



Volume 15 Issue 3

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

September, 2022

# CANADIAN OPERATING EVENT VC3Y

2022

2022

The Straight Key Century Club's yearly on-air event promotes the club's many Canadian members. VC3Y is the special call sign that has been granted in Canada for this event, which we refer to as the "VC3Y Straight Key Month."

VC3Y runs from Sept. 1st. through the 30th. It's a perfect time to introduce or reacquaint hams to the fun of hand-keyed Morse code sent with straight keys, bugs, and side-swipers. Members and non-members alike are welcome to hunt the Canadian-based VC3Y stations. Non-members are encouraged but not required to use straight keys for their VC3Y contacts. This year we hope to field VC3Y operators in all Canadian provinces and territories.

You can track your progress working the event stations by referring to the Stats section on the VC3Y Straight Key Month page. Check for regular updates in your standings for Number of Areas, Bands and VC3Y operators to document your success.

Earn a QSL card by making at least one contact with any VC3Y event station. Work all provinces for a basic sweep; add territories for extra points; check the Op Schedule and Opera-

tor Map links to find where and when the VC3Y stations are operating.

For SKCC members VC3Y is a great opportunity to make lots of progress toward various club awards. Contacts with VC3Y stations are valid for SKCC awards purposes. Also, by signing up as a VC3Y Operator you can readily log dozens or hundreds of award-eligible QSOs with other SKCC members.

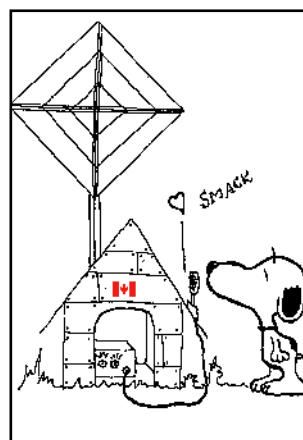
Would you like to sign on as one of our VC3Y Operators? You can try it for just an hour or two. Or reserve a series of time slots throughout the month. Code speed and station sophistication are not important. The on-air exchanges tend to be fairly relaxed. Please contact the Province Coordinator in your area for more info. He or she will be eager to sign you up. Our VC3Y Operators are key to a successful event!

Be sure to listen for our VC3Y operators during September and work 'em when you hear 'em!

73, The VC3Y Event Committee



2022 VC3Y QSL Card



Good bye microphone...hello mechanically produced cw!



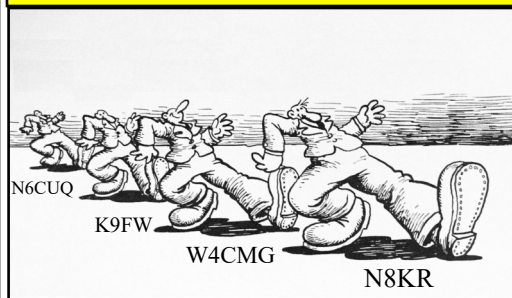
Provinces of Canada



Call zones of Canadian amateurs

## June, 2022 Slow Speed Saunter

### Slow Speed Saunter



A dozen contacts for me this time... always fun. Ran 50 watts from my old IC-7000 into an elevated vertical using my \$35 'BIG RED' straight key (hi hi). Always a fun relaxed event. Thanks fer the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Some fun to work a few newer SKCC members. 73, Al K9FW



Worked many high membership numbers including Chris - WX7V #25995 who worked me on two bands! Had a steady stream of callers on 40 meters late Tuesday night. Lots of good fists out there! 73, Ken N8KR

### Results for Slow Speed Saunter: 1-2 Jun 2022

Overall | Soapbox

#### Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
AB4QL	Barry	24997C	AL	10
VK2GR	Allan	7823T	AUS	1
N0CW	Chuck	23240S	CA	7
N6CUQ	Matthew	24270	CA	20
W6GIB	Don	13257	CA	2
N4OW	AL	11375S	FL	12
W4RQ	Rich	8699S	FL	4
K5MEG	Meg Blubaugh	24217	GA	7
N4API	Brian	11673	GA	5
K9FW	Al	20492S	IN	25
N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	34
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	11
AC1GF	Bob	19399S	NH	7
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	12
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	2
KC3NDU	Keith	22980T	PA	2
KF4GNV	Ron Hamby	26106	TN	8
W4CMG	Cathy	20093S	TN	32
WX7V	Chris	25995	TX	7
N0LBW	Lance	25909	VA	7
KC8YSO	Dave	24502	WV	2
W3NP	Dave	3182S	WV	6



Wasn't able to get on until late in the event. Bands were kinda ok but not a lot of activity. IC-7610 and 160m horizontal loop. Key for the month was the Czech Army key - I like this key - why have I ignored you so long!! Trying to rotate through all of my neglected keys. Wrked one new station.73 de West Virginia Dave W3NP



Only 4 QSO's this time, but 4 good QSO's ! It was nice to chat with Ken N8KR, my partner at the Orlando Ham-fest booth. Stormy weather yesterday, our first day of Hurricane season, and we have a depression heading for us on Saturday, this may be a busy year! 73, Rich W4RQ



## June SKSE, 2022

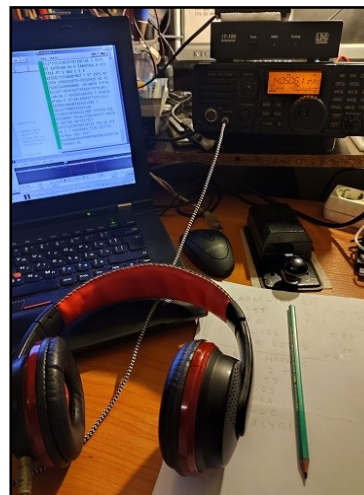
### Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 02-Jun-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	26	23	7/11/1	818
2	F6EJN	Bob	508S	FRA	18	18	6/7/1	489
3	KK8X	Sid	22911C	OH	17	14	10/3/2	428
4	CT7AUP	David	24197S	POR	12	12	4/5/2	264
5	EA3NO	LLUIS	6653S	ESP	13	10	5/2/1	230
6	N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	10	10	5/2/1	200
7	IK2CFD	Graziano	22069T	ITA	10	10	5/1/0	185
8	K1NV	JON	2609S	NV	5	4	4/0/0	80
8	K0KEX	Rick	5220S	MO	5	5	2/2/1	80
10	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	6	3	3/0/0	63
11	LZ7DP	DIM	26134	BUL	4	4	2/0/0	46
12	OE5WEO	Peter	26031	AUT	3	2	2/0/0	36
13	VE4AEA	Lloyd	13127T	MB	2	1	2/0/0	32
14	YU7AE	Kare	5790T	SER	1	1	1/0/0	16
14	VK2GR	Allan	7823T	AUS	1	1	1/0/0	16



73 es mni  
DX, Dim  
LZ7DP



My first skse  
tnx es 73, Peter  
OE5WEO



Only one QSO, thanks Duc  
F5UQE, using FT817nd 5W  
with british key (racal) and  
20.6m EFHW antenna between  
trees in the forest at 539m ASL,  
mt.Fruska gora, JN95UD. 73  
and cul in next SKCC activity.  
73, Kare YU7AE

## July SKSE, 2022

### Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 07-Jul-2022

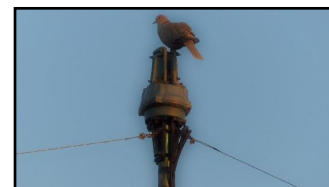
Overall | QRP | QRO | QRO+ | SWL | By SPC | Soapbox

#### Overall results

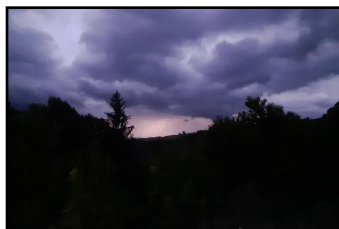
Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	F6EJN	Bob	508S	FRA	31	20	9/9/1	850
2	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	20	9	2/3/1	245
3	EA3NO	Lluis	6653S	ESP	14	9	4/3/0	216
4	KK8X	Sid	22911T	OH	12	10	5/1/0	205
5	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	11	6	3/0/1	116
6	I4IKW	Mark	24889	ITA	7	6	1/3/0	87
7	OE5WEO	Peter	26031	AUT	3	2	3/0/0	51
8	KAT1HU	John	19120	CT	2	2	1/1/0	29
9	HB9IRF	Gerald	12482	SUI	4	3	1/0/0	27
10	SV2SKD	Panagiotis	25906	GRE	4	4	0/0/0	16
10	VE4AEA	Lloyd	13127T	MB	1	1	1/0/0	16
10	KC4HCH	Roger	7688S	AL	1	1	1/0/0	16



Conditions were poor. Prop-  
agation as small as the key :  
-) The tiny one in front.  
Thank you for the QSO. 73,  
Gerald HB9IRF



Not many contacts on 20 m,  
only one station outside Eu-  
rope : KK8X. Three new  
members contacted : IV3ICH,  
KK8X and OE5WEO. Maybe  
no more contacts for me as  
the antenna shown on the  
photo was not efficient  
enough ? Who knows... Best  
73 and see you all soon again!  
73, Bernard F5DE



Propagation seemed promising in twenty me-  
ters, despite the qrn of the approaching thun-  
derstorm, which forced me into a qrt after a  
few minutes from the start. Resumed activity  
after a little over an hour, in very poor con-  
ditions. See you on the weekend for the WES.  
73, Mark I4IKW



## SKCC Sked Page Early Crew *On the Air and On the Road*

Larry N1FG (#16270S)

As a frequent “early USA” SKED page participant I have developed many radio friendships with our members in EU/UK/AF and OC as well as fellow early domestic folks. Since the usage of the SKED page isn’t all that high in the early morning, it has a much more relaxed atmosphere and a fair amount of chatter.



Figure 1 Marty W4IRA and N1FG

However, one of things I most enjoy about amateur radio in general is meeting the hams I have worked with CW in an “eyeball” QSO. It always makes future QSOs a bit more personal to me when I have met that operator and exchanged a few stories or jokes. (If this can be accomplished over a nice meal, then so much the better!)

Here are some pictures and brief bios for members who I met during my recent coast-to-coast motorcycle trip.

W4IRA – Marty

Marty is a US Air Force man. His current posting requires him at Maxwell AFB in Birmingham, AL most of the week, but Fridays he is in the Nashville, TN area. He joined

SKCC last summer (#24541T) and tries to get on the air (and SKED page) when he can. He is working his way up the Tribune ladder, currently at Tx2 and trying his best to find time for radio in the midst of his family, work, travel and career.

He was kind enough to meet me for lunch in Murfreesboro, TN and I was able to fill up on Fried Catfish, a favorite of mine but very hard to find in New Hampshire!

WB4LAL – Ike

After leaving Tennessee I headed south for my overnight stop – Florence, Alabama. Another member of the early crew, Ike and his XYL Deborah, live just outside town and had kindly agreed to get together for dinner. There was an Applebee’s restaurant adjacent to the hotel and a perfect place to have dinner and share some stories.

Ike (#9385S) has been an SKCC member 10 years – joining in June of 2012. He is an early riser and can usually be found on the SKED page before he starts his chores and always willing to trade numbers or help on another member’s quest.



Figure 2 Ike WB4LAL and XYL Deborah

NA5N – Paul

Further west, as my route took me through New Mexico, I reached out to another SKED page early bird, Paul NA5N, SKCC #10073S, who I had worked many times before. I told him I would be riding through Albuquerque, and he graciously offered to drive up from his home in Socorro (over 70 miles away) to have an eyeball and exchange stories and jokes.

Paul has been an SKCC member since 2012, and it was great to meet him in person. Although I knew he drove a Lava Orange Miata, he hadn't told me that it was in showroom condition and quite the attention getter in the Applebee's parking lot!



Figure 3 Paul NA5N and his Lava Orange Miata

WB0BEE – Mike

This trip was the second time that Mike and I had met for a meal in Omaha as I came through town. The first time was last summer when I was returning from a ride to Mount Rushmore and was in his area for breakfast.

This time it was a lunch date and he took a break from his Air Force work to swap some stories and jokes at a local Cracker Barrel.

He joined SKCC in 2020 (#21634) and is working on his Tx3 award and climbing the ladder toward Senator. Always fun to chat with Mike and look forward to the next time, either in person or on the air!

The Trip

This was the overall trip from New Hampshire out to San Diego and back. Total time on the road was 22 days, but that included two three-night stays in both Dallas, Texas (to visit family) and Las Vegas, Nevada (to visit money I have left there over the years).

A lot of fun and a great help toward reaching my goal of riding in all 48 lower states.



