EJN and I4IKW both 599. Was hoping for more action on 15M, but only 6 QSOs. Photo shows my shack. 73, Bob AC1GF



It was fun being an egg. Band condx not great but fun never the less. 73, Doc K2PHD



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Saturday was very good but Sunday was marked by hellish tape noise. Thank you for all your QSOs and Eggs. Pictured is the new Mosley TA33M antenna. 73 to all and to the next WES. 73, Bob F6EJN



The bands were noisy, and the CW from several state QSO Parties, and the POTA activity didn't help in finding WES stations, but it was huge fun nonetheless, and great to hear so much CW on the airwaves. I also enjoyed being an EGG and a source of bonus points, it's good to feel needed. Happy Easter to all....and Morse Forever!! 73, Frank, K8FAC

WES April, 2022 II



Always a lot of fun the WES, this month nearly one hundred qso. I had prepared a vertical for 10/15 and 20 meters, considering the propagation in the previous days, especially in 28 and 21 MHz. I was glad it had withstood the wind gusts of Thursday and Friday night up to 50 mph, but it did not withstand the rain and snow of Saturday night, with SWR too high to be used, and I had to use the old LW of 122 feet. Propagation not excellent, especially during daylight hours, and more difficult than usual to work in 40 meters. Thanks to all the friends who called me, see you next month! 73, Marco I4IKW



Good run on 80 Sunday morning and 20 that afternoon. Had a noise problem Sunday morning that shut me down. Still not sure where it was coming from but does not seem to be in the shack. Went away about 10:00am. 7610 @ 70 watts and a doublet at 30ft. SS/SK and Bug. 73, Allen KASTJS



Used my BIG Kent hand key, which I purchased directly from Mr Kent about 25 years ago during one of his rare appearances at the Dayton Hamvention. Think the price was around \$66, which is a bargain compared to today's prices. I believe it's one of his first models for sale at the time. The lever is 'inverted' compared to the current Kent wooden-base keys. The tag was inside, which I was pleasantly surprised to find when I took the base off to see in the inside (hi hi). Because of it's huge size it was hard (for me) to maintain 12 or faster WPM, which will make it ideal for our SSS event. Anyway, ran 75 watts from my TS-590SG to a vertical. Always fun... 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



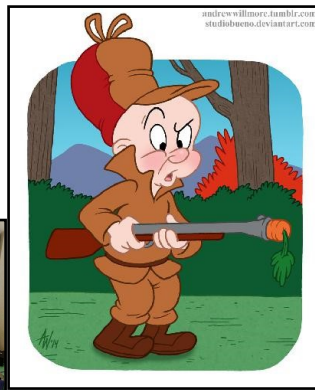
Thank you for the WES contest. 73, Alex KD2SEM



As life would have it, other obligations got in the way of my operating time. I did manage to give away a few eggs, even got the Rabbit once. It was a lot of fun. Thanks to all that made this WES a success. 73, Bill K8MPW



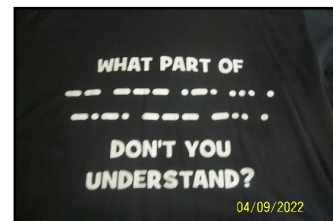
20 sounded good all weekend, hear in WCFL my winter QTH with just 100 watts and a wire in the trees HOA stealth. Tnx for the good reports. 73, Ray K9EYT



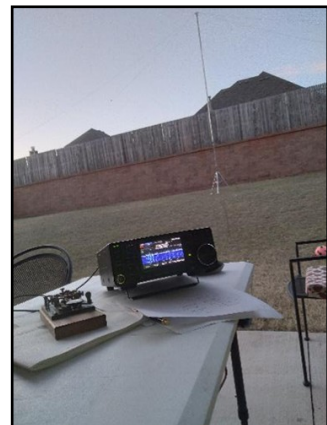
Next year I'm volunteering to be Elmer Fudd, and each time I work a Peter Rabbit he has to change frequency. heh heh heh 73, Randy KB4QQJ



The photo is "Peter Rabbit" with Doris W8AVN & Paul K8USD - Good Friends & Mentors from my old Novice days in 1960 (KN8TEZ) Happy Easter to everyone in SKCC. 73, K8TEZ Larry



Back at home QTH after wintering in AZ. IC7300 & J38 key to a 4BTV. 73s and STAY TUNED! 73, Daryl K9QEW



Had a lot of fun operating in Oklahoma. Used a temporary fan dipole. 20m and 40m 20ft up. Very windy!! Antenna Managed to stay up. Worked a few Saturday and Sunday morning. Thx fer the QSO's everyone. 73, Jim KD9GDY/5

WES April 2022 III



Thanks for all the great QSO's under marginal conditions! 73, Wayne KC5PRK



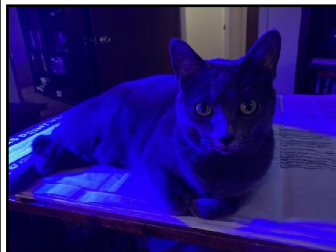
Worked the Rabbit and then 9 Egg stations. This was a lot of fun. In the picture the center two paddles are wired as side swipers and were used last month. 73, Tim KE4KE



Such a fun WES! Recorded the most stations I've ever been able to and got enough (plus some) to reach my T! Thank you to everyone I was able to make a QSO with. Had tons of fun despite weird band conditions on Saturday. 15m helped ease that on Sunday from Texas out west, and even up NE with a path open to NY. Until next month, 73 Colton KE5DXX



Very little time to play but fun just the same. Very surprised and pleased to work Allan (VK2GR) from the land down under... 73, Bill KE3O



Another Easter WES has come and gone. The conditions here in Dallas were bad to put it nicely. Man it was tough here. We had wind warnings all weekend and it created havoc with tree limbs and power lines which in turn made for S-7 noise on 40 meter. The picture is of "My Cadbury Bunny" who kept count of the eggs..... I know there were alot of operators out there and sri to those I could not pull out of the "MUD". In all I still had a great time and it's always a good time to have WES QSO's. Till next time 73 Doug KG5YTS de "The Lone Star State"...