Figure 4 Mike WB0BEE



**Larry's adventure continued with a stop in Port Huron, MI as he prepared to cross into Canada and travel on to Buffalo, NY for the night. We had a great eyeball QSO and breakfast at the local Cracker Barrel. Larry is a master joke teller and I laughed all the way through breakfast!**

**73, Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM**



## June WES, 2022



What fun. Great event. Thanks for answering my and all the other QRP & QRPp signals. 73, Bud AA8CL



Good fun but only played for a little while. On 20m I worked F5UFV/p Pascal (33), F6EJN Bob, and EA5FID Juan (30). Best DX heard was Doug - KR2Q. 73 John - G0RDO



Missed Saturday AM and started at 130PM, missed 5-8PM due to CW weekend activities. Not much sleep Saturday night and conked out for a couple of 1 hour naps on Sunday. So in essence a part time effort. As far as the lousy conditions went, guys with the beams had easier time with the small signals than our wire guys. Some statistics from my log 64% of stations worked were OT's About 1/4 were 40, 40 or 60 little over an 1/8th were 30 yr folks small nrs of >25 and 70 yrs. Thank you for all of the QSO's New picture of new desktop and twin 15 inch monitors. very handy to have the added screen size. 73, Phil K3EW



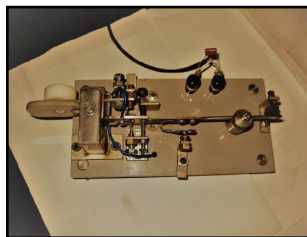
Sunday was my day. Thanks for all the QSOs even through all the QSB. I was surprised how many of us old timers there are. I showed 60 years and I thought I might nearly be the oldest. No way, I'm more or less in the middle of the pack, LOL! 73, Jim AD0AB BTW, thank you everyone who did not repeat any part of the exchange after I gave you a 599. I was hearing you loud and clear. 73, Jim AD0AB



Only little time unfortunately on the weekend to devote to radio activity, and antennas not up to the task of propagation. But as always lots of friends and lots of fun. IC 756 proII 100w Vertical for 10/15/20 meters Dipole for 40 meters. End Fed of 38 meters resonant 10/160 meters And the odd couple, 1913 original Horace Martin bug with J7a vertical key. 73, Mark I4IKW #24889



I greatly enjoyed the theme this month..."Old Timers Rule". Well, maybe not really, but we do show up in big numbers for SKCC Events! Portable setup, 20 and 40 meters, IC-706MKIIG, Wolf River Coils portable vertical, 14 feet tall, logging with RumLogToGo on an iPad. 73, Gary AF8A



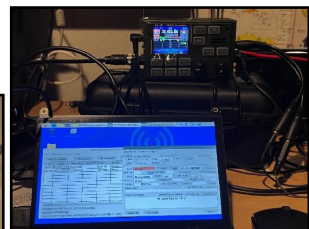
Thank you for giving me an enjoyable time ! 73, Take from near Mt. Fuji Japan. Take JR2IUB



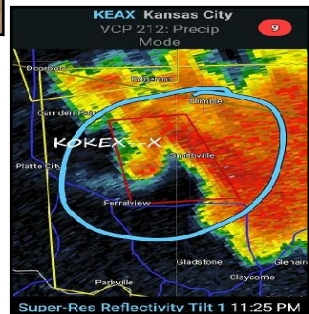
What a different contest. The bands were crazy Saturday with 20 meters nearly closed most of the day but wide open later into the evening. I got a few stations on 17 meters also. I worked a lot of boat anchors this year. I didn't get to work Sunday. 73, Bob K3CKO



Shortly into WES, YL was discharged from hospital after crippling foot surgery. I found the spread odd with hiss and low carry. Thank you for all these QSOs and see you soon at the July WES. 73, Bob F6EJN



73, K0FTC, John



The "Old Timers" theme was inspiring. I shared my 65 years with many that out numbered me. Although my operating time was limited due to storms here in the Midwest as noted by the attached image. Among the highlights of this WES, a QSO with a new SKCC member KD0NBH #25993 on Six meters John has been working hard and will soon be making contacts and enjoying all the fun. My first license KN0KEX in 1957, Thank you all 73 Rick 5220S The Pix is WX Saturday evening One of many storms. 73, Rick K0KEX



## June WES, 2022 II



Fun event as always. Boy there are a lot of us old guys out there! Someone called me an OT, I resemble that remark! Thanks for the Qs everyone. See you next month. 73, Bob K3ZGA



IC7300 J38 Key to a 4btv. Most QSOs on 20m some on 40m and 6 on 15m. Tried 6m but QRM from ARRL contest. W7GB was senior OT 72 yrs. 73s & STAY TUNED! Daryl K9QEW



This weekend was a bonus for me. I had sent in my Icom 7610 on Tuesday to have its screen replaced. Expecting to be without the radio for weeks, I was elated to have it returned back to me on Friday. So it was a joy to operate on my like-new rig. Also was great to see the higher bands open, including 6 meters and 2 meters for the ARRL VHF contest. Thanks everyone who answered my calls. 73, Warren KC9IL



Saw it was WES on the 8 day calendar and got started not knowing what the bonus was this time. Sorry, I've been in/out so many times it would take a better brain than mine to figure actual active time licensed. Novice in 1960. Trying out a new rig at 40 watts. Need antenna! 73 all and tnx for the fun! 73, Hank K5TSK



Another fun WES! I worked 27 stations, not a lot, but a good number for me! I used my \$40.00 Vibroplex straight key that I recently acquired at a hamfest. It's in "like new" condition and works well. 73, Kent KA0LDG



The story of Saturday was lots of QSB on 20m and no activity from TX on the Summer Bands. Sunday was a different story! Managed to snag some QSOs on 15m. Great first WES for the new rig! 73, Colton KE5DXX



Used my old VIBRO-PLEX original from 1919. Band conditions were strange on 15 m. Fun time as always. 73, John K8LJG



Not a single contact on 80 this WES but I slept a little late both mornings. Good runs on 40 and 20. Nothing heard on the summer bands here. The 7610 at 75 watts and a doublet antenna at 30ft. TNX and CU next month. 73, Allen



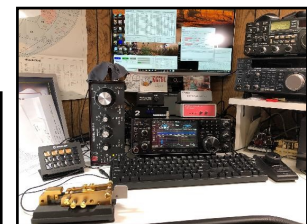
Hot in Texas. Good time for WES. Enjoyed using the higher bands. Plus, my final contact 10 minutes before the end of WES was with VK2GR on 10 meters. 73, Randal KG5IEE



Limited time this weekend so only worked 10 & 15 Meters which netted me 4 on 10 & 13 on 15 meters. Ran 400 watts to my Solarcon A-99 Vertical up about 25 Ft. Great to work ZL2BLQ & VK2GR both on 15 last night. Thanks to all for the QSO's Larry /62 K8TEZ



A lot of fun! Nice working the old timers. I am there in 4 years. 73, Rich KB1FGC



I finally made Senator with this sprint! I only had enough time to work a few hours on Saturday. Most QSOs on 20 meters with a few on 15. I ran for a bit before I remembered it was the old timers theme so I failed to give out some of the bonus points, sorry about that. As always, I had a lot of fun, it's always great to make new contacts as well as reconnecting with old friends! 73, Gordo KG7YU

## June WES 2022 III



Great WES. Didn't think I'd have time to get on this weekend plus my main rig, a Yaesu FT-891, developed problems on transmit last weekend. The FT-891 is a great rugged radio, but I may have pushed it past some limits. We'll see what Yaesu warranty repair says. When some plans changed, I suddenly had time this weekend. Dusted off my old IC-745 and put it back in the shack. I forgot what a joy the old girl is to operate and what a great radio. Think I'll get a coax switch and keep it for regular use. Had fun with the standard WES exchanges, plus helped one person get the last state for WAS, and slowed down for quite a few new operators and chatted with them which is the most fun for me. 73, Bill KJ7GNB



Had a lot of fun. It was good to hear the other bands being open....73,



For the time I had it was fun! 73, Ed N2GSL



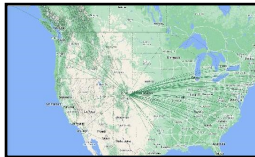
Fun time while on the air, but I had to work the pro shop Sunday. Many thanks for the QSOs folks! Used the IC-7300 and "droopy dipole" along with my 1919 Vibroplex Original. Managed to snag just one QSO on 15 meters and "nada" on 10 for me. I don't have a good antenna for the upper bands. Nonetheless, it was a fun weekend. Catch you on the next. 73, Jack KK0I



This is a great event for all involved. It's remarkable how many total licensed years are shared by the active participants and hopefully it gives the younger members an incentive to keep the CW flame burning for decades to come. I believe the photo below sums it up nicely. -- For those who would like a digital copy of the photo, please send email request to address shown on my QRZ page. You are free to use it in any way you choose. 73, Chuck N0CW



I enjoyed this WES and the theme - WOW! There are some real Ole Timers out there! 37 years for me - I didn't realize I had been a Ham all that long until I went and found my old original ticket. All the best and looking forward to next month. 73, Russ KK4WX



My biggest WES yet. I also satisfied requirements for my Senator level. Thanks to all the OTs who came out with their T's and S's just for me. 73, Jim N0IPA



Big milestone for me... submitting my first WES score! I finished with 49 contacts, one of them being my "number neighbor" Colton KD5DXX #24072T! I started this WES at the campsite while the Boy Scouts were kayaking, using a G90 at 15w, CW Morse key, and 66ft end fed halfwave and paper logging with no internet! Finished off at home with the IC-7300 at 75w and trusty Navy Flameproof. This was the first time back on the straight key in five weeks due to right shoulder surgery. I could feel the fatigue, but enjoyed every dit and dah. TNX to all the old-timers I got to work! 73, KQ4YC OH

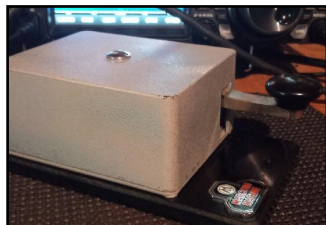


First SKCC Contest since becoming a member on March 14th. Only 5 QSO's on 20 meters - not bad considering being on the 4th floor of an apartment using 5 watts into a Chameleon Loop Antenna. Had fun - will try every WES event. 73, Greg N2DYT

Was able to work 21 old-timers with the following years, 1-(25yrs)K2ACX, 1-(31yrs)KE4MAC, 1-(34yrs)KM4FO, 1-(35yrs)WA3GM, 1-(45yrs)NE9EE, 1-(46yrs)KC9IL, 1-(50yrs)N7DR, 2-(55yrs)NA4O & K2FW, 1-(56yrs)KR2Q, 2-(60yrs)VE3FGU & W1TAG, 1-(61yrs)KB4QQJ, 1-(62yrs)W4EAB, 2-(63yrs)W1DV & K3JZD, 1-(66yrs)K9DAC, 1-(67yrs)N4OW, 1-(68yrs)W4FOA, and 2-(69yrs)VE3KZ & W8MSK for an average of about 54.3 years. Had 3-(15 meter) contacts and 5-(10 meter) contacts. Was surprised to also contact on 10 meters, my old friend in Florida, N4OW. 73, Brian N4API



## June WES, 2022 IV



Very busy over the week-end, so only dipped my little toe in the water this time....One WES contact and 2 POTA contacts....73, Jim N4EES



Busy catching up on yard work Saturday and my family celebrating my Birthday which was at my Daughters house about 30 Miles away. Sunday was busy too but managed to have 15 QSO's 12 OTers and one summer band QSO (6M) with my neighbor Chris AI8W. Was



Boy! What beautiful weather we had in the Adirondacks this week-end...that reads let's do some outside chores. Thank goodness for a few breaks to get on the radio...and the evening. There was a decent 10m opening around 0100UTC that lasted a little over an hour. Stations from AL, FL, MS, NC, TX, VA, WI, and WV were logged - that was pretty cool. 50 unique OTs were logged. Two have been licensed for 69 years! That's awesome. I wonder how it would play out if pre-OTs were bonuses...those licensed for fewer than 25 years...This radio stuff is awesome. Thank you for the opportunity to participate. I appreciate all the ops that heard my QRP station and logged my exchange. Thanks to the SKCC members who organize these weekend sprints. SKCC Logger is great! I'm looking forward to next month's WES already. Hopefully, the weather will afford a little more radio time! 73, Will NQ2W



Fun WES ! 6m had a nice ES opening on Sunday. I found WM4Q. Many CW stations exchanging grid Numbers but SKCC ops were scarce. 10 & 15 were in good shape. Many 599 sigs. Pleased to work many new numbers. 73 de N4ow Skcc 11375s Be back next month. 73, Al N4OW



I started a new log for application for Senator. Made 107 T and S contacts for my new log; more than half way there from one WES weekend. Interesting to hear how many have been licensed for a long time. Most were less than my 60 years, but some were many years longer. Nice that 15 meters opened up for a couple of hours on Saturday and on Sunday. 73, Larry N9CB



Very noisy on all bands today, here in East Ohio. Running an old Icom IC-735 @ 80W into a 5 band vertical, ground mounted with radials. Key was the old Vibroplex Lightning Bug. 73, Randy N8KQ



I had just earned my Tx8 a couple of days before the WES. I got my first 23 T & S numbers toward the 200 that I need to earn my 'S'. I got 20 OT exchanges and 6 QSOs on 15M "Summer Band". Bands were in and out, but I was quite pleased with my results. I was thrilled to work a night owl contact (00:04 local time, aka 05:04z) on 20M with Allan, VK2GR from the land down under. 73, Ken N9KJU



Some fun!!! Had the VIZ KEY out for a ride. 73, AL NE9EE



Portable operation at the lake. hamsticks were utilized attached to the deck with a tuned counterpoise. Using an Icom 7100, the hamsticks antenna managed to work across the big pond into Europe on 20 meters! Not much operating time...fishing was too good! 73, Ken N8KR



Tnx.. ic718 90wts g5rv up 35ft in n/s inv vee.. got my 30 qsos. Ha., that qrm is legal.. ha. Pix is not done, nmbr 85 key. Ha., more Qrm.. ha.. tnx to SKCC board, they r busy with wlsfr cootie keys..So, c u in July to make more QRM., HA. DAVE LARSEN N9ZXLQRP@GMAIL.COM



A nice way to while away a few hours. I snagged 2 interesting calls for my log. TNX! to all .....C U Next month 73, Steve NQ8T



## June WES, 2022 V



Thanks for the Qs - mostly S&P. 46/62 Qs were Old Timers. Highest number of years I worked was 67 held by my friend John K4BAI and also Andy W4NLT. Congratulations!!! Kenwood TS-530S and Junker Straight Key. 73, MitchNW0M



Busy weekend but got on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon for some fun. Used my K3 at 100 watts into an OCF dipole or 80M doublet. Used a Bencher RJ-2 key. Thanks all! 73, Bill NZ0T



Didn't have much time for WES. I used a new "Mini Cootie" I made for portable work (SOTA or working SKCC events when traveling). 73, Luc ON7DQ - OT/43 years



Nice sprintathon. My 1st QSO on 6 mts with an FD\$ Windom antenne. Tnx everyone for the points. Working with the famous ON4MAC key. 73, from Holland Joop PA3JD



Thus was my second WES and great experience for a new op. Thanks to all who made contact. This was my portable setup on the back porch running on battery. 73, Robert VA3KRJ



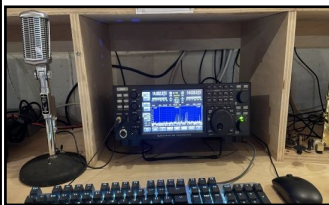
Had fun on Saturday - missed all Sunday for family events. Got some kind comments on my /70. Some 15M activity, one 10M QSO (K2ACX). No, I didn't tidy up the shack for the photo! 73, Ben VE1AHX



Good signal on 15m Saturday using my Buddipole as dipole (no coils); end-fed for 20m and 40m. Not too much time on the air but fun as always. Thanks all. 73, Robert



Nice WES! Most QSOs in 20m with a few in 40m (one of them Bob F6EJN!) and only two in 15m (Char KC0W in MO and Larry N1TX in KL7!). I used both the ICOM 703+ and the ICOM 706MKIIG, hence declaring the participation as QRO. The antenna was the long wire up the maples in the yard and most QSOs were made using the Bencher paddle rigged as a side-sweeper. 73 all de Jose VE3DTI/VA3PCJ.



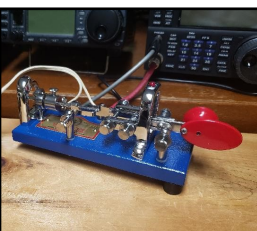
Referring to the picture, meet my new best friend, an Elecraft K4D. This was its maiden contest run, and using it was a lot of fun. By way of explanation, the object to the left of it is a microphone, which heavy object is only used for self-defense in case anyone tries to steal the K4D. Anyway, this was a very nice contesting weekend, and 55% of my QSO's were made on the "summer bands." 74% of the contacts were made with the >25 year folks. An enjoyable time - thanks to all who participated. 73, John W1TAG



As always nice to talk to everyone. 73, Bob W8ARC

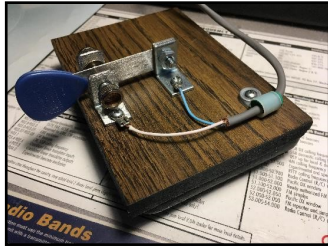


Operating location was Salem SD EN13hq. 73, Dave WG0Y



This WES was the maiden voyage of the key shown in the picture. It is the first Vibroplex I have used in over 20 years and reminds me of the one I had in the late 1950's. I still have to do some fiddling to make it sound the way I want it to. Although I was pushing 500W out of the shack, I had a motley collection of antennas that often made the result more like QRP. Ten meters only showed up here on Sunday but 15 carried the points both days. I like the format of this June WES. I had an opportunity to compare numbers and appear to have the third oldest ticket among the participants. It was fun. Thanks to the organizers for another great SKCC event! 73 Bob VE3KZ

## June WES, 2022 VI



Great theme ! Not much time to operated but all 5 contacts were "OT's", S, and unique SPC's. Hi Hi. I used my Home Brew \$5.00 coot-



15 meters was fairly good for me. Out of a total of 62 QSO's, 41 were on 15. Had one on 10 meters. No luck on 6m. Heard contesters so band was open.



Several hours of operating this month and keeping to the theme as much as I could. It was fun hearing all the OLD TIMERS and at 46 years I feel like a new operator. Icom's both tuned to under 5 watts and feeding a LNR EFHW QUAD antenna at 3 meters. The best QRP antenna I have ever used. 73, Bill W3SI



This month's WES contacts was one of my best. I forgot about 15-meters until Sunday afternoon, so I missed some additional scores. This month I used the Ten-Tec Omni VI Plus and Ten-Tec Centurion that I bought at HamVention in May. Boy did they work great! A WES weekend is always great fun. 73, Drexel W4DHT



Great fun! Openings on 15 es 10 and lots of participation from Skcc-ers. Qrn was a bit of a challenge at times. . . . but it's all FUN! 73, Allan W4EAB

Wrked Ujo 3B8BAL on 20. VK and ZL on 15. 42 of my 62 contacts were with Old Buzzards like my self (62 yrs)! Keys: Intrepid bug, Czech Army SK, and Twanger SS. Rig: IC-7610 & KPA-1500 Antennas: Optibeam 4 ele on 15 and my new experimental 40 meter dbl bazooka sloper. 73 de West Virginia Dave W3NP



Great WES Nice to see many of us Old Timers on three bands...Nothing on 10 meters with about 20 on 6m & 15m. All the best and C U On the Bands. 73, Greg WA3GM / DAH KS3KCC



15m was good to me this weekend, plenty of openings from morning until QRT time. Mostly North and West with a few South to FL from AL. 73, Jerry WA4JK



Some brief openings on 15M and 10M, but most of my contacts were 40M which stayed open late on Saturday. Lots of OT operators on this weekend !! Always fun !!! Stay well & 73! Mike, WB2FUV



Another great WES event! Only had a few hours to operate but met some other "Old Timers" like myself. "Chico" the DX hound helped me sniff out contacts and the occasional dog treat, too. 20 meters was open for us with our Ni4l ZS6BKW and we managed to work Mark I4IKW in Italy. Thanks to the volunteers who make this possible and to all the ops that I contacted. 73, Dave and Chico W4QDV



This was weekend to exercise the QRP-Labs QCX rigs which accounted for all but (3) 40M contacts. I was impressed by so many 60+ yr OTimers, and very pleased to have worked them. Kudos to Don W7GB for having highest OT yrs at 72. Well done! 73, Mark WO7T



## Portable Bases

73, Mark de WO7T #3298

The prevailing advice on a base for paddles and or keys, is large and heavy. Therefore, usually a slab of steal, brass or marble is leveraged. However, I was looking for something versatile and not so heavy to be utilized with my “beater” key that could be thrown in the back-pack, and hiked out to an operating spot.

A visit to my local big-box home improvement store, and a trip down the flooring aisles netted me a solution. Note, from hardwood laminate flooring to vinyl flooring one can find precut samples of the boxed-up flooring, which were of no cost to run home with to ponder for your flooring project. In my case, no flooring project was pursued, but I had some 4” X 7” samples panels in various finishes from a marble, granite, and wood as seen in the photo below.



Affixing 4 rubber feet to any of these samples was still short on weight to keep the panel from sliding around. So, I opted for vinyl wet area

sample panels because the backs had a textured rubber coating that grabbed a table pretty well. Anyway, I liked a marble type look versus wood, to net the following straight key mounted to that base at about 4” x 6”. It stays put on my desk or a picnic table, and should I grow tired of the marble look, or I chip a corner off the base, I know where to pick up an affordable replacement.



## What A Clock!

Most of us have a “clock” in the shack...but nothing like this “time piece” made by Bob W8BTD (8972T)! This is a work of art/care/love! And here is what Bob said,

*“It was done on a whim and being the first time ever attempting to make a clock. “*

We should all be such perfect first-time builders!

Nice work Bob!





## July Slow Speed Saunter, 2022

### Slow Speed Saunter Results

Results for Slow Speed Saunter: 1-2 Jul 2022

Overall | Soapbox

#### Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
K6GQX	Bill Kummer	23780	CA	1
N0CW	Chuck	23240S	CA	4
W6GIB	Don	13257	CA	2
W6MDA	Mike Adams	23738	CA	2
N4AP1	Brian	11673	GA	4
N9KJU	Ron	19954T	IL	1
W6G00	John	21474S	IN	9
K43LOC	Ric	660S	KS	11
AH6AX	Larry	11165S	MD	7
N93E	Kevin	19625S	MD	1
W1DV	Dave	1433S	NC	16
W4JL	Dave	15400S	NC	14
AC1GF	Bob	19399S	NH	16
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	20
N5RLH	Randall	25609	NM	4
WY2A	Denny	26211	NY	1
K4BHN	Larry	2046S	OH	1
W3HMS	John	20679	PA	6
K0ARSJ	Mike	25684	VA	3
N2TNV	Dean	25132S	VA	5
W6BTF	Donna	7057S	WI	4
W3NP	Dave	3182S	WV	6

### Slow Speed Saunter



Always a nice SKCC event. Ran 75 watts from my TS-590SG to a vertical. The attached picture shows a happy SKCC'er participating in the Slow Speed Saunter. A very Happy 4th of July to all. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Condx were so-so and not too many stations on but did manage 6 QSO's. K3 @ 100w to 40 meter double bazooka. Twanger cootie. 73 de West Virginia Dave W3NP



This was my first real QSO since 1984. Bob AC1GF was patient and made sure I got the Information I was looking for. Thanks for all your support. I'm looking forward to future participation. 73, Denny WY2A

## Could This Ever Be True?



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



*Editor note,,,I ran across this from an ARRL article and thought it very interesting...and scary.*

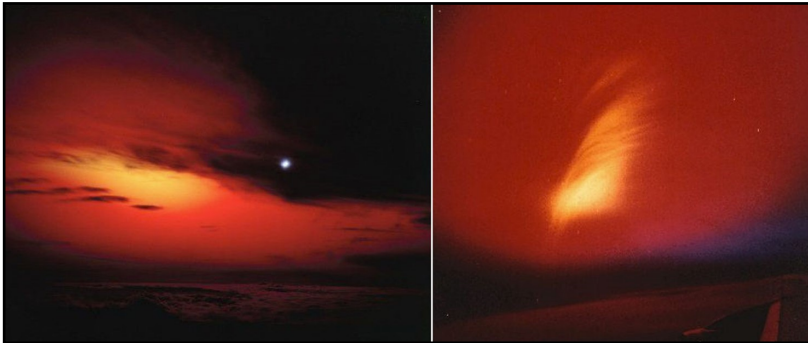
## Starfish Prime: The First Accidental Geomagnetic Storm

July 8, 2022 / Dr. Tony Phillips

**July 9, 2022:** Sixty years ago today, one of the biggest geomagnetic storms of the Space Age struck Earth. It didn't come from the sun.

"We made it ourselves," recalls Clive Dyer of the University of Surrey Space Centre in Guildford UK. "It was the first anthropogenic space weather event."

On July 9, 1962, the US military detonated a thermonuclear warhead 250 miles above the Pacific Ocean—a test called "Starfish Prime." What happened next surprised everyone. Witnesses from Hawaii to New Zealand reported auroras overhead, magnificent midnight "rainbow stripes" that tropical sky watchers had never seen before. Radios fell silent, then suddenly became noisy as streetlights went dark in Honolulu.



*Above: 'Nuclear auroras' viewed from Honolulu (left) and from a surveillance aircraft (right) on July 9, 1962.*

Essentially, Starfish Prime created an artificial solar storm complete with auroras, geomagnetic activity, and blackouts. Much of the chaos that night was caused by the electromagnetic pulse (EMP)—a ferocious burst of radiation that ionized the upper atmosphere. Ionized air over the Pacific pinned down Earth's magnetic field, then

let it go again when the ionization subsided. The rebound created a manmade geomagnetic storm for hundreds of miles around the blast zone.

Dyer, who is widely known for his studies of extreme space weather events, was still in school when the bomb exploded. "In 1962 the Cold War was red hot, and we all thought the end was nigh," he says. "Starfish Prime was a defining event."

"The explosion led to the early demise of all the spacecraft in orbit at the time. These included Ariel-1, the UK's first spacecraft, and Telstar-1, a US communications satellite which had the bad luck to be launched the very next day..

Normally, geomagnetic storms bring down satellites via orbital decay. The upper atmosphere heats up and expands to the point where it can pull satellites down toward Earth. Starfish Prime was different.

"The explosion filled Earth's magnetosphere with energetic electrons," explains Dyer. "Electrons were injected by the gradual beta decay of fission products and added to our planet's natural radiation belts. There were increased fluxes of trapped electrons for many years after the blast.

"These artificial electrons hit satellites hard, degrading their electronics and solar arrays."

“Ariel-1 became almost unusable after 4 days due to power degradation and tape recorder failure,” recalls Dyer. “The Telstar satellite lasted until November 1962 when its command decoder failed. It still managed to provide the first transatlantic TV feed, synchronize UK/US time to 1 microsecond and inspired the Tornado’s rock classic ‘Telstar,’ which used recordings of a flushing toilet played backwards.”

Starfish Prime serves as a warning of what could happen if Earth is blasted by high doses of radiation. Sixty years later, researchers are still learning what it can teach us about the vulnerability of power grids. An even scarier atmospheric explosion may have been Soviet test 184 (also designated K3) on October 22, 1962, which set fires and knocked out hundreds of miles of power lines in Kazakhstan. That, however, is a different anniversary.

## SKSE August, 2022

### Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 04-Aug-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	F6EJN	Bob	508S	FRA	34	25	15/9/0	1,165
2	I4IKW	Mark	24889	ITA	23	18	9/3/0	579
3	EA3NO	Lluis	6653S	ESP	21	15	9/3/0	480
4	PG4I	Jo	11019S	NED	19	16	6/5/0	444
5	KK8X	SID	22911S	OH	18	13	5/4/0	349
6	VE3KZ	Bob	22804S	ON	12	11	5/2/0	227
7	KR2Q	Doug	3866S	NJ	14	11	2/2/0	204
8	SP7OGP	Piotr	9749	POL	10	9	5/1/0	175
9	TA2SE/3	Rifat Tultak	24143	TUR	11	8	4/1/0	158
10	G0RDO	John	2133S	ENG	8	7	6/1/0	156
11	IU4NYV	Ugo	25939	ITA	9	7	4/2/0	143
12	G4PVM	Paul	17810S	ENG	9	8	3/2/0	137
13	DJ5CW	Fabian	1982T	GER	5	5	4/0/0	85
14	F5JYK	Michel	24409	FRA	4	4	3/1/0	71
15	AF2Z	Drew	2082S	NJ	4	4	2/0/0	46
16	VK2GR	Allan	7823T	AUS	2	2	1/0/0	19
17	KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	1	1	1/0/0	16



Good conditions on 20m for a change, operated for first hour only, and I got 8 fun QSO's in the log thanks to F6EJN Bob, EA3NO Lluis, KR2Q Doug, K2FW Steve, DJ5CW Fabian, KK8X Sid, TA2SE/3 Rifat, all on 20m, plus G4PVM Paul on 40m. TS-440s 100 watts, 20ft fishing pole vertical. 73, John G0RDO



All in all good signals with the 20 meter band a bit noisy, better in 15 meters, but little activity, only two qso. Still new encounters and new friends. For this SKSE Icom 756 proII and the trusty #4 1962, vertical antenna. Some qso given the situation were made with 300W. See you at the WES! 73, Mark I4IKW



First experience with a kind of contest!! 2 hours amazing! Thanks to whom take care of these activities!! God bless you! 73, Ugo IU4NYV



## May Brag, 2022



Fun month. Hope everyone had a memorable holiday weekend and is ready for June. See you down the log. 73, Bud AA8CL



Good to see old and new friends at the Dayton Hamvention. Had a fantastic time. 73, Curt K2CWM



Thanks to all who made this month Brag program so much fun. Band conditions are improving and our DX members are being heard again. Hopefully, we will not be distracted by too much yard work this year. Everyone have a good summer. God bless you and your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



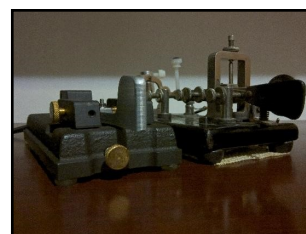
Pretty good month. I got CUB, JPN and AUS so things are looking up. Used the 7610 and a doublet antenna at 30ft. Most were with the SS but a few with Bug or SK. 73,