I only made a few contacts in this WES, we are on the road heading to SF to catch a Cruise so I did not have much time. I was operating remote from a motel room in La Pine Oregon. Operating my home station using Google Remote Desktop to control my system and my remote key system to allow using my Vibroplex Bug remotely. Thanks for the contacts! 73, Gordo KG7YU



Another great event. Enjoyed being an Egg. IC7300 and a "droopy dipole" using the 1919 Vibroplex Original and the Begali HST "Cootie" Thanks for the contacts folks. Happy Easter all! Look forward to the next. 73, jack KK0I



KS6KCC, The Easy Copy CW Club, had a great time acting as Peter-Rabbit 🐰. We came out of our rabbit hole 🐰 and hid on each band. We tried to be vewy, vewy quiet, because ops were hunting wabbits! But, we still got caught 356 times! 🐰 We were very happy to hand out Bonus-Points for this WES ☺ A big Thankyou to the Team! 🐰 AI6W Jon 🐰 K6PB Pete 🐰 K6KY



Busy weekend with my grand daughters' birthday on Saturday and at home 'things to do' Sunday. I wasn't able to add to the fray until 1300Z on Sunday, 4/10/22 for 1 Hour and 20 minutes. S&P garnered 14 QSO's Total. Eleven on 40M and Three on 20M. 8 of 43 Eggs and 0 Peter Rabbits. Was fun while it lasted. It's overcast and 55° here today but a couple of weeks ago my antennas looked like this J Thanks & 73, Rich N8XI

Adrian 🐰 K6ZX Steve 🐰 KM4OPN Wayne 🐰 N0CW Chuck 🐰 W1EJ Ed 🐰 W6UG Phil 🐰 WK4WC Lane 🐰 WB1LLY Billy 🐰 KE8AQW Michael 🐰 73 from the Easy Copy CW Club, KS6KCC !! 🐰 🐰 🐰 🐰 🐰 🐰



Limited access to K5SCT club shack. 60% of contacts mobile with TEN-TEC AR-GOSY, 40 w to Hustler mag mount and 20 meter resonator. 73, Dan N8ZP



Very fun day. Even got antenna work done. Pic is of VIZ BUG.

WES April 2022 IV



Band conditions were poor most of the weekend. The background noise level was 12db above normal. I had trouble coping weak signals – sorry I couldn't copy everyone. It improved some late Sunday afternoon. I was able to make some contacts on 20 meters, including VK2GR in Australia. But always have a good time on WES. 73, Larry N9CB



5 Eggs No Peter! 73, Greg



73, Vince S52CC

Many tnx for all QSOs! 73, Adam SQ9S #7404.



Ten tec argo 6 g5rv 35f n/s inv vee. Only on 40 and 20 mtrs. Ran qrp agn, 5 wts. Tnx to skcc club officers... hi. I still have only 84 keys.hi.they all make LEGAL QRM.. 676 qsos so far this yr, more coming..hi. i only need 5 more states for this yrs total i keep counting yearly. So u all take care and keep making QRM.. 73, Dave



Too bad the condx decided to deteriorate just this weekend; not being on air for most of the WES was my fault though. Great to have met a few regulars, greetings to all! 73, Andi OE3IAK

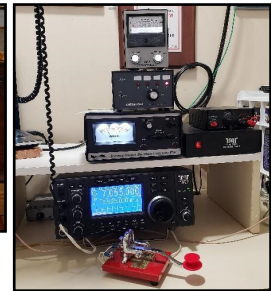


TNX! to all the eggs, the illusive Wabbit! and of-course Ken for organizing the annual Easter WES. C U next month ... 73 steve NQ8T



Great WES, although 20 and 15 meters were only open very late. 2 short openings on 10 meters where I worked ZS, KP3, K4 and 4Z1. Happy to work V31AX for a new SKCC country! And congrats to the people at KS6KCC, looks like they were active 24/7. Here is a picture of my shack late Sunday after the WES. Ten Tec Orion I and a Ameritron AL-800 amplifier running at 400 Watts. Antenna 2x14m doublet at 10m high. I have used a Czech RM31 straight key, Begali Swing Cootie and a Vibroplex Standard. 73, Jo PG4I

(tr) uSDX @ 3 watts. 73, Ron VE3SIF



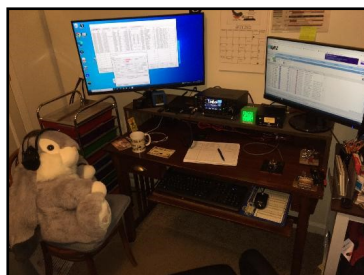
If it was easy, we would tire of it PDQ. This was quite a challenge. I set a goal based on March's WES. I achieved the goal but it took quite a bit longer than I expected. 40m was the workhorse accounting for well more than half of my QSOs. Every QSO is appreciated but for this QRP the DX always stand out. Thanks to F6EJN, I4IKW, and ZL2BLQ. One non-member worked... W3RJ, Rich, I hope he decides to join. 10 eggs made their way into the log but no rabbits...I couldn't make it through the pile-ups or my 5W were sucked up by the ionosphere! I used my Ten-Tec Jupiter at 5W to a 2-element mini-beam at 25ft, a 40m dipole at 60ft, or an 80m dipole at 50ft. The straight key is a Vibroplex Know Code that I won in an NAQCC drawing many moons ago. I made some adjustments to it during the WES but there are still too many operator errors for my liking. My fist is a work in progress. SKCC Logger is fantastic! Thanks for hearing my QRP station and getting me in the log. Thank you to the organizers and the entire SKCC team. I appreciate the opportunity to participate and the camaraderie of the members. I am honored to be included in this group. I am looking forward to next month but warmer weather is upon us. Outside work/play may decrease my BIC time...we'll see. 73, Will, NQ2W



WES April V



Started out low pwr but had to turn on the amp to improve readability on the other end. Noise level was high here but big fun none the less. Thanks to all! 73, Ken W0HRO



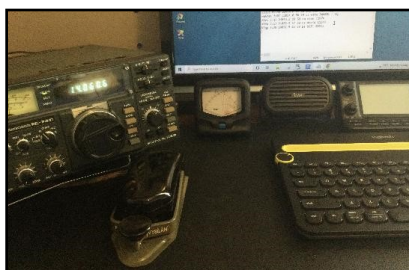
QRP with my 1983 IC-740 to resonant inverted-v antennas with the czech key that I like to use. Bands were decent - contacts on 80-40-20-15. Enjoyed getting on radio on/off all week-end. Folks are always very patient. 73, Dennis W5WIL



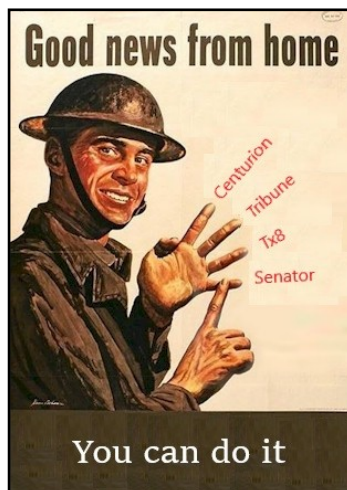
Great fun this WES. 20 & 40 meters were noisy Saturday afternoon/night. 80 meters was good after dark. After working projects on the farm Sunday I set up portable out back and found 20m excellent using battery power and Gap Mono 20m vertical dipole. Rig was 857D @ 75w. key was Speed X straight key. TNX fer Qs - 73, Mike W8MDE