Not the best, see you next month. 73, Dave KB1WOD



Gotta love it! 73, Tom KB3CVO



Slow month...outdoor yard activities took priority. Thanks Dave (W1DV) for the bonus brag...always enjoy your fist. See you all next month. 73, Jack KK0I



Lots of fun, good practice, and met lots of great people. Now I get to do it all over again. :- ) 73, Phil KW2P



Broke in my new Yaesu FTdx10 this month. Thanks for the QSOs! 73, Jim N4EES



Not a bad month. Thanks all and to Dave, W1DV for the bonus. Below... the quartet that were all used this month. 73, Rick N8XI



May was a pretty good month. Installed a EFHW antenna for 80-10. The xfmr is shown mounted at 24' on the tower and the antenna goes up to 50' and back down to 25' - (end fed inv vee). Did a lot of A/B comparisons with the big 160m loop on various bands and the EF is a very worthwhile addition to the farm - especially on 40 and 30. Also managed to add 8 more marathon qso's during the month. Condx were very good at times and terrible at others. Tnx Dave W1DV and all the others I worked. 73 de West Virginia, Dave W3NP



Thanks for the Bonus points, Dave. I didn't even realize you were the Bonus station - hi. It was good having a QSO with you again; it'd been a while, OM. And thanks to all for the SKCC Brag fun! 73 es ZUT, Chip W9EBE



Lots of QSOs in the books this month, the bands were alive with CW everywhere. I had fun working a few contests and even practiced with the bug. I might just be getting the hang of it. Thanks for the fun. 73, Bill W3SI

## June SKS, 2022



All good things come to an end I Guess. Only 2 QRPp contacts. Not being heard tonight. It wasn't from lack of trying. But isn't that what the hobby is about? Trying different things and seeing how we perform under different conditions? Still the best hobby ever!!! See you down the log. Everyone be safe, have fun, and call CQ. 73, Bud AA8CL



Started on 15m for few minutes but heard no one, so went to 20m and made 9 contacts, then onto 40m and made 11 contacts for a total of 20, then quit. I did search for bonus station but it wasn't to be (for me at least). Ran 50w from my TS-590SG into a vertical using my Kent KT1 Str Key. Good turnout, good condx, fun...Missed last month due to Dayton trip. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



We missed all but the last half hour of the sprint but we had a good excuse- It was 96 here today so we headed over to the Lake to cool off. Then we watched the beautiful sunset over Lake Erie. We will do better next time. Thanks for the QSO's. 73, Larry K8TEZ



Only made a few contacts on 40. Working towards S but taking my sweet time at it (hi). My thanks to the QSO's I did make, particularly Dave WA8KAN, my last contact. 73 all and stay safe. 73, Jim KD1KR



90 is better than 00...lol 73, Gary KI7PBR



Happy that I worked Dave WA8KAN the Bonus Station, I haven't done that in a while. Also worked Hank K1PUG and Ken N8KR, nice to see old friends. Photo from Orlando Hamcation with Karen W4KRN. 73, Rich W4RQ



Had a fun time running the VIZ KEY. Great activity. 73, Nee NE9EE



Used my new Elecraft K4 that arrived just 6 days ago and, man, is it ever a great rig! 100 watts into an OCF dipole at 30'. Bencher RJ-2 key. Worked the first hour on 20 meters and the second hour on 40 meters. Fun! 73, Bill NZ0T



## Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 2 Issue 11

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.....*

All Change!

Since my last issue went to press, my plans have galloped off madly in all directions. I am no longer raising my fan dipole another 16'. No.

Our building is sold, possession 1 November, so the shack is moving in its entirety to a new location: my house. It's not far to go, really, it's in the same Maidenhead square to 6 figures – but it is a wholesale change of just about everything except the radio and power supply!!

Ever wish you'd made a decision the other way? Well, I'm in those shoes now. I passed up a 10' roof tripod a few years ago (\$20) because I already had a flat-roof mount on my flat roof at the bakery. Now I'm hunting for one to go on the peak of my hip roof at home. Grabbed at a 5' tripod for \$30 today, just in case I don't find what I need. A forty-foot house-braced tower is available out in the boonies, but there is not much real estate on my patio to fit it in.

I have a TGM MQ-26 in the mail from S. Ontario - apparently the last one ever to be made. 6-20 m, 2El each, capacity-hatted compact Yagi that fits within the perimeter of my roof. Ah, the joy of small inner-city lots. But it is dirigible, which the fan-dipole is not. All my contesting friends bemoan my choice, but it's all about what fits, so that's the cookie crumbled. I wasn't really looking to put a contest mega-station on a 25x90 ft lot, anyway. I lose 40 and 80. I gain 6 m. For me, contesting has been more about 15 and 20 anyway. I think I lose 30 m also. I'm not there much now.

To go with the new antenna, I picked up from assorted small vendors and distant hams; a 150W external autotuner, with a broader range than the inboard ATU. A NIB Rigrunner Advantage for all my digital modes. Yes, my radio does a lot directly from the computer, but some of the software I want to try requires an outboard device like this. A pair of 1500W coax chokes (my homebrew unit doesn't do 6m.) A 3-ft bus bar for shack grounding. Negotiating for an automatic antenna disconnect that grounds everything when the radio turns off. Already in a box is a HamIV rotator and controller, which is over-spec'ed for the installation. I'll need the lower clamp fitting that I don't have yet.

On the workbench is an aluminum project box and a handful of audio jacks, which will become a key/paddle hub to keep my growing collection connected to the radio at all times.

I'm going to build the shack around some commercial racking coming out of the bakery, including a lap-height keyboard shelf and lots of open shelves for manuals (gasp!) and such. I'm building it away from the wall in the basement, so there will be room to walk behind and play with cables like a human being, instead of the blind-reach octopus method currently in use.

I expect I'll be off the air from the end of September until Christmas.

*But it isn't contesting. Nope. Not at all. Well, maybe....*

## June Brag, 2022



I have a good time every month regardless of my Brag Totals. Short contacts, medium and long chats, doesn't matter. Every contact is better than being a couch potato, hihi. Always nice catching up on what folks are doing, even if for a short qso. Have a great July. See you soon. 73,



June was a busy month, spent a lot of time getting ready for Field Day. Built a 6M LFA yagi that is working well. Among the 6M contacts KD0NBH was added to the log..1st on air QSO with John...73, Rick K0KEX Keep an eye out on SKCC SKED for 6M Qso's



Did a little POTA hunting in June at the expense of my Brag total, but I'll be back in full force in July for the Brag. Many thanks for all for my contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Thanks to all who participated. There some nice DX openings during the month. But conditions to a nose-dive toward the end of the month with solar flux dropping below 100 again. Combined with the post Field Day Burnout, the end of the month was very slow. I finally achieved Sx7, so it was a good month. Everyone enjoy the 4th of July weekend, and we will see you in July. God bless you and your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Not much DX this month. Got Take-san in JPN. Mostly 40 and 20 meters with some 60 and 80 a little. Super hot here in ETX last month and July not looking much better. Icom 7610 and a doublet antenna. Mixed Bug, cootie and SK when going real QRS. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Limited time this month...see you all again next month. 73, jack KK0I dit...dit



It seems that after WES, the bands went on summer vacation for the rest of the month. In fact, it seemed like the 16 ton weight from "Monty Python's Flying Circus" TV series fell on them with a thud! 73, Chuck N0CW



It was an enjoyable month of Marathon QSO's - had 8 and some experimental antenna work. This is a picture of the 40 meter double bazooka in a sloper config. Been fun switching between this ant, the EFHW, and the big 160m horizontal loop and observing the difference that propagation makes. 73 de West



Big Fist Pic: 73, Pat W5WTH



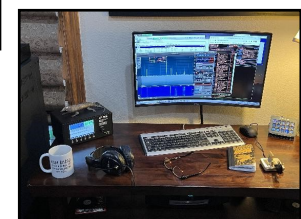
Thank you to all who made it into the log, and made being the Monthly Brag Station for June so much fun! A few duplicates - and a few folks who were not SKCC members who didn't make it into the final count, but who definitely made it into my log! Looking forward to the next event! 73, Cathy W4CMG



Good month! Made some QRP contacts outside of contests and met some interesting people. Cathy was a good Bonus Station operator. So, thanks for the QSO's!! 73, Gene W9KMK



Bands were not really good this month. Also had a LOT of thunderstorms which kept my antennas grounded. Summer on the Gulf Coast can be tough. 73, Les WB5JWI



My primary operating position for the June Brag! 73, Chris



## July WES, 2022



Too nice to spend the weekend inside so I operated portable. I know the bugs have to eat but I wasn't going to be the one to feed them. Most contacts were with other senators so we need to do something to encourage the newer members to participate. Yaesu FT-450 D at 100 watts, MFJ portable folded dipole and four foot copper ground rod. The WW 11 j-38 was bought new, never used, at a hamfest and has the military acceptance mark and has been my main key for the last 28 years and has never needed any adjustment. I look forward to each month's different theme. Thanks to the ones that make this club the best. 73, Frank AA2XB.



Great experience! it pushed my cw aim! 73, Ygo IU4NYV



Only could operate 3hrs Saturday night due to family commitments. Made the most of those 3hrs by making 75 QSOs on 40M. Operated 7hrs on Sunday with a lot of breaks in between. Conditions were quite poor on Sunday. Photo shows my 3 element 10M loop antenna in progress. The 3 elements are finished,



Got to use two keys this WES - one a GPO Double Current telegraph key and the other a Marconi PS No213A maritime UK coast station radio key. Both great keys. I also hooked up a Radio-Aid bug key, but setting up was a nightmare so I did not use it. 4 QSO's were on 20m and thanks to F6EJN, IU4NYV, F5UFV/P, N1FG. One QSO on 10m was EA3IJO in Tarragona. Kenwood TS-440s 100 watts to a 20ft vertical. 73, John GORDO



Thanks for the QSOs. I'm looking forward to hearing everyone again next month. 73, Jim AD0AB



Very poor conditions and IARU Contest, it's difficult for DX. Many thanks for all QSO and maybe better spread for next WES. 73 from Oregon of summer love. 73, Bob



Solar-battery /p QRP setup in the Pawnee National Grasslands. Transceiver was FX-4C. Palm SK. SO-TA beams triband dipole antenna. Very hot weekend, 100 degree day time temps. QSO'd some new folks for me, and enjoyed connecting with ops I've QSO'd with for years now. 73, John K0FTC

Lots of participants on this one. I was planning on operating Sunday afternoon but got involved in a project outside here. I did have a grand sweep on the regular Original 13 Colonies, but I'm afraid not on this WES. But still fun. Thanks for the contacts...73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Fun event - worked 5 Colonies! Thanks for the



Thanks to everyone for making this event FUN! The competition from the IARU event and sometimes weird band conditions just made this event more challenging. Also, a special thank you to all the newer SKCC members for their participation, everyone is helped when you participate! I personally had not seen this amount of participation since K3Y. Again, THANKS Kevin, AF5SW, SKCC #20090T



Almost all QSOs on 40M ... only 3 on 20M. 1 W with a KX3 and ZM2 tuner to a G5RV at 30'. Keys were a 1963 Champion bug and a NYE straight key 73, Gary K1YAN

## July WES, 2022 II



The 13 Colonies is always a fun event. With limited time 20 / 15 worked for me. The 6M Yagi was put together for Field Day. With the great conditions on 6M the past month it was worth taking some time looking 6M SKCC ops. Watch for k0kex on the Sked page for 6m qso's Thanks to all...73 Rick K0KEX



Like always, it was a busy weekend. I used the old Kenwood TS-520SE for most of this sprint and made several on the Drake Novice Twins. Pardon the mess, the Drake 2-NT is on the bench waiting for permanent replacement parts. Thanks for all the Q's as I continue the slog to Senator! I made good progress toward Tx8 this weekend. 73, Steve K9NUD



Enjoyed trying out the new QRP rig for WES. Not much time to operate but enjoyed all 16 contacts! 73, Paul KD0SVI



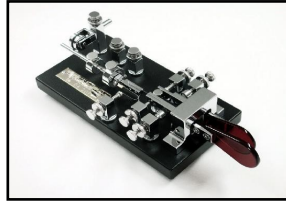
Fun time but also frustrating QSB/QRN/Nothing Heard. Went with 1 Watt with a KX3, G5RV @ 28' and my trusty SCHURR Mahogany Key. Very difficult using 1 Watt but was able to grab HI on a lucky skip with an Rx RST 419. Got 10 colonies but couldn't find DE, RI, or SC. Way to many frequencies to search. See you next time. 73, Steve



Most Qs on 20m and few on 40m. Lower noise levels this month. The bands seemed short otherwise condx good. 73, Daryl K9QEW



Thank you for another great WES! Yaesu FT-891 - 100 Watt into Attic Dipole Alinco DX-SR8 - 100 Watt into Attic Dipole Vibroplex Bug and Navy Flameproof Keys 73, Sergey KD9EBS



Was a fun time this month. Although it looked as though activity was down a bit on Saturday. Both 40 & 20 mtrs seemed to be on good shape. Was even able to make a few QSO's on 10 mtrs. 73, Steve K2FW



Very nice WES lots of stations and good band conditions had lots of fun. Got to work Max KH6ZM in HI. Thanks to all ops! 73, Craig KA9ERV



20 meters dominated by IARU Saturday, fairly quiet Sunday. Had my best on 40 meters Saturday night. 73, John KA1LHJ



I racked up 152 QSOs with my brand new SKCC W1SFR Sideswiper key. I do not have a super station, so it took well over 1000 CQs for me to make those 152 QSOs. That is a very smooth operating key - it felt great right out of the box and was very comfortable throughout the whole event. For the most part, we are letting the FT8 crowd enjoy 15 meters all by themselves. I went to 15m regularly, only to find it empty. Not dead, just empty. The RBN monitors gave me good 15m signal reports, with many of them in Europe. But I was only able to work one French station, and just handful of US stations on 15m. So, let's all try 15m more often - we do not want to waste a rising sunspot cycle. K4 running 100 watts, 3 El Tri-band TA-33Jr and 40m Dipole. 73, Jody - K3JZD



A very fun weekend. I missed the original 13 colonies by 3 states - DE, NH, RI. I was able to catch the 50th state, Hawaii, to add to my WAS list. 73, Mark KC4NLD

Thanks for all the contacts! Just got my new SKCC Cootie key in time for the event. Vy 73, Rich KB1FGC



## July WES, 2022 III



Time and contacts seem to be relative not much of either. 73, Mike KG4IMI



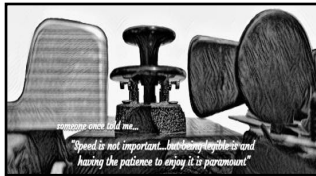
Not a lot of time for the WES this month, but still enjoyed it. My CW partner, Princess, got in on the action too. 73, Randal KG5I-



Conditions weren't the greatest but I did manage to work 5 of the colonies. Had to give up for a while on Saturday since there was another CW contest that was all over our normal area....best part is I still had fun...73 all, KI7PBR #22566T



I am back after a long illness. Since Thanksgiving I have been in and out of the hospitals. Bottom line is in March I had part of my right lung removed due to cancer. Have been going through chemo and have had my last round four weeks ago. So, now am strong enough to set at the radio and work the key. Boy was it a=ever a lot of fun. Didn't really try hard but just did it for the fun and joy of being back.



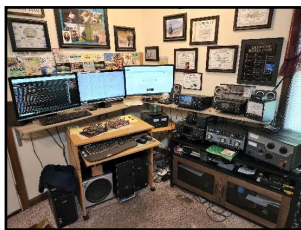
Limited time with granddaughter's graduation party (grandma and I hosted) and work obligations at the pro shop on Sunday. Still a great time...see you all next month! 73, Jack KK0I dit...dit



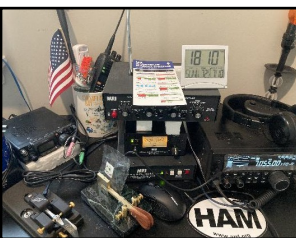
By the time I realized it was WES weekend, I only had the last hour to work in. Always enjoy the 13 Colonies WES. 73, Russ KK4WX



Fortunate XYL and Family were away at the Jersey Shore this weekend. I got to play radio all weekend :) 73, Ernie N2DGQ



73, David KQ4CW



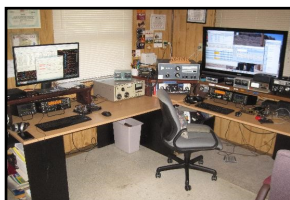
Thank you all, at 22:24 been able to work few stations and lot of new operators for my log. W1SFR Coottie debut side by side with Begali Mark II HST. Nice key very sweet to use. 73, Angel N4SNI



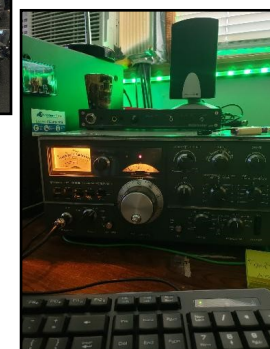
Poarch portable QRP with an HW-9 into 80m EFHW sloper. Weather was perfect and the coffee delicious... 73, Ed N2GSL



Very nice weekend sprint especially with the band openings and the quiet noise level. Thanks for all who participated. 73, Dean N2TNN



Saturday only. Set up one station for IARU (20 cw) and the other for SKCC (40) and went back and forth. Josh-W9HT visited in the evening and we operated both stations simultaneously. As always, it's a fun hobby! Lots of activity from the Fort Wayne gang! 73, Ken N8KR



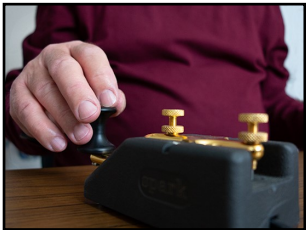
Kenwood TS-520SE, Vibroplex Lightning Bug, J-38 SK, 40M Dipole @ 25 ft, Hustler 5BTV (20M), ground mounted w/ 32 Radials. 90 watts. 73, Randy N8KQ



## July WES, 2022 IV



Thanks to all for another fine WES! Bands were in decent shape. 1 on 15M, 8 on 20M and the rest were 40M QSO's. Sunday I still needed NH and RI, which I posted on the SKED Page. Larry, N1FG surprised me by answering my CQ on 7.051...I noticed Jon, KC1FUU from RI (Sunday at 21:44Z) and sent him a PM but he was leaving but was kind enough to return around 23:09Z worked him for the Sweep on 7.112 Fun as always. Take Care all CU in next WES. 73, Rick N8XI



On my way to Tx8, I spent quite a bit more time than I usually do for this WES event. The waves were good on both 20m and 40m on Saturday, less so on Sunday. I used my FT-991 pushing 80w to an MFJ-2982 vertical. I met quite a number of new people and just sent my application for Tx8. Very exciting. Many thanks to all, 73, Robert VE2KZW



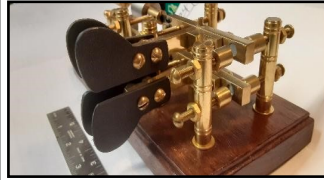
Spent < 4 hrs at this. Just 6 QSOs is nothing to brag about, but every one of them contributed to my S chase. Now have 31/200. I did enjoy what time I did have. It was nice to work two of those on 15M. Tried 10M but I had no luck there. 73 all, de Ken, N9KJU #19964T



A few minutes here, a few minutes there. Used a Dow bug, with the odd side trip to a Vibroplex straight key. 73, Lloyd VE4AEA



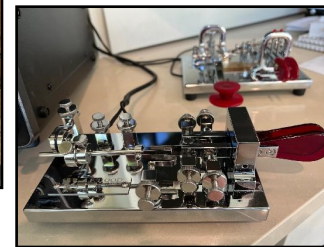
First WES in quite a while since moving back to VA. It was great to work a few pileups for the bonus points. Great event as always. Cheers to the Fort Wayne guys! Nice working you. 73, Jamie W0CD



Ic718 5wts g5rv up 35ft.. only 5 qsos, usually i have to make at least 20 qsos.. i had other things to do, to make QRM, which is LEGAL to make.. hi hi..Tnx to board mbrs for their work for our SKCC...so, c u in August to make more QRM, hihi... takecare. 73, Dave Larsen n9zxlqr@gmail.com



Busy weekend so was only able to operate on Sunday. Started out with my new K4 and Bencher RJ-2 key on 40 meters than to 20 meters. Had a 2 hour break while I drove to meet a ham I bought an Elecraft K2/100 from. Used the K2 and a J-38 for the rest of my operation on 20 meters. Used an OCF dipole at 30' on both bands. Fun!! 73, Bill NZ0T



This was a fun WES even though not very productive. It was my first WES since getting to S status. Also it was my first WES with my new Alberto Frattini bug! It is heavy and solid and smooth and Beautiful! Due to COVID it took over 2 years for Alberto to get it to me but it is clearly worth it! 73, Dennis W0NZZ



TNX to all who copied my pea shooter's 1 watt. It was REALLY! nice to hear Max & Jay on the air. Had not heard either of them since K3Y. C U next month 73 Steve NQ8T



Some fun. First time back at WES in a while...had some 'issues' but doc says I am on the mend it would appear (thank you!) after some treatment for a bit of time to come. So nice to be able to sit in a chair and do radio. Anyhow, it was a great weekend weather-wise here so mostly did some early day and evening radio activity. I operated from the sun-room at my in-laws looking out over the deck onto the lake...- where my wife's mom has let me store my Kx-3/amp into the sewing machine table (has a niche built into table to store machine... now my radio is in there) when we come to visit.... which is to say my dog's visit their lakeside! Got a few more unique stations toward my Tx8... just a few more to go.

Bands were OK..nice to work some stations on 20m once IARU event was over. Enjoyed my Speed-X bug and Navy Flameproof. 73, Brian



## July WES, 2022 V



Lost about half of Sunday due to family activities. Did get back for the last hour, though. Participation level seemed decent, though the Sked Page didn't show most of it, which is too bad. No sweep here -- missed neighboring NH, as well as the UK. Conditions were OK - Es activity both days, which seems to take a chunk out of longer-haul paths. Worked a number of folks who were obviously new to this activity, and that was a pleasure. Thanks to all. 73, John W1TAG



Another fun 13 colonies WES. I only got 10 colonies, but worked 6 from VA! I also finished up my SX4! 73, Gene W9KMK

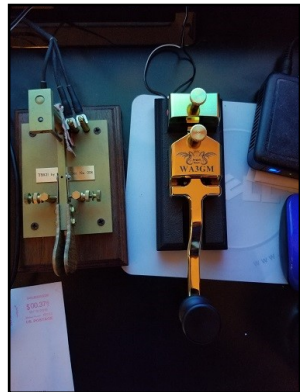


WES Location: Glasgow MT DN68qe. Pictured is Lori KO4YIN after 18AVT install on July 7, 2022. David WG0Y

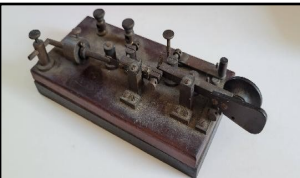
I forgot about the WES and remembered Sunday morning. Band conditions were so-so. Only worked 40 & 20. QSB was crazy on 20. Thanks to everyone who dug me out and those who tried so hard but couldn't succeed. 73, John WS1K Station: Elecraft K2 5W, 200' Doublet @ 35', J38 Key The key pictured is a Delany Auto-Dot. 73, John WS1K



Just had a relaxing Sat afternoon looking for 13 colonies stations. Didn't make it on Sunday. Good to see Max KH6ZM participating - got him on 15 & 20. IC-7610 & KPA-1500. Begali Intrepid Bug & Junker SK. 73 de West Virginia Dave W3NP



Not much time to work the WES this month between work and some family things. Bands were not good here to say the least. Thanks for the 32 I worked..... I was one of the operators for the 13 colonies the week before so a lot of time spent on there. Hope all had a gud WES & C U Next month. 73, Greg WA3GM / DAH KS3KCC



Rough conditions this weekend, between IARU, QRN, QRM - AND QRC (QR Cat)! Next month, I'm giving him his own key to play with :) 73, Cathy W4CMG



Always fun to operate WES. This was my view, I don't know how those paddles got there, really I don't. 73, Bill W3SA

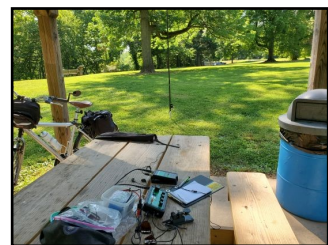


Great propagation on Saturday, worked Japan, France, Canada, Italy, and a strong RBN report from Australia. All with 100w and vertical (18 radials). What's not to like? Well... I guess Sunday's propagation :-(- Great fun! Thanks to everyone I worked. 73, Joe

Had a great time working my second WES event. Had a busy family weekend but stayed on the air long enough to get my Tribune award which I immediately applied for and received effective July 11th, 2022. 73, Chris WX7V



Got my remote station first time on the air for this event. Located in our lemon Grove 30 miles NE of my home QTH here on the coast. Operating an IC718 controlled over the internet using HRD. I get the received sound over Skype. The major problem of actual "fist" keying, as required by our club, is accomplished by the CW Hotline device as shown in the photo. It works great. Email me, philsilverman@juno.com, if you want info on this set up. 73,



I went for a bike ride this morning and stopped at a local park for a pit stop. While I was there, I set up my radio and antenna and made a few WES contacts. 73, Craig WB3GCK



## July SKS 2022



Made 20 contacts; 2 on 20m, and 18 on 40m. Ran 75 watts from my TS-590SG to an elevated vertical. Used my Kent straight key. Missed our bonus station. Always a nice sprint. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Got a chance to use my new Navy Flame Proof key. 73, John K2IZ



Nice to work Dave tonight on 40 meters as the bonus station - great signal up here on the shores of Lake Erie tonight. Many thanks to all for the contacts. It's been pretty hot up here this summer but we have a nice Lake to cool off in. 73 till next month Larry K8TEZ



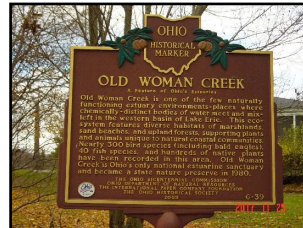
First SKS this year, very limited time to operate and felt a bit rusty on the straight key. Using the old Radio Shack key that my dad gave me, this key was what sparked my desire to re-learn morse code and improve my skills after I found it in the closet during some pandemic cleaning in 2020. 73 de Steve KJ5T



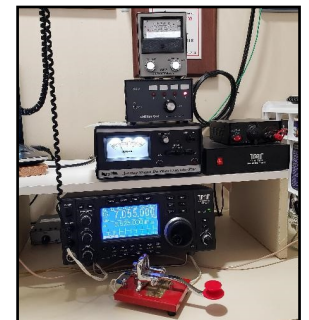
Another fun evening! Started on 20 meters working my friend from FL - KO4PPD and ended working another friend on 80 meters from IN - KR9U! Glad I went to 80 because I found our bonus station there! Lots of activity from the Fort Wayne gang. 73, Ken N8KR



Had the VIZ BUG out for another ride. Some fun. K3 and P3 new to here. 73, Nee NE9EE



A nice event! BIG TNX! to all who make these SKCC events possible!! 20m quieted down somewhat here. SRI for the lousy fist but appreciate all who copied my whimping signal ... 72/73 Steve NQ8T



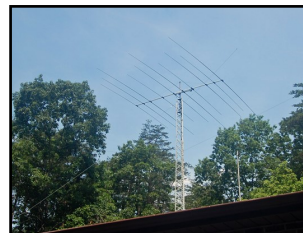
Ten-Tec Jupiter at 5W to a 2-element mini-beam at 25ft for 10, 15, and 20, a dipole at 60ft for 40, and a dipole at 50ft for 80. The TA-33-JR-N is still in the box soon to get the bulk of my attention...I can't wait to see how it plays! Started on 15m but had no success there. 20m was good for 14 QSOs and 40m netted me 13 QSOs. Very enjoyable way to spend the evening! Thanks for hearing my QRP station and getting me in the log. Thanks to the SKCC folks that make these sprints come to life. Your hard work and dedication is very much appreciated. SKCC Logger is awesome! 73, Will NQ2W



Nobody heard me on 20M so spent my time on 40M. Lots of action there. Used my new navy flame proof key. Really enjoyed it. Thanks for the QSOs. 73, Andy W4NLT



Tonight's station was a 1940 Vibroplex Champion with my new QRP rig, a (tr)uSDX at 5 watts into a dipole at 30'. I only made 1 contact on this rig before tonight's SKS but it seems to work pretty well. My bug had a screw loose so sorry for the scratchy dits, I got it fixed just in time for my last contact! 73 de Kerry, WD5ABC



Condx were very good on 20 and 40. Stayed mostly on 20 with a few on 40 (very crowded) and 1 on 80. K3 and KPA-1500, Optibeam yagi @50' and Begali Intrepid bug. 73 de West Virginia Dave W3NP



## Straight Key CW on Satellite

I received a note from VE3KG (SKCC 12570) David, who does satellite work. Because his old rig internal keyer died, he was forced to use the “dah” side of his paddle for straight key cw. The following are David’s pictures and account of his straight key satellite work.