Condx were a little off but 15 had some good propagation. Made a few on 10. As usual, time was limited. Almost all S&P trying to maximize my SPC count vs total QSOs. IC-7610 and KPA-1500. Doing some comparisons with a new EFHW against my big 160 loop as well as the Optibeam yagis. Keys: Junker SK and Begali Intrepid. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia



Had a wonderful time working this month's event--thank you to the organizers and all the special event operators. You're all GOOD EGGS... SRI. Most of the time was spent making contacts as a Georgia QSO Party station. Thanks to everyone who stopped by to work me. I wasn't sure if my pet rabbit (pictured) counted as a second operator. 73, W4QDV Dave



I had a blast operating the (tr)uSDX kit radio. It was flawless and not so difficult on my ears. I want to thank all those who heard this little radio and replied and those who tried but just could not copy my "LEFT FOOT" or hear me due to band conditions. I used a Stainless key part of the time but Sunday I used my Vibroplex SK. The weather here held up well, sunny and cool, just right to operate in the open air. It got cold at night and I had to move inside to keep warm. Antenna is still the EFHW QUAD, which I tuned a little better last week and I think it does very well for being only 15 feet high. I live on the Indian River, which is the intracoastal Waterway so I have NO altitude. I am looking forward to May 2022 WES! 73, Bill W3SI



The bands were erratic but lots of activity none the less - operated from my home station in Taos with just a vertical. 73, Alex W5YB

I had a great time everyone. I hope you are doing well. Welcome to all the new members and congratulations to all the new Centurions and Tribunes. To all those who made Senator this year a very special congratulations. You stuck with it and got a great prize. Its a lot of fun doing it too. Thank you for all the stations who were patient with me while trying to copy your call sign. Sometimes the QSB and QRM/QRN make it really hard to hear. for the QRP/QRPP stations you deserve an award just for operating this way. I hope to hear you all on the next WES and good luck. Also a special thanks to the folks who run the SKCC for us. They don't get a big paycheck and they do put in the work to make this a great club. Take care and 73, Mark W8YA.

WES April 2022 VI



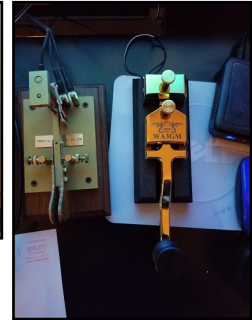
My first SKCC Weekend Sprint. So excited to hear so many excellent fists out there. Used my old Russian made strait key. 73, Cliff WA2LMC



Bands were active, but a lot of other events on (State QSO parties, POTA). So my count was lower this time. 73, Ken WA3RSR/5



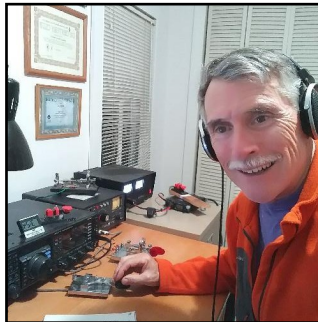
Had lots of fun chasing the Eggs and Rabbits with the Titan SK, the OWL fed 160M loop up at 55ft helped with the band conditions. 73, Jerry WA4JK



A lot of family stuff this weekend as we just returned home from Florida for the winter. I ran the whole time so 6 eggs contacted me..always a lot of fun in the WES and good to be home and back at my home station. 73, Greg WA3GM DAH



All my contacts made on 15m using my new home brew 10/15 meter self-supporting fan dipole. 73, Mike WA7RV



Mixed conditions on 20M and 40M. Glad that 20M stayed open on Saturday evening. No WES activity heard on either 15M or 10M and only 3 DX stations worked. Rig 90 watts to inverted vee up 40 feet. Key was my old Bencher straight key. Always fun!! Stay well & 73! Mike, WB2FUV



Saturday was outstanding. Unable to be on the air on Sunday. Had a great time. First time I went straight CQ instead of hunt and pounce. That worked so well I'll try it again. Thanks to all. 73, Les WB5JWI



Had a great time using my new to me QRP rig. Conditions were OK, a lot better than the last couple of year for sure! I made contacts on 80, 40, 20 15 & 10 meters. Thanks to the organizers and everyone I worked for a fun time. Xiegu X6100 5W, 200' Doublet @ 35', Bunnell Straight Key. 73, Jon WS1K



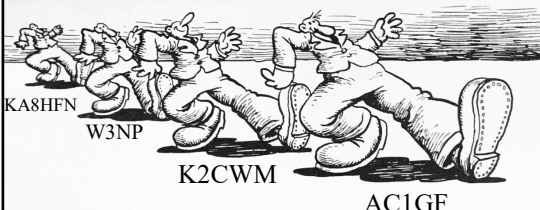
40 meters only with HW-8, 45' wire, 30' counterpoise, homebrew L-network tuner. Brown Brothers CTL-B and Vibroplex Standard Original. Good, old WES - always fun, always great folks. 73, Jeff WN1MB

Special Canadian Call Signs to Honor Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Canada's amateur radio regulatory agency has granted hams in Canada the right to use special call signs in honor of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, from May 14 to July 14, 2022. Some Canadian radio amateurs will be using the prefixes XK, XJ, VG, and VX in place of the prefix normally assigned to their province or territory. These special prefixes may be encountered on the air during the June VHF Contest, ARRL Field Day, RAC Canada Day Contest, and the IARU World HF Championship. For more information, visit the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) [website](https://www.rac.ca/). - thanks to Greg Danylchenko, VE3YTZ

Slow Speed Saunter May, 2022

Slow Speed Saunter



Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
WB6LZG	Bruce	17714S	CA	2
KD5DET	DAN	25871	CT	3
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	3
N4SNI	ANGEL	11075S	MD	2
NN3E	Kevin	19625S	MD	2
W4JL	Dave	15400T	NC	4
AC1GF	Bob	19399S	NH	18
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	10
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	8
NQ8T	Steve	5919S	OH	2
W4CMG	Cathy	20093S	TN	3
KK0I	Jack	2370S	WI	7
W3NP	Dave	3182S	WV	11

Participants and QSOs by SPC

CA: 1 / 2	CT: 1 / 3	IN: 1 / 3	MD: 2 / 4	NC: 1 / 4
NH: 1 / 18	NJ: 1 / 10	OH: 2 / 10	TN: 1 / 3	WI: 1 / 7
WV: 1 / 11				



Ran 75w to a vertical using my Kent wooden-base hand-key (current production model). Hard for me when the SSS falls on a Sunday, my busiest day. But still a really fun event. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Got on a bit Sat evening and then again Sunday afternoon. Conditions were not all that good - I had high QRN on Sat and there was considerable QSB on Sun. Was QRS with my Jun-ker. IC-7610 and big all band horizontal loop. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia

ZL4KL



SKCC members, thank you for a captivating SKM. It was far from easy (especially times when it was 100F in the shack!) but I persevered, learned too late that any contacts can go in the log with a SK, not just members (!) and that I must sort out the noise problem on rx.