**Ted:**

*I've been using straight key CW on the Amateur satellites.*

*I have my satellite station lashed up at home with full AZ-El rotation. It's temporarily set up on my WorkMate until I can put up a dedicated mast or roof tripod. My satellite rig, an old Yaesu FT-736R, has developed a fault: the key socket failed in such a way that I can not use the internal keyer, so I use the DAH paddle of my keyer as a straight key.*

*There isn't much CW activity on the satellites, but my CQs get replies.*

So if you're into satellites, you might want to watch for “VE3KG” and his straight key cw!



VE3KG satellite station



Satellite antenna array



My Key for the WES. Less than ten minutes work using essentially floor sweepings from my workshop. Work surprisingly well. 73, N2EI

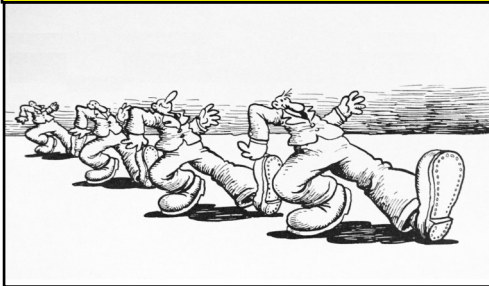
SKCC Straight Key Century Club						
Marathon Award Participant Logs						
Last Update: 10 August 2022						
Times: Hours, Minutes, Seconds, SKCC #						
SSC No.	SSC Date	Call Sign	SKCC No.	Duration	Best	Comments
1	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
2	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
3	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
4	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
5	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
6	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
7	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
8	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
9	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
10	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
11	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
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13	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
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15	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
16	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
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71	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
72	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
73	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
74	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
75	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
76	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
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96	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
97	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
98	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
99	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022
100	24 Jan 2022	W4XX	1001	59	4000	24 Jan 2022

## Slow Speed Saunter August, 2022

### Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
W6GIB	Don	13257	CA	2
WB6ZG	Bruce	17714S	CA	12
N1BRL	Bart	25840	CT	2
N3KRX	Jerry	2525T	DE	9
W4RQJ	Rich	8699S	FL	8
N8KJU	Ken	19964T	IL	4
KA9GKE	Rosa	17764T	IN	11
N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	12
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	12
KA3LOC	Ric	660S	KS	22
WN4KPG	Rick	4093T	KS	2
K1YAN	Gary	7563S	MA	3
N8XI	Rick	15024S	MI	3
KB4QQJ	Randy	3508S	NC	13
W1DV	Dave	1433S	NC	22
AC1GF	Bob	18399S	NH	28
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	15
N2RIC	Rich	18534	NJ	3
KA9P/N	Larry	2048S	OH	6
NQ8T	Steve	5919S	OH	11
W4CMG	Cathy	20093S	TN	12
WM4Q	Pete	16465S	TN	20
W5ZBT	Tom	21049S	TX	3
W5H	Mike	11770S	TX	5
K04RSJ	Mike	25984	VA	8
KQ4CW	Dave	22743S	VA	43
N2TNN	Dean	25132S	VA	9
KK0I	Jack	2370S	WI	15
W6DLN	Dan	3635S	WI	9
WB9TFF	Donna	7057S	WI	2
W3NP	Dave	3182S	WV	1

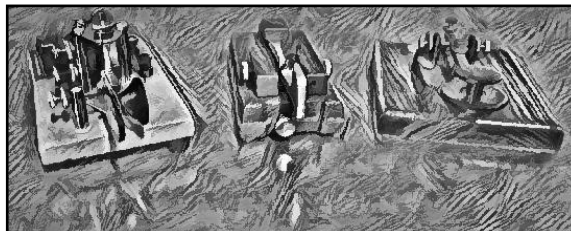
### Slow Speed Saunter



Thanks to all who participated in making SSS another fun event. I was able to work a few very new members. Everyone have a good month and see you down the log. God bless you & your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Very nice event, one of my favorite SKCC events. Used my TS-590SG with 75 watts to a vertical. Kent straight key. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Great fun with the SSS this month. But didn't have time to find Pete (WM4Q - Bonus Brag. See you all next month! 73, jack KK0I dit...dit



The last SSS for me was Nov 1, 2020 where I had 17 QSO's. This one 3 QSO's. 73, Rick N8XI



Some nice QRPx2 QSO's ... Short on time but nice to have these events available to us! TNX! to who make it possible ... 73 Steve NQ8T



Acquired two new keys last week: The SpeedX is quite common but has a very unique, attractive, custom base. The Second key is a Russian KM built in Moscow around 1980. It was a gift from UA1APX. It is quite stiff with no spring tension adjustment. Glad I had the Saunter to initiate them! 73, Ken N8KR



73, Dave KQ4CW



## Brag July, 2022



Thanks to all who participated. It was another slow month, with a lot of family activities. There were so openings on 10 & 6 meters but hopefully conditions will continue to improve. Everyone have fun and God bless you & your families. 73 Ric, KA3LOC



Pretty good month but little DX. The QSB was rough on all bands. Very little activity above 40 meters. Did manage to get the bonus station this month! Using the IC 7610 @ 75 watts and doublet up 30ft. Mostly with the SS but some SK and Bug. 73, Allen KASTJS



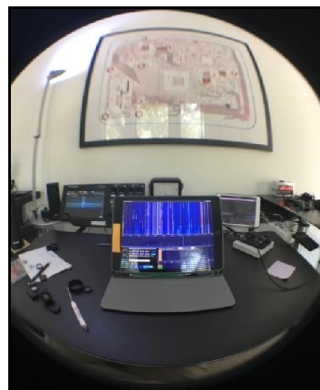
Still fun. 73, Tom KB3CVO



Slow Brag month this time. I enjoyed the contacts tho and Thanks to Nick, WA4HCC for the Bonus. Take Care All...Photo from Key built for Sept 2021 WES... for the upcoming August 13th WES something smaller but workable :~) 73, Rick N8XI



Had a great month. Most of the QSOs were made on the Green Thunder, a 52 year old single lever Vibroplex key restored by Bill WA4DDH. I set it up as a cootie and like the feel. Fun to use but I'll switch back to my W1SFR TBFB for August. 73, Chris WX7V



Random Picture.... 73, Pat W5WTH



As always, limited time during summer months. But fun, nonetheless. See you all again next month. Unfortunately, no joy in finding WA4HCC 73, jack KK0I dit...dit



Included in this brag are FOUR each, one-hour marathon QSOs! It is great getting to know other SKCC members, and the friendships are sprouting like the signals on an open band. 73, Tomas NW7US

## New SKCC Pacific Area Events Coming in September... \*

From: Drew AF2Z

The SKCC Board has recently approved two new monthly events: a 24-hour slow speed saunter event and a two-hour sprint. These will complement existing SSS and SKSE events but with a focus on our members in the Western Pacific. We invite SKCC members in *all* regions to participate. Have fun trying to log some of our more distant member stations, and also help them to achieve hard-won SKCC endorsements and awards.

The Straight Key Sprint Asia (SKSA) will be managed by Hiro-san JJ1FXF, #22608C. It will be held on Sept. 9 and every 2nd Friday UTC from 2200-2400z. (Saturday morning for



the Western Pacific.)

The Oceania QRS Saunter (OQS) will be held on Sept. 17 and every 3rd Saturday UTC. The OQS will be managed by Garry VK2GAZ, #5460C. The OQS is not a contest and will permit use of the WARC bands excluding 60m (as will future SSS events on the first of the month).

Prior to the events reminder notices will be posted here, on the SkedPage and in the Facebook group. We hope you'll join in!

73, Drew - AF2Z



## VC3Y/VY2

Need VY2 for the SKCC Canadian Maple Awards? I sure do and on **ANY** band! Well Your chance is coming this September; Four SKCC members, AC8W, K8AQM, KG8CO and NU8Z are mounting a full scale operation from the PEI DX Lodge (Google it...a mega station) September 7-12. All bands, QRO and operating as long as there are callers! Sked page announcements, QSY to where needed and propagation exist. If you need PEI here is your chance!





## August WES, 2022



Used my Icom 703 qrp radio, wanted to see what I could accomplish with 1 watt for a change. Heard many stations calling cq but most never heard me. I did work 6 stations including John W1TAG who was using his Walmart knife cootie and Dave W1DV who gave me a 559 report. I was using my homebrew "flying saucer" cootie. Enjoyed the challenge. Next month back to qro. Thanks to all who participate in these events. 73, Frank AA2XB



This is my finely crafted key. It is sort of a back-to-basics key designed to give you a glass arm in the shortest possible time. I see why real keys were invented. Actually, I quit using it after 55 QSOs so my bonus count is a little low. 73, Jim AD0AB



All my 25 contacts made on 40m. Ran 75w from my TS-590SG to a vertical using a Kent str key. Thanks for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM



Good time. 20m was working good Saturday, then not so well on Sunday. Didn't break any records, but as always, had a good time creating havoc running 1w...Hope everyone has a great rest of August. See you down the log. 73, Bud AA8CL



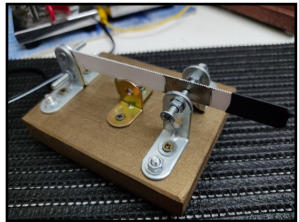
My weekend didn't cooperate. I got on for half an hour late on Sunday. I was hoping to exercise my Junk Box Shackle Key much more. It was one of those look-through-the-junk-box style inspirations. It works pretty well, but it's a two-handed device; a stable base would be much very helpful. On the plus side, it is light and very portable! Otherwise my usual Omni VI opt 3 with my inv vee... 73, Jim, AF3Z



I only had time on Sunday to work a few stations, but nevertheless had fun with my kitchen-drawer MacGuyver key. Surprisingly, this silly-looking contraption works quite well. 73, Frank K8FAC



I didn't think conditions were very good. I know I made a lot of QSOs, but really had to put in a lot of time to make them. Propagation to Europe continues to be poor, only worked 3 European stations. I didn't hear many, never mind working them. Photo shows my buddy Zack. Zack is going in for surgery to have his CCL repaired. 73, Bob AC1GF



Very bad conditions, this weekend a lot of noise qrm qrn, mni stations in contest. 73, Lluís EA3NO



Pawnee National Grasslands. Transceiver was a SW-3B that was less than 5 watts (tnx for the patience of ops copying my weak signal). SOTABeams triband antenna. Used a GHD portable paddle turned on its side and used it as a SK. Used a fence line to support antenna as seen in picture. Big T-Storm with lightning was quite the show for several hours during the evening. 73, John



Too many other things going on here and little time for the WES. 73, Ron AC2C



Just one QSO this time. Thanks to IT9QAU Ferdi on 20m Lots of QSB and good fun. TS-440s 100 watts, 20ft fishing pole vertical. Did not build a Home Brew key, but enclose a picture of one I made earlier (2012) HI 73, John G0RDO

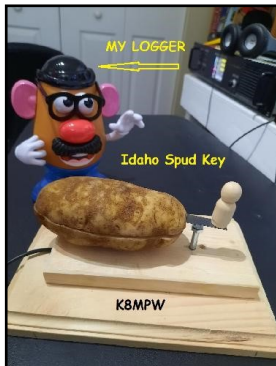


This WES having no home made key, I decided to attempt the use of the "Cootie key" for the first time, along with the solid MacElroy 600. Thanks to Ben W4LRB, for being the first qso of this WES, and the first qso ever for me, using the side-swiper key. I thank and apologize, to all who responded, for my uncertain, and error-filled handling. Propagation was a surprise, good on 15 meters where I worked CA and ID (K6FA & W7AMI) and re-worked also in 20 meters. Lots of satisfaction in 40 meters as well. Thank you all, see you again next 73, Mark I4IKW

## August WES, 2022 II



It has been a challenge here in Southern Oregon to make QSOs. I big hill and mountain to my east made things tough. It was still fun and I managed about 1,100 CW QSO's (SKCC a small portion) in 3 years despite the dominance of FT's. The station is now shut down and I am moving back to Texas. I hope I get to copy you all again one day, but I am a little doubtful. My best score this WES since I had been here and is considered a good ending. 73, Art K7DWI



It was a fun WES using the Idaho Spud Key. Now it's time for dinner, mashed potatoes anyone? 73, Bill K8MPW



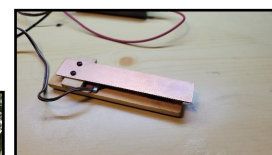
Thanks to all who participated. It was fun as always. I hope I was able to help a few people with the goals. God bless you and your families; and may the "Love Of Christ" (LOC) be with you. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Good activity on 40,20 and 15 meters Sunday. 73 and STAY TUNED! Daryl K9QEW



Nice to hear everyone, especially on the higher bands. Signs of good propagation to come. I had a chance to play outdoors this weekend. Thanks everyone! 73, Warren KC9IL



I only learned of the home brew key theme when I sat down to join in on WES and checked out the web page. I hastily assembled a key out of stuff lying around the workshop in about 30 minutes. Worked great. A piece of circuit board material serves as the "spring board". Pressing down actuates a momentary pushbutton switch. It's a bit light weight and I ended up holding it still on the desk with my left hand. May need to add a heavier base to improve the design. 73, Paul KD0SVI



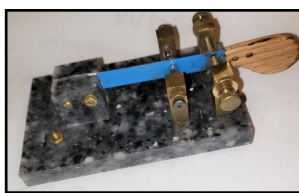
Was busy all day Saturday and most of Sunday so only had about 45 minutes Sunday to play Radio. We had a good time playing seek & pounce on 40 which netted us 15 QSO's...There were some strong sigs there too and almost everyone was over S-9 here on the shores of Lake Erie. Thanks & 73, K8TEZ Larry



Thanks all for the QSO's. It was fun using the soda can keyer-hihi. I knew I couldn't make anything to elaborate and considering I didn't have too much time to think about it as I had just read about the details several days before WES. I remember reading not too long ago about a soda can keyer in QST. So I figured that was easy. It worked OK but wasn't making perfect contact all the time. I soldered a wire under the tab and it did help out. It was fun! 73, Rich KB1FGC