The old ITT/Marconi marine key that was gifted to me by my boss on the QE2 has never been used so

much in many many years. I look forward to its continued use and connection with SKCC members from now on.

All the very best 73 from NZL, Steve ZL4KL



2nd Annual Canadian Operating Event



You enjoyed K3Y, 50,000+ QSOs said so. How about joining in for a Canadian version of K3Y that allows SKCC members to chase VC3Y/# across Canada? Plans are forming, it will happen again during the month of **September**. There are over 1200 Canadian members of SKCC and growing. SKCC offers a wonderful award, the “**Canadian Maple Award**” and the rules and information for this award can be found on the SKCC home page.

Here is the list of Canadian provinces and territories:

VE0 - Stations at sea

VA1/VE1 - Nova Scotia

VA2/VE2 - Quebec

VA3/VE3 - Ontario

VA4/VE4 - Manitoba

VA5/VE5 - Saskatchewan

VA6/VE6 - Alberta

VA7/VE7 - British Columbia

VE8 - Northwest Territories

VE9 - New Brunswick

VO1 - Newfoundland

VO2 - Labrador

VY0 - Nunavut

VY1 - Yukon

VY2 - Prince Edward Is.

VY9 - Government of Canada

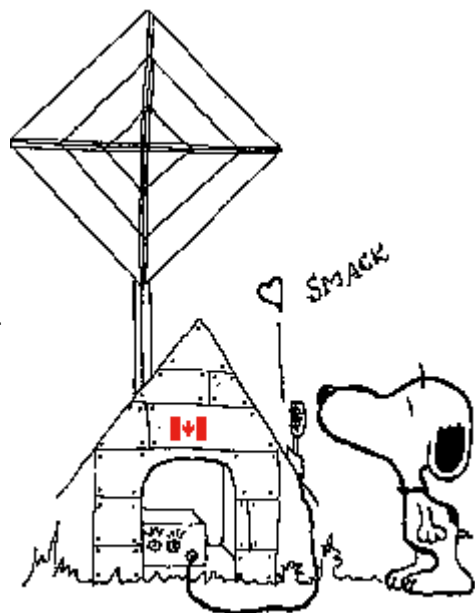
Stations in VO1, VO2, VE1, VE2, VE3, VE4, VE5, VE6, VE7 and VE9 were on the air last year. Hopefully this year additionally VY2 and VY1 may also be on the air. A major expedition of SKCC members are scheduled for a week in VY2 during September, last year Covid forced cancellation of the trip so the trip has been rescheduled for this September.

Last year VE9SKCC/# was a “glass arm” call sign..whew, too many characters! This year VC3Y/# will be a lot easier on the arm for sending.

Watch for more information on the SKCC Groups IO reflector and plan to chase the Canadian station operating as VC3Y/# across Canada.

73,

The Canadian Operating Event Committee



April/May SKSE 2022

Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 07-Apr-2022

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

Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	F5UQE	Duc	13468S	FRA	19	17	11/3/0	518
2	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	21	13	6/3/1	398
3	I4IKW	Mark	24889	ITA	16	13	6/5/0	348
4	ON8WR	Ward	13203T	BEL	16	13	5/2/0	303
5	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	12	7	2/3/0	144
6	N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	9	8	1/3/0	117
7	ON4AFW	Wilfried	25734	BEL	5	5	3/2/0	90
8	HB9CPS	Geo	20350	SUI	7	7	1/1/1	79
9	DM1AA	Andre	21162	GER	7	5	0/1/0	45
10	KB4QQJ	Randy	3508S	NC	3	2	1/2/0	41
10	W3NP	Dave	3182S	WV	4	4	1/1/0	41
10	DG1LQX	Ronald	25741	GER	4	4	1/1/0	41
13	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	4	3	0/2/0	32
14	K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	3	3	1/0/0	24
14	PG4I	Jo	11019S	NED	3	3	1/0/0	24
16	K0KEX	Rick	5220S	MO	2	2	1/0/0	19
17	KA1LHJ	John	19120	CT	1	1	0/0/0	1

Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 05-May-2022

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

Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	EA3NO	Lluis	6653S	ESP	25	19	8/7/0	665
2	KR2Q	Doug	3896S	NJ	27	19	4/6/2	643
3	P6EJN	Bob	508S	FRA	23	18	9/7/2	629
4	CT7AUP	David	24197S	POR	22	16	9/2/3	522
5	YU7AE	Kare	5790T	SER	19	15	13/3/0	510
6	AC1GF	Bob	19399S	NH	16	15	5/2/3	350
7	EA5FD	JUAN	24446T	ESP	16	14	5/4/0	339
8	SP7OGP	Piotr	9749	POL	12	10	8/1/1	255
9	VE3KZ	Bob	22804S	ON	13	11	6/1/2	253
10	EA4HKF	JOSE	25196C	ESP	13	11	5/1/2	238
11	VK2GR	Allan	7823T	AUS	12	10	3/3/0	195
12	N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	10	8	4/2/1	165
13	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	12	7	2/4/1	159
14	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	8	6	3/2/1	118
15	W9KMK	Gene	19270S	MO	4	4	3/0/0	61
16	W3NP	Dave	3182S	WV	5	5	1/1/1	55
17	K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	3	3	3/0/0	54
18	K14DEF	Kevin	299T	NC	3	3	2/0/0	39
19	K9QEW	Daryl	2963	IL	2	2	2/0/0	34
20	KA1LHJ	John	19120	CT	1	1	1/0/0	16
21	AA2MX	BILL	5071S	NC	1	1	0/1/0	11
22	HB9CPS	Geo	20350	SUI	3	3	0/0/0	9
22	DL8FMA	Mane	24047	GER	2	2	0/0/1	9
24	F8DTU	Frank	8662	FRA	1	1	0/0/0	1

(Need more photos please!....Editor)



This time with Swiss Postal Key, the blue one. Greetings from Lake Constance. 73, Gerald HB9IRF



It's rare I can get in this event as I'm usually not home, but I was able to make it this time for a few minutes and I made 3 contacts thanks to Paul G4AFU (20m), Wilfried ON4AFW (15m) and Duc F5UQE (15m). Used my TS-590SG thru a vertical with my Kent str key. Hopefully I can do this more often. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ

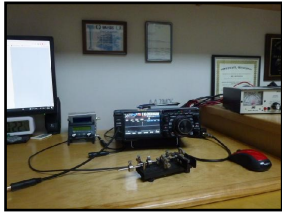


Don't often get to play in the SKC-E so this was a treat. Even though the bands were not the best it was fun chasing stations across the pond. Tried hard to work Wilfried as a new member but it was not meant to be this time. 73, Randy KB4QQJ

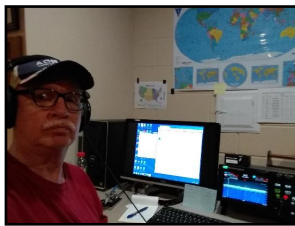


I only participated part of the time. The rest of the time I assisted Wilfried ON4AFW with his first SKCC contacts. You can see us both in the picture, I'm the one operating the key at the time the photo is taken. Probably no first place for me this time, but I had fun, and introduced a new member, so mission accomplished :) 73, DE ON8WR, Ward

May WES 2022



Seemed like the bands were up and down, mostly down, but still made some good contacts and had a nice time. Thanks everyone 73, Bill AA2MX



Worst WES Ever! I tried to operate remotely using a cell phone as a hot spot. I knew something was wrong when very few stations came back and some of those had my call wrong. The problem was latency and poor hot spot operation (not my bad fist as you may have thought). That and some storms caused me to pursue other interests. See you next WES ;-), 73, Jim AD0AB



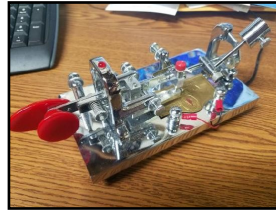
I extend my Thanks es Gratitude to the SKCC "First Year" members AF2Z, W1DV es KK0I for the bonus op's. Joining SKCC on Jan 28, 2009 I continue to enjoy the activities of the group. 73, Rick K0KEX. This "Blue Racer" is special to me since I have the owner history. 73, Rick K0KEX



Great weekend, gave out my bonus points to 53 members and got 12 in return. worked members from a low number of 32 to a high number of 25672. Rig was an icom 7300 at 100 watts to a caroling windom ant. with the j-38 straight key. Wish my station looked as neat as some of the pictures on soap-box, but things accumulate over 30 years of hamming. With the warm weather expected next month, I plan to work the Wes outdoors portable, qrp on battery power. Hope to "see" you then. 73, Frank AA2XB



Very bad conditions on Saturday. Resumption of traffic on Sunday with a marked improvement in conditions. Always so much fun to participate in the WES. Thank you all for the QSOs. 73, Franck F8DTU



Good time as always. Fun being a bonus station. 20m seemed in good shape on Sunday. Even worked a station at Oh-Dark-Thirty this morning, thanks Ken-N5LYJ for MT. Was able to go back to sleep knowing someone was keeping watch in the wee hours of the morning. See y'all down the log. 73, Bud AA8CL



Happy to find usual friends and nine new SKCC members, including three VK members and one KL7 ! My bonuses were n° 32S, 159T and 508S. Many thanks to all and see you again soon ! On the photo the necessary keys for playing to get the TKA ! 73, Bernard F6EJN



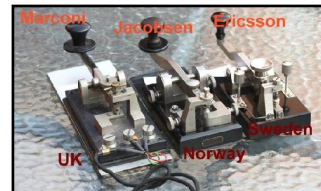
MNI TNX TO ALL. I hope to see you again soon. 73, Take from near Mt. Fuji Japan



Lightning, storms, and tornados kept me off the air Saturday. Sunday after all the Mother's day celebrating I got on the air for a while and gave out some BONUS points. 73, John Paul AB4PP

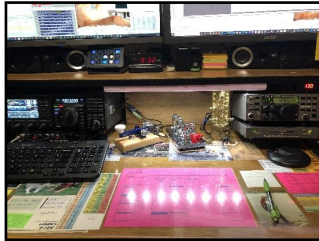


My Participation or spread, I haven't reached my results since June 2021. I think the cause is bronchitis which is quite difficult to treat. Thank you for all the QSOs made and see you soon with the Old Timer and the Summers Bands. 73, Bob F6EJN



Fun but few stations heard over the weekend. All 4 QSO's were on 20m and thanks to F6EJN, EA5FID, EA7EGU, CT1DGH. Only DX heard was KR2Q on 20m. Kenwood TS-440s 100 watts to a 20ft vertical, key a Marconi PS No213A big pump key, circa 1920s. 73, John / G0RDO / skcc 2133s

May WES 2022 II



Another Fun Wes comes to a end, Thanks to everyone for coming! 73, Ed K1EDG



After a bout with Covid mid-week, caught at a family party previous Saturday night, started to feel better by Friday AM. What better way to continue to recuperate then by operating the WES- sitting and relaxing talking to friends far and wide. Because of my contracting Covid, Mother's day celebrations for immediate family has been put off a week- so I was free to operate Sunday. The WES turned out to be a 20 meter event- band went medium to EU, short to Eastern US, then medium to Western States, Long Path to Australia, direct path to New Zealand. Tried other bands, 15 very sporadic, 40 was being bypassed by most, 80 was dead- maybe two qsos Sat nite, but 20 was open 24 hours it seemed. Even though the SFI was down from highs above 160 earlier in the month, 20 was still acting like a band at peak sunspot time i.e. open all night – like the diners. Lots of familiar calls, lots of new members, worked 44 first year folks, lots of QRP stations, lots of fun and relaxation. Picture attached showing the keys at the ready. Bunnell Brass Straight Key and a Vibro Orig Chrome Base. 73, Phil K3EW



It took the whole two days of S & P operation to get my QSOs. Conditions up and down and only worked 40 and 20 M. CT7AUP with my 1 watt was the prize of the weekend. A couple QSOs with the NYE straight key and the rest with a Bencher wired for cootie mode. 73, Gary K1YAN



First WES since Last July. Sure was fun. Glad to see 17M open. Only worked half of Saturday. Glad to see a lot of new calls, especially 4Z4DX. 73, Bob K3CKO



Ran QRP- Ten-Tec Argonaut V to antenna "farm" (see photo) two 53 ft slopers attached to 32 ft jackite poles. Good amount of activity this time. Enjoy SKCC events when I'm able to participate. Nice being an 'old timer' bonus station hihi. 73, Bill K2EKM



Good fun with lots of band activity. E.g. PO-TA and New England QSO party. 20 meters was especially good, 40 not so much. Lots of noise. Using my ICOM 7300 and battery power. Did not need the antenna tuner for 20 meters with my end fed. 73, Jim K3YMI

I stood by with 10 "first year" bonus points, but not too many takers. To be fair, CONDX were not that great (at least not here), and Mother's Day may have kept participation down, but it was still fun being the source of extra points. Hope to see many of you at the Dayton Hamvention in two weeks. 73, Frank K8FAC



Afraid I didn't do many this time, but got 6 first year members. Ran mostly 75 watts, except for a couple 10 meter contacts where I raised to 100 watts. Used my old 1943 Lionel J38 str key, which I kinda like. Thanks all for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ

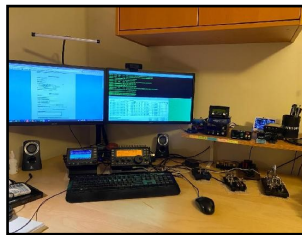


I used the WES activity to try my new TR35 (from WA3RNC) transceiver in the field. It worked well. 73, Dave K6NIA

May WES 2023 III



It was a nice sunny day up here on the Lake today so we got a lot of outdoor work done instead of a lot of Hamming done but we did manage a few for the log. Thanks to all for the QSO's & 73 from the shores of Lake Erie, Larry K8TEZ



I wish I had more time, but it was a busy week-end. My KX3 did a great job digging folks out as the bands ebbed and flowed. 5W to an end-fed inverted L. 73, Steve



20 meters seemed to be most productive.