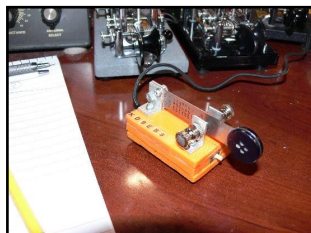
I crammed last week to get to Tx8 in time for the weekend, hoping I could work a lot of T's and S's. I was not disappointed! The jump from Tx8 to Senator is steep (200 T&S Q's) but actually quite easy, as the previously worked stations are considered new again. I managed to cut it to less than half, with 106 T&S Q's Here's my home brew cootie. I slapped it together on Friday night using scraps from the garage, including a piece of my composite deck material, a feeler guage, and some aluminum channel. It worked very well. Here's a video of a CQ. <https://rumble.com/vlg0upf-home-brew-cootie-key-for-skcc-august-2022-weekend-sprint.html> . 73, Steve K9NUD



That was fun! The bands were a bit strange here. On 20m everyone was weak, 80 even weaker but 40 meters was crazy loud! AF2Z Drew was peaking 60dB!! I took out the K3/10 for this WES and repurposed one of my old junkbox keys from the past. 73, Randy KB4QQJ



## August WES , 2022 III



Greetings: Thank you all for the great WES. Used my old home made cootie. Worked great. Thank you and 73, Sergey KD9EBS



All wood except adjusting screws and electric contacts. Rubber band for "spring". Similar to a seesaw. Held together with construction glue. Two hours assembly time, 3 nights without sleep to think about it. 73, Max KH6ZM



Managed to get my Tx3 during this sprint....you guys were good to me!!! lol....even switched to my new cootie near the end but never got a spot. 73, Gary KI7PBR



Limited time, but enjoyed all the QSOs. Hoping to spend more time next month. 73, Jack KK0I



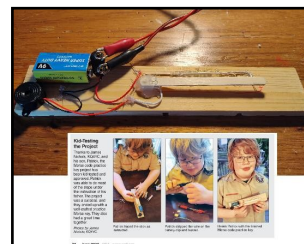
Please allow me to introduce ACE, "the helpful hardware mouse" who helped me select the parts for the pictured homebrew "Rat Trap" straight key. All parts were purchased from ACE's hangout except for the tension spring which was salvaged from a dead FT-243 crystal and the poker chip which was just found. He needs practice and lighter spring tension before we let him on the air, however. The nail is the fine adjustment of return action and the contact point under the hinge is the original copper clad heavy wire that holds the trap's business end from going off before the intended victim arrives. The bands were better this month with the exception of the mid afternoons which were rather dead. 15 meters turned out to be the workhorse band out here on the far western end of the real estate. The last QSO was with Take San, JR2IUB who I am able to work frequently but it's always a treat to pick up a DX SPC during WES. 73, Chuck N0CW



Homemade Cootie for duration! 73, Joe N0HOV



Busy weekend. Happy to add a few new T stations. 73 de A1, N4ow 11375s



My homebrew key was made by my son and featured in the June 2022 QST magazine! A couple alligator clips on the battery connector was enough to key the IC 7300. The voltage on the key input would sometimes, very weakly sound the buzzer. Haha I also made 3-4 QSOs using a new-to-me Xiegu G1M @ 5w with a CW MORSE key while doing some POTA. Always a great event with many familiar calls, and a couple new numbers to help on my way to Senator. Take care and 73 all! James KQ4YC



TNX for the few stations I worked with my Briggs & Stratton Lawnmower points/key! It was fun! 73, Russ KK4WX



Thanks all! The bands were in good shape for this one... I worked several Europeans and could hear Hiro, JJ1FXF but not enough this time for an exchange. My paper clip STR Key held up to my abuse but my right index finger took a slight beating :~( 73, Rick N8XI

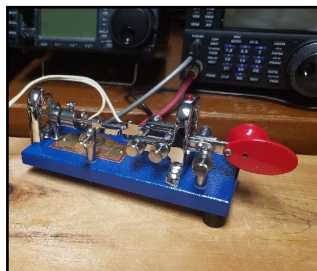
Good weekend for WES. Made enough new T and S contacts to qualify for Senator. Thanks everyone for helping to reach this goal. 73, Larry N9CB



## August WES, 2022 IV



New ic718 4 wts g5rv at 35feet.. tnx to all.. tnx to SKCC board mbrs.. they are busy selling keys from my friend , wlsfr.. I cud only work on Saturday..and i have to monthly work the WES, which I have done for yrs.. it's legal to make QRM there.. haha.. i do it daily.. ha.. pix of key is my nmbr 85 key.. ha.. 86 is in my machine shop yet.. gud hobby.. so tnx to all and ill try to make more WES "QRM" in September, as it is LEGAL for that month also.. ha.. takecare and c u agn..73... Dave Larsen n9zxlqrp@gmail.com



NO that bug was NOT built in my workshop. It is strictly Vibroplex. I'm afraid I have no handy work to offer for bonus points, although I did kick around the idea of a pair of clip leads. The new keyer was given its trial by fire in this WES. It looks colorful in the operating position too. After passing my 85th Birthday this year, I thought that I should try to find a way to enjoy WES without incurring exhaustion. I decided to limit any operating periods to one hour or less with decent rest periods. I ended up with 13 such operating periods averaging 13 QSOs each and seemed to have survived. Looking forward to the VC3Y activity in September. I hope to hear you all again! 73, Bob VE3KZ



Had the VIZ BUG out for another ride with the new to me K3/P3. What a blast. 73, Nee NE9EE



I operated for a few hours Saturday evening at a State Park Campsite. A marginal set up using an Airstream aluminum trailer for the "radials". Heavy rain Saturday evening seemed to improve things. Then another hour late Sunday at the home QTH. Very enjoyable regardless! TNX ALL!! 73 Steve NQ8T



As often, too many things going on in the weekend, so had only a few hours for WES. But it gave me the chance to use my specially made 'Gelattelli' straight key (see picture). It's not a Begali ... but it sure is a LOT cheaper, it keys very well, and I got to eat the ice cream first, mmm! 73 - Luc, ON7DQ



First time using a Cootie. It was 'interesting'. Thanks to those who were able to copy my early very rough attempts and those who offered suggestions for improvement. 73, John NJ0U



Not much time but it was fun working the upper bands! Used my K4, Bencher RJ-2 key. Antennas used were 135' doublet, 160M loop fed with window line and a 43' vertical with remote tuner. 73, Bill NZ0T



Duties as a VE Saturday & storms on Sunday sort of narrowed the available hours to be on the radio. It was, (always is), a fun WES. The homebrew straight key was the easiest to use of all I've made. Still, my wrist says it misses the Kent & Navy Flameproof straight keys, LOL. 73, Blue W1BLU



This WES was unique for me since I operated QRP from the Appalachian Trail near Pine Grove Furnace Pennsylvania. I was only a stone's throw away from the midpoint of the AT. I sent PA as my QTH, so if you didn't believe your ears and logged NJ from the database, you should go fix that. I only worked 15 stations but if you were one of those fine folks, below is a photo of the wilderness QTH. Until next time, 73, Glenn NK1N



Here's the key - thrown together on Friday evening. Used for all my QSOs in this WES - but definitely NOT a keeper! Thanks for the QSOs. 73, Ben VE1AHX

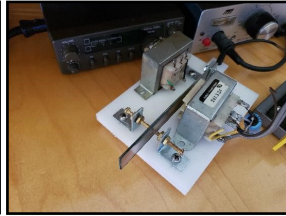




## August WES, 2022 V



Good weekend! Participation seemed good, though use of the Sked Page continues to be limited these days. Lots of interesting fists, probably from the creative key construction. Made two keys here, an SK and a sideswiper, both from WalMart table knives. They worked OK, though I will be happy to go back to my WU SK. Used the SS mostly for calling CQ. My Cootie skills remain fragile, especially with "strange" keys. But the SK handled pretty well. Both are going into the cellar museum of HB keys. Note that I gave them names appropriate to their heritage. Thanks to all who participated this weekend. 73, John W1TAG



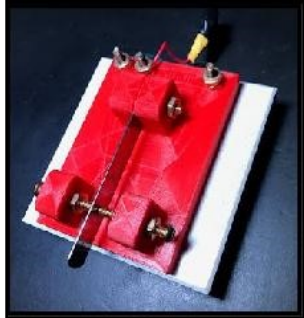
I \*love\* WES when the bands are open and active. Tacky stuff wouldn't hold homebrew paddles well enough so I



First event with my new (8 day old) K4D. 8 QSO's on 10 & 16 on 15. 40 was lively. Very short skip on 20 & 15 allowed me to pick up some close in stations. Even got my own state of WV on 20. Keys: Intrepid bug and Junker SK. Antennas: Optibeam yagis & EFHW @ 50' on 40. Since I knew I didn't have a lot of time to devote, I tried for a WAS and colored in the little map as I worked each new state. Got 41 states counting Max in HI. Not bad for 61 total contacts. It was fun learning the new radio as I went. 73 de West Virginia Dave W3NP



Again, great fun! Generally bands pretty gud with times of surprising band openings. Nice to see old on air air friends. 73, Allan W4EAB



Thx all! My DIY cootie is easy to 3D print and has become my favorite key! 73, Pat W5WTH



Due to Family Obligations my operating time was limited. It was good to work some old friends and also good to make some new friends on CW. 73, Bob W8ARC

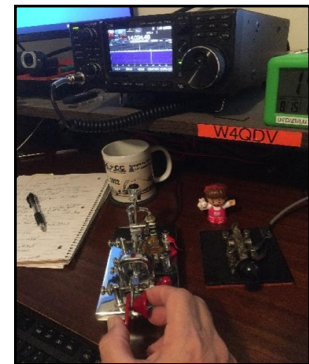
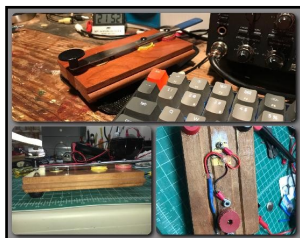


I had a good time with QSOs into Italy, Australia and Japan in addition to the usual North America contacts. It was nice to hear the DX stations. 73, Terry W7AMI

Come back to SKCC WES after almost one year break. Still quite fun. I do notice we have more Senators than before. 73, Nian WU6P



My elasto-knife key actually worked really well. Adjusting the screws adjusted both spacing and tension nicely. A small spring near the contact gave a much better response at higher speeds as well. A garden hose gasket and a plumbing repair kit gasket were used as the elastomers. Bands seemed pretty good here in NC and it was nice to work so many repeat customers. See everyone in September. 73, Cliff WA2LMC

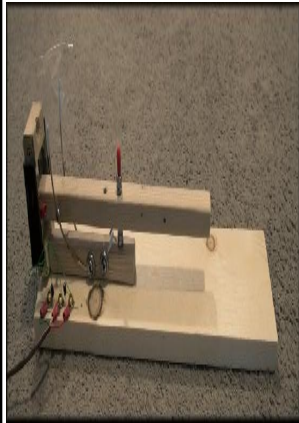


Really wanted to build a homemade key but no time. Worked part of Saturday and Sunday and met some old friends and many new ones. Got some confidence and made a few contacts with my "new to me" Bug. There were a few slipups but the ops were EXTREMELY gracious and encouraging. I continue to be grateful for the fine ladies and gentlemen who make SKCC such a wonderful group. Thank you all! 73, Dave W4QDV

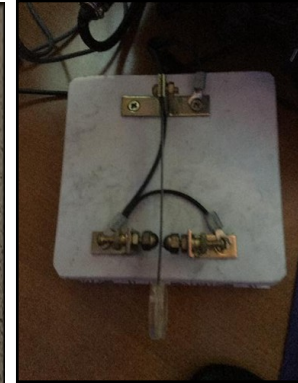
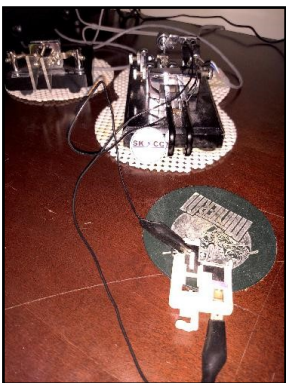


Fun weekend of homemade keys! My wooden cootie held up and was easy to use! Thanks for all the great QSO's! 73, Gene W9KMK

## August WES, 2022 VI



Wasn't able to spend as much time as I had planned, but got a decent number of QSOs, many of them new NRs. 40m was a complete bust, but 20m worked well for many hours. The HB sideswiper performed well; have been using it for a few months now, although it was built specifically for this WES. There is a bit of contact scratch I will need to address with precompressed contacts, and the clackity-clack is a bit too loud, but it's also just fine as it is I think. I like being able to send fast or slow as needed; it now has a switch for paddling, but switching modes or changing the speed on my IC-718 is a bit clumsy, so I much prefer using it as a cootie. Wasn't sure how to calculate bonus points. Claiming  $100 + 4 \times 28 = 212$ . Submitting this Saturday night; GL to everyone staying on Sunday! 73, Jordan W7VC



Had a lot of fun with the HB Saw blade Cootie, Got to going so hard I bent the blade once and had to readjust the gap on the fly. But it was fun just to see if i could do it all with only the HB. 73, Jerry WA4JK



I managed to catch some of the WES on Sunday, while on vacation on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. I used my trust homebrew key made from junk box parts. 73, Craig WB3GCK

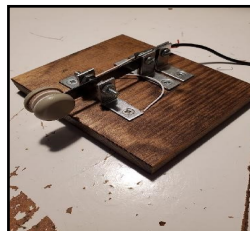
My limit switch key is smooth and easy to use but... not nearly as fast as or as easy to use as the bug it's connected to. Nice to have decent propagation and no t-storm noise! Go sunspot cycle 25! 73, Joe WB9EAO



Good band conditions on Sunday. Enjoyed the opening on 15 meters for 5 of the qso's. Pic is of the AV 640 vertical in light of the current super moon. 73 and thanks to all, Gerald W5AFD



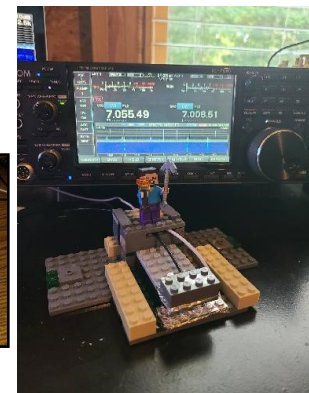
I had completed my homebrew "WO7T Cootie" 5 days previous to this WES, but I gave up using it rather quickly so as not to subject the many recipients of my unpolished sideswiping. I reverted back to straight key in the middle of my pictured line-up. Once again I enjoyed a QRP only effort at < 5W output. Was pleased to give 15M a little workout. Thank you all for the good receivers and ears in pulling me out. 73, Mark WO7T



Bands did not cooperate for me this time. All contacts were made with my homebrew sideswiper. It is not pretty but it works great. 73, David WK4WC



I enjoyed operating from my post and beam shack out back as it wasn't so hot as it has been recently. I did use a Home Brew Key with my IC-7200 and Home Brew 1/2 kW MOSFET amplifier. Antennas for 10/15/20m were a 3 element beam up 64', and a 40m rotary dipole up 66'. I unfortunately heard nothing on 80m. 73, and Stay Well, Chris WB2VVV



I havent participated in a WES since January and so glad that I did! I could not devote much time to it but had a great time when I was on the air - the camaraderie of SKCC is great. I broke out the LEGO home brew key for this weekend and it worked great - I need to add some weight to keep it steady but otherwise, it worked just as well as any other straight key. Thanks for all the QSOs and hope to see you next month! . 73, RJ



## August WES, 2022 VII

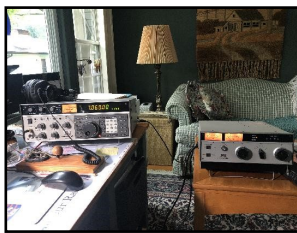


Thanks to all my SKCC friends for the QSOs made this WES, which makes me move slowly but surely towards the big C...Many thanks to all those who welcomed me to the SKCC, in CW, we perceive even more the benevolence of your welcome. I must say that you are also indulgent, because my many CW falls make me ashamed, but no one has blamed me. I was a soldier-radio for 20 years, took a 22-year break, recovery in 2020 in confinement, and the flexibility of the wrist does not return... QSD.... No problem in paddle-electro, but I want to find my SK level, thanks for your help. I'm sorry because my 3D printer refused all the parameters of my initial "Home brew Key" project, I had to do with what it gave me.... 73's everyone, take care, 73, Pascal F5UFV



Too many hours, but great fun. Simplest HB key yet. Drawer pull, electric box cross bar, screws and wires.