IC7300, J38 Key to a 4BTV. 73s & STAY TUNDED. 73, Daryl K9QEW



Kinda got pulled into this one accidentally, so decided on QRP and High Value Targets/bonuses. 321 from 8 QSOs. I'm not proud, or tired. 1st time operating QRP, it was fun, with some unique challenges. 73, Nick K9RDU



2 contacts on 15 meters with 15/10 fan dipole installed on 1st floor indoors; I can switch to 15 or 10, from 40 or 20, random wire outside, without re-tuning; just flip the antenna switch. Sometimes it works. 73, John KA1LHJ



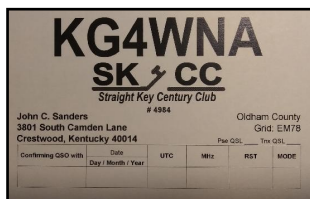
Thanks to all those who participated in making this another fun operating event. Everyone have a good month and we'll see you down the log. 73 & God Bless Ric KA3LOC



The conditions here in central TX started out a bit rough, but opened up nicely Sunday. I wasn't able to spend much time as Mother's Day festivities took most of the weekend. Used the portable station when I was able to get on the air. Thanks for another fun WES! 73, Jim KA6J



Lot of fun. Wasn't on a lot but the Condx were not bad for QRP. Hope to be on next month! Here is my station 73, Rich KB1FGC



Lots of QSB here but my Mono 15M Inv Vee working better each month. 73, John KG4WNA



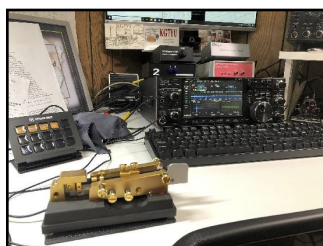
Ran a lot of qrp with QCX plus while out on back porch at my house and my dad's house. 73, James KE4MKG



Not much time for the WES this month. Used the FT-101E as the rig with a Czech RM-31 SK. 73, Randal KG5IEE



Bands were in great shape and I got to play more than normal. Still had to shut down several times for thunder boomers. Always fun and had a great time working a few of the Year One operators. What a great club and what a great bunch of Mothers that indulge us playing on their very special day. 73, Randy KB4QQJ A VERY HAPPY MOTHERS DAY TO ALL MOTHERS HERE AND REMEMBERED!!



I never seem to have enough time to spend on the weekend sprints! I was hoping to get the last 59 QSOs I needed to make senator but I fell short, I need 21 more! Work and other commitments limited my time. I spent most of my time running on 20 meters and a little on 15 meters. I was called by a lot of the QSO party ops (around 10) likely thinking I was a 7 land QSO party op. Several of them just vanished and never responded after I gave them my exchange! The bands seemed very quiet a lot of the time I was operating even when I would hear an east coast station at 59+! I had a couple really weak stations that really worked with me to complete the contacts, thanks! Thanks for all the QSOs and we will hear you in the SKS! 73, Gordo KG7YU

May WES 2022 IV



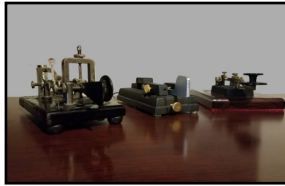
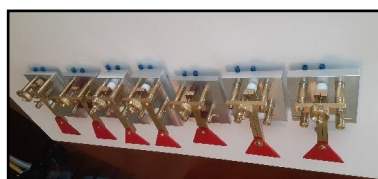
My little microcosm.....73, Gary KI7PBR



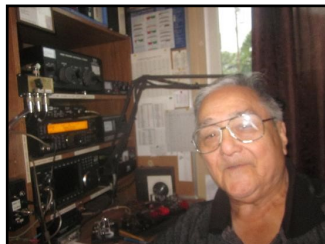
My goal for this WES was to get enough new C/T/S contacts to apply for Tx8 status. I made 38 new contacts, three more than needed. Thanks for all the QSOs. My furthest contact was JR2IUB in Japan on 20 meters. 73, Larry N9CB



Ran 10w to the KX3 with my Mobile Hustler antenna on a Tripod stand. Dialed the power down to 5w to work Stan, ZL2BLQ made my day with that contact ! Conditions were very good Saturday and very strange Sunday. I was hearing very close stations on 20 quite strong, very little long skip was evident in the AM here. Some strange squawking noises on 20m moving up and down the SKCC area of the band. 73, Al N4OW



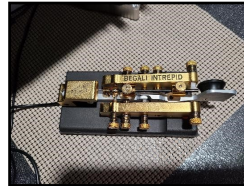
Fun weekend, but with some limited time to celebrate Mother's Day with the family. Delighted to hand out as many bonus points as I could. The 1919 Vibroplex Original was used on most contacts, following up with the Begali HST cootie and the Nye Viking straight key for QRS contacts. With my timeline, I stayed on 40 meters, drifting to 80 and 20 for a few. Catch you all next month! A warm welcome to all the new members! 73, jack KK0I



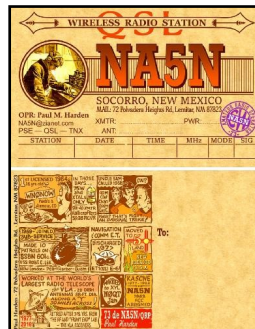
Put in a few hours even with the Mother's Day celebration's going on :) Picked up 13 1ST Year Members. Lowest Justin, N5BO #57T and Highest Jack, KK0I #2370S. 73, Rick N8XI



Hello.. new ic718 80wts g5rv 35ft in a n/s inv vee.. band was gud for me.. mainly 40 and 20mtrs.. it is LEGAL to make QRM on them.. haha.. went over my usual of 20 qos, and made 60.. more Qrm.. ha. Still, only have 84 keys hr.. so, tnx to the SKCC members and hope they are selling cooties. I guess they are LEGAL.. haha... so, u all takecare and c u in June to make QRM.. ha.. so,,, 73 Dave Larsen n9zx1qrp@gmail.com



Not much time spent this month. Hope to do better next time. 73, Dennis N0SMX 11364T The Villages, FL



A slight family emergency booted me off the air Sat. afternoon, so only 34 Qs on 15 and 20M. Still fun with good bands. Worked Allan VK2GR and Stan ZL2BLQ QRP with good sigs. Worked 3 bonus stations, N5BO, WA5CAV and Drew AF2Z on two bands. Wish I could have stuck around those nice bands a bit longer. CU next month. 73, Paul NA5N



Enjoyed working David, CT7AUP from Portugal Sunday. 73, Russ KK4WX



Time well spent! 73, Ed N2GSL



Nice to FINALLY work Larry in Wapakoneta, great signal from N1TX in AK es Kare's (YU7AE) QRP signal was amazing! ... C U next month. 73, Steve NQ8T

May WES 2022 V



As always, another fun event. 73, Dave NZ1J



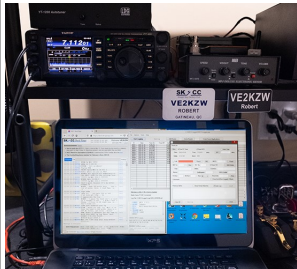
Thanks to everyone. I was busy this weekend building the switchbox in the picture and neglected working the bands... of the WES QSOs, each was worked with one of these three new additions to my shack! 73, Andi OE3IAK



Rough conditions, even though sunspot numbers were high, it was hard to reach stateside. Best QSO with Larry N1TX in AK early Sunday morning on 20 meters. Made my first SKCC QRP QSO with Gio, IZ6TSJ. This WES have reached 1000 SKCC DX QSOs, so have applied for DXQ-1000. Thanks all for the fun! Attached a picture of my homebrew 20m QRP rig. 73, Jo PG4I



Last month I predicted that outside work/play would steal away radio time...it did. Traveling to visit family on Saturday and beautiful weather for outside work/play on Sunday limited my radio time...but it's all good...I'm living the dream and look forward to each and every day. The WES seemed pretty decent. A lot of QSOs on 40m. Worked N1TX, Larry, on 15m and ZL2BLQ, Stan, on 20m...that's cool...Alaska and New Zealand on 5W. They did the heavy lifting but I'm trying to help them. That's a new Mosley TA-33-JR-N in the box. Hopefully, that will be up on the garage a little higher than the mini-beam in the not-so-distant future. That should help some...I hope! I ended up working 6 first year stations and claiming the additional 100 points for submitting the picture!



This was a good WES. I stayed on 20m all the time and except for some QSB at times, it worked well. Antenna was an MFJ-2982 vertical; I had to guy it because of the wind on Saturday. I also picked up several new numbers towards Tx8 (28 to go). Thank you all es 73, Robert, VE2KZW



Mother's Day got in the way, but I managed some QSOs. Thanks for the QSOs. 73, Ed VE3EKA



Big fun! Lightning bug got a work out. 73 Ken W0HRO



I am on my quest for SENATOR and need about 30 more numbers to be able to send in my application. I finished setting up my station this week in time for the WES and used my LNR EFHW antenna at 3M. Photo is of the new station setup at the Florida location. I was comfortable with the radio and key selection for this month's WES. I was able to sit back and enjoy the WES. I did not operate my usual QRP the whole event because I wanted a few DX stations that were not hearing my 3 watt signal, so I fired up the ICOM 706, for the first time in over a year, to make a few contacts that I just could not reach with lower power. 73 all and looking forward to exchanging numbers this month Bill W3SI



The 20m band performed well on SP and LP to NA and EU. I worked several QRP stations in the WES, thanks to my 4 element homebrew Yagi at 15m and a quiet rural QTH. An apology for Andy, W4NLT; his extremely weak QRP signal was riding on my S1 noise level and I was unable not confirm his call suffix after trying for many overs. Thanks to all who made a QSO exchange with me. 73, Allen VK2GR



Lots of fun. Worked 7 First Year Members. Thanks to everyone who participated and arranged this WES. 73, Dave WJ0Z

The SKCC is truly a great group of amateur radio enthusiasts. I'm honored to be a member. Thank you for the contacts and getting my QRP station in the log. The SKCC Logger and the Sked Page are wonderful tools. Thank you for the opportunity to participate. 73, Will, NQ2W

WES May 2022 VI



For once, I had the time this weekend. But the propagation didn't support my questionable antenna setup in the middle part of both days. There was an Es cloud over the eastern U.S. during the daytime, and it seemed to kill propagation from east to west. There was a fair amount of activity, given the Mother's Day date. Use of the Sked Page was way off, though. Worked 22 first-year stations, who seemed to be enjoying the opportunity. Also spent much time fending off "599 State TU" contesters who really don't listen. Still a fun weekend, though. Thanks to all. 73, John W1TAG

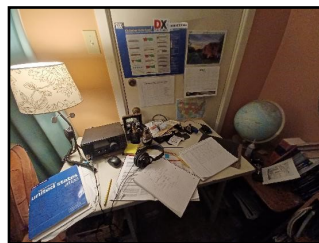


Didn't really get a chance to get on until Sunday. Lots of other contest running over the weekend caused some unique challenges for my filters hi-hi. Nice working many stations from the last Sprintathon. So happy to hear so many fantastic fists. 73, Cliff WA2LMC

Only operated on 40 & 20 Meters. 20 had some real short skip. Stations in New England, NJ & NY were the strongest signals on the band. Six was open both days with E skip but I never thought of going up there and look for Qs, DOH! Always fun just the same. Thanks to everyone involved. Station: Elecraft K2 5 watts, Baumuster T1 key 200' doublet @ 35'. 73, Jim WS1K



Band condx were all over the place. Only operated in brief spurts during the event. Wrked VK2GR long path on Sat eve. The Yagi was pointed west and he was weak so I quickly switched to the newly installed 80-10 EFHW and he came up to a solid 549. Wrked 7 1st year members. Had contacts on 10 - 80 meters - tried for 160 but no takers. Keys: Intrepid bug and Junker SK. Rig: IC-7610 & KPA-1500 Antennas: OB yagis, 160m horizontal loop and the newly installed as a Inv V EFHW @ 45'. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia



A lot of fun as usual: 40 and 20 this time. Saturday was active with the 7QP, New England QP, and Indiana. Still a few SKCC contacts. Sunday was good. Toward the end of the day around 2300 UTC 20 meters was a roller coaster. For example, KR2Q went from 40 over to nil and back several times as I was scrolling up and down. Pic is of the shack table, where you can see my ARRL paper log book. I know I need to move to computer logging. I'm sure I have enough QSOs for several of the SKCC letter suffixes, but they all on paper. 73, Ken WA3RSR/5