Worked well, but not quite as smooth as my CWMorse Camelback, and not as handy as my Vibroplex bug. 73, Dan KF4AV



Good time again, 40 was great, 20 does not like SW Ohio. 73, Drexal W4DHT

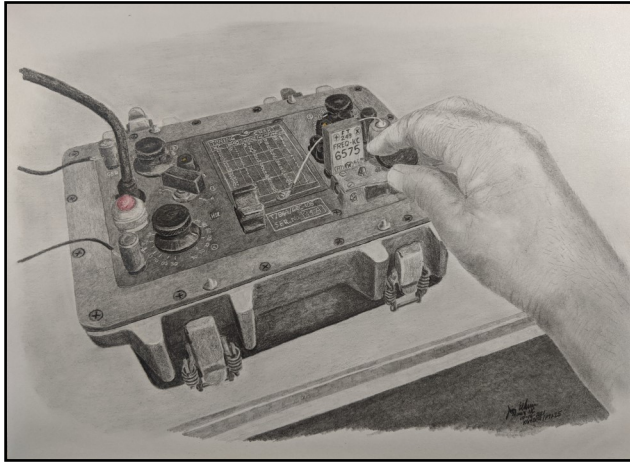


Here is my homebrew side swiper. This is about the 5th or 6th rebuild of this key. I started out using a hacksaw blade but didn't like the sloppiness of it so I kept changing the lever material till I came up with using a piece of perf board. That took all the springiness out, but it is a bit stiff and you have to use a tight spacing which I don't mind. It has been apart for a good number of years with intention to rebuild it but with this month's WES I decided to fix it. I put back the hack saw blade and tried a number of things to tame it but they didn't work so I put the perf board lever back. It will work ok for the WES but I don't like the feel so but I will take it apart to make a different key. Recently on the LICW forums WO6W explained a soft landing and a hard landing key. The hacksaw blade makes a soft landing key and after 15 or so years of using a hard landing Llaves Telegraphica I just like a hard landing key and it is more adjustable too. If anyone has experience with a hard landing cootie and has experience using both springs or magnets for the return I would be interested in talking to you before I begin my next key. 73, Bill N2FZ



I got to finish my COOTIE key and use it for this WES. I have been using QRP so long I forgot what it was like to use 80w. 73, Bill W3SI

## Radio Art by Jim KG4IKQ

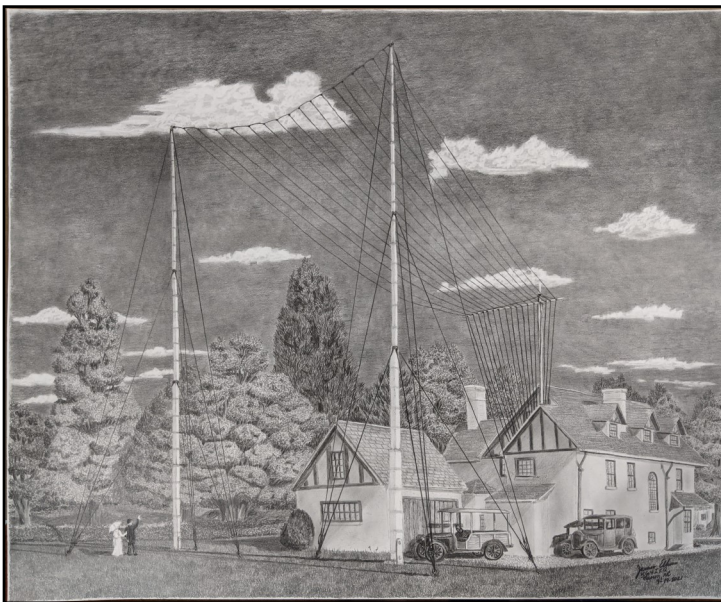


*Editor....There are many talented members in SKCC who have talents far beyond CW and amateur radio. I received this drawing from Jim KG4IKQ who wondered if I might want to share his drawing talents with the membership! Oh yes, and how! The following is Jim's explanation of his drawing:*

"T784, U.S. Army Special Forces used the GRC-109A radio set as part of their communication gear during the 60s up through the 1980s. The set consisted of several different pieces. This is the transmitter section, powered and operated separately

from the receiver. Although the set can operate with an external key, or a high-speed keyer, here it is in operation with an FT-243 crystal and on military frequencies. There is no sidetone with the transmitter, if you were operating duplex, and were not receiving on the same frequency you were transmitting, you just had to know what you were doing, you couldn't hear your own CW."

*Another of Jim's art work.....*



### "THE FINER POINTS".

1920. Whitney Street in Hartford, Connecticut. Hiram P Maxim, an early radio pioneer and the founder of the American Radio Relay League, strolls through his back yard. By his side is his wife Josephine, and perhaps he is pointing out some of the details of his antenna system to her. The two laminated wooden masts are 80' tall, and about 11" square at the bottom. The 17 wires attach to a spreader bar up 50' above the back of the house, and from there go down to his early spark-gap radio in the basement. His early radio call sign was 1AW, later W1AW, which is the current call sign of the ARRL Hiram P

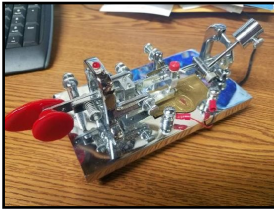
Maxim memorial radio station in operation in Newington, CT.

Maxim had a lot of interests, and in addition to his founding of the ARRL, also invented the Maxim firearm "silencer.". This house is still standing on Whitney Street in Hartford, (minus the antenna.)

14" x 17", graphite pencil on smooth finish Bristol Board. This drawing is "to-scale", so the height of the figures is correct in relation to the masts.



## August SKS, 2022



Got in on the last hour. Thanks for the contacts. 73, Bud AA8CL



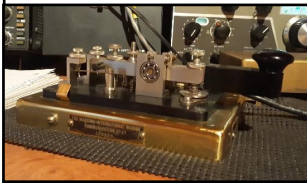
I ran 50 watts from my old IC-7200 to a vertical antenna, using a wooden base English-Kent str key. Thanks all for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



40 meters was busy tonight with very good conditions from Ga & FL to CT and west to IA and OK. Thanks for the QSO's and we hope everyone in SKCC has a great Labor Day Weekend. 73 from the Shores of Lake Erie. ..K8TEZ Larry



That certainly felt like a sprint! Sorry if my code was a little fast tonight. The cootie was purring like a kitten. Thanks for all the FB QSOs, and sorry to the few that I just couldn't dig out. 73, Steve K9NUD



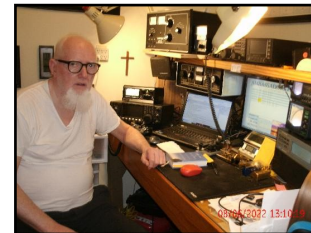
Twelve contacts yielded ten new numbers...73 to all who participated, Jim N4EES



73, Randy N8KQ



Excellent conditions tonight - 20 was in great shape. The picture is of me, Ed-W7GVE, and Rick-K7CNT - Ed-W7GVE passed away last week. Ed never missed an SKCC event before his illness took him away from radio. RIP Ed. 73, N8KR



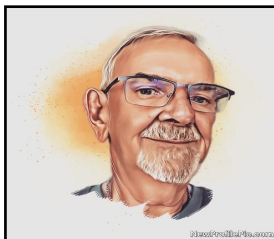
Worked hard for the QSOs, but was fun. 73, Nee NE9EE



Doing some station re-wiring and rearranging and just got the essential equipment put back in time to get on the sprint, albeit about 10 minutes late. Did about 1/2 S&P and the rest calling CQ. 20 was very good so I stayed there for 23 QSO's and then finished up on 40 - also very good condx. Rig: K4D and KPA-1500....Ant OB yagi on 20 and 130' EF on 40....Key: Intrepid bug. Enjoyable evening. 73 de West Virginia, Dave W3NP



S & P on 40 kept me busy. THANK YOU!! to all who suffered thru my fist and to those make these activities possible! 72, Steve NQ8T



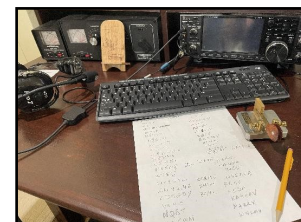
Fun Night on 20 meters. 73, Rich W4RQ



A phone call cost me 30 minutes so it was a race to hit 1,000 points which I managed to get there! Worked on 20 and 40 and bands were in great shape. Used my Elecraft K2/100 at 100 watts and my 160M loop fed with window line. Key was a J-38. Thanks for another fun SKS! 73, Bill NZ0T



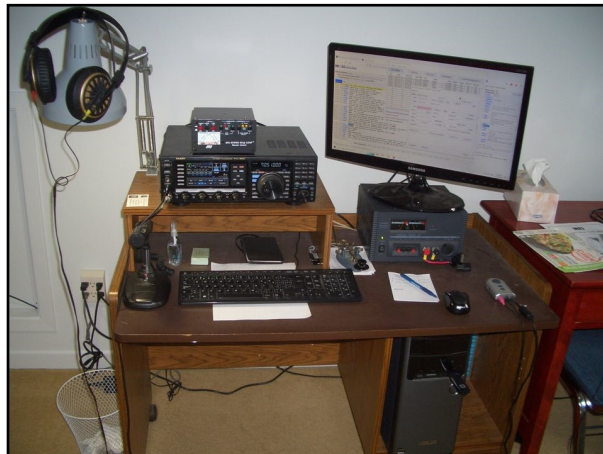
This was a very comfortable SKS for me. I was able to sit and relax on the back porch with one of my favorite QRP radios and the 3D printed paddle wired as a cootie key. Radio is (tr)uSDX at 3.6 watts feeding a Zepp which extends over my house to the front tree about 50 feet high. This is the first time using this particular radio, I own a few of them, and it did not let me down. I was not ready to hang it up when the Sprint ended so after sending this I will be on 40M to give my 'S' to those who can hear me tonight. 73 from Solomons Island Maryland, Bill - W3SI



Stayed on 40 calling CQ SKS, sigs were strong. Thanks for all the calls. 73, Steve W6WU

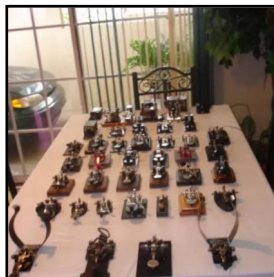
## Making Do!

Many of us are getting older and moving into restrictive homes regarding antennas (me too!). Here is an interesting solution from Mike VE3FGU on how he solved the limited antenna situation.



*This is my little Ham Shack in the loft of our little bungalow in the 55+ community. This is where all the RF comes from now. No big IC-PW1 and big antennas. It all works out quite well for me though and reminds me of when I was a teenager with short wire antennas and a lowly DX35 transmitter with 50 watts. Actually I am having a lot of fun and just made my first QRP contact with K4WOP on 40 meters. I have to say again that the MFJ 1788 mag loop works surprisingly well. In only 2 weeks I have worked 25 countries with less than 50 watts. ...73, Mike VE3FGU*

*Well, SKCC continues to keep me happy on the air and here is a brief update on what I think of the MFJ 1788 magnetic loop antenna. It's not much to look at and many have asked me if it really works. It's been mounted on the roof about 15 feet above ground for just over 1 week now. It tunes up best on 40 and 30 meters with SWR as low as 1.2:1 on 40 and 1.5:1 on 30. The other bands are around 2:1 which is not bad and it would be much lower if I could get it away from all the metal siding on these houses. I have made contact with quite a few SKCC members and made a lot of FT8 contacts. The FT8 contacts were mainly to try and find out how well the antenna works and if it has any directional characteristics. It seems to be omni-directional here. 30 countries worked including Indonesia, Japan and Fiji. PSK reporter reports from over 100 countries running 50 watts. So, I guess I could say that the antenna really does work quite well. Time to get the Vibroplex out of the box again. 73, Mike VE3FGU*



## Key Collection

Key collection of US Chaplin Jose F. Lopez, KP4JFL.

*(You just can't have too many keys and antennas!...editor)*



## An Apology

Hello all,

Please accept my apology for a somewhat lame issue of "The Rag Chew." I promise I'll get back to form with the next issue. Not to make too big an excuse but the last three months have been rather busy; got married, sold my house, bought a house, moved two houses into one (what do you do with 2+ of everything) smaller house. Oh yeah, picked up the managing of the SKCC QSL bureau (had no idea how much work that is!) and organized a DXpedition to Prince Edward Island leaving September 4 for 10 days...phew!

I promise the next issue will have things straightened out and back on track.

73,

Ted K8AQM / VE9AQM