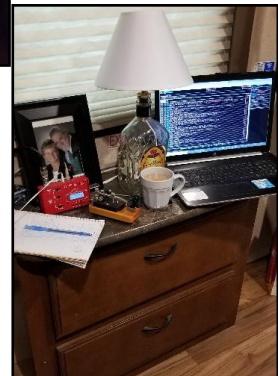
Band condx es multiple state Qso parties made for challenging qos. Filters sure got a workout! :) Great fun thought. Many tks for all the "old timers" who came out and gave out their bonus points. 73, Allan W4EAB



Great time in this months WES. Been in FL all winter so now back home on the radio full time. First time I scored over 100 contacts in a while. Ran most of the time and then a little S&P. Tnx fer all the Q's. 73, Greg WA3GM



Had a good time but Mother's Day and family gatherings shortened the experience for me on the air. Tried using a "bug" for the first time and picked on a 7QP contester for my debut. Got dumb thumbs to start, omitted a "dit" on my call but in the end it all worked out. How I love the SKCC logger and Sked page. Met some old friends and a new one Ric KA3LOC thanks to the sked page. See you again next month. Thanks, friends! 73, Dave W4QDV

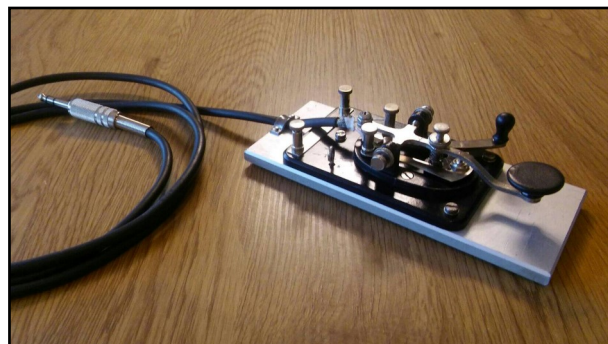
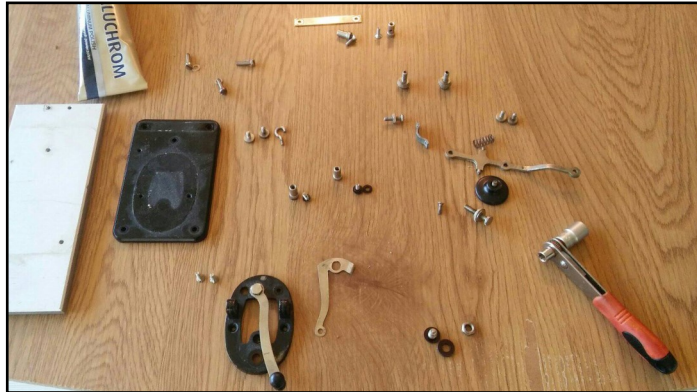


First time I've submitted a score for WES. Running QRP made it interesting. Can't wait for the next one. 73, John WB2TQC



Cleaning a J-38 Lionel Key

This is key from 2. world wars and not the same keyboard model from which the last SOS from Titanic was sent. I also made about 4000 ties on him. Took it apart, all parts cleaned and polished. Ladies and gentlemen, the Lionel J-38. 73, S52OW Tilen



Cape Hatteras National Seashore

In 1912, the Hatteras Weather Bureau Station picked up the following message around 11:25pm:

"CQD CQD CQD CQD CQD CQD. Have struck an iceberg. We are badly damaged. Titanic. position 41 degrees 44 minutes north 50 degrees 20 minutes west."

Hatteras is the only known wireless station in the United States to have received the first distress call from the RMS Titanic. Record of this transmission was lost to history for almost 100 years, and was only discovered in 2009 during a restoration project when it was found rolled up in a wall as insulation. The Hatteras Weather Bureau Station, built in 1901, is open to visitation Wednesday-Sunday 8am -430pm. More information on the Weather Bureau Station: <https://www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/uswbs.htm>

May SKS 2022



Only had a few minutes for the sprint. For fun I used my MFJ 9200 with 40 meter band module and a Navy Flameproof key. 73, Peter AK3X



I fired up my K1 for this one and only played on 20 and 40 meters. 20 was a little easier on the ears and I netted 13 contacts. 40 had pretty strong QRN but I was able to work 9 FB Straight Key Sprinters. Still using the 2-element mini-beam at 25 feet on 20m...the TA-33-JR-N is still in the box...springtime chores around the QTH are keeping me too busy. The 40m dipole at 60 feet seems to be performing quite well. Thank you to all the folks that pulled out my QRP signal. I apologize to the one station on 20 I couldn't copy...hopefully, next time. Thanks to the organizers for all of their hard work in putting this stuff together. Your work is very much appreciated. SKCC Logger is awesome. Until the next time...73, Will, NQ2W



Ran 75 watts from my TS-590SG to a vertical using a Kent str key. Good to see old and new friends at the Dayton Hamvention this past weekend... had a great time. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



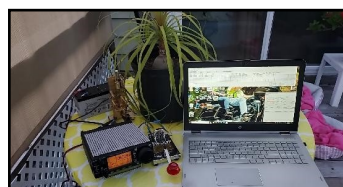
Only one ! 73, Dom VA2QDB



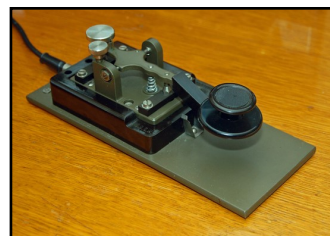
Pleasant Sprint. Took my Navy Flameproof out for a spin. Thanks to all. 73, Blue W1BLU



We worked a few on 20 & then moved to 40 where most of the action seemed to be. Almost everyone was S-9 here tonight on both bands. Thanks for all the QSO's & we hope to see everyone next month. 73, Larry K8TEZ from the shores of Lake Erie.



I started out on the back porch running QRPP and was doing ok but the bugs got to me and I moved inside. After setting up the radio inside and firing it up I started making contacts a realized I was pegging my power meter... I had mistakenly set the rig on 5 watts and was having fun so I left it there and continued to call stations. Maybe next month I will try QRPP again. "FLEA POWER" and maybe even from MD QTH with better antenna. 73, Bill W3SI



Didn't spend a a lot of time in the sprint this month but enjoyed a laid back evening in the wireless room. Had QSO's on 10 through 80 but couldn't raise anyone on 160. 20 was in good shape with strong signals. Used the Junker SK for most of my contacts. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia



Some fun!!! Gave the Viz Bug a workout. 73, Nee NE9EE



I used the J-37 on 40M this month. Thanks for all the Q's! See everyone next time! 73, Mark WB9HFK



First run of my new KN4YB right angle bug. Worked FB! 73, Ken W0HRO

