



Volume 15 Issue 4

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

December, 2022

## VC3Y Wrap-Up



Last year VE9SKCC/VE# was a "glass arm maker," it was our biggest complaint. This year (and hopefully in the future) VC3Y/VE# was a much easier call to send, and a big improvement.

2022 saw some great improvements in the event and a few disappointments. There were QSOs to be made with two provinces not possible last year but there were two missing provinces that were available last year. VY1 and VY2 are always on the "most wanted list" and they were there this year. For those seeking provinces for the SKCC Maple Leaf Awards these two provinces were welcome finds this year. Geographically these provinces have extremely small SKCC populations and are very rare for SKCC....and even in non-SKCC events! VY1 was found on the high bands with QSOS from VY1JA on 20m and up, while VY2 (thanks to NU8Z, VA3CW and VE9AQM) could be found everywhere 160-10m!

Last year over 1500 QSOs were made and this year's total topped 2150 QSOs. This is a great improvement but more QSOs are wanted. Fourteen operators were responsible for this year's QSOs. We have 938 Canadian members in SKCC. It would be great to see Canadian participation improve. Spread the word for next year's VC3Y operation! Lets see if we can get ten or more provinces on the air.

No need to QSL VC3Y if you're "good in the SKCC QSL Bureau," you will receive VC3Y QSLs for your QSOs. But if you're not "good in the bureau," then an SASE is required to K8AQM for VC3Y QSLs.

Thank you to those who operated as VC3Y and to the many who chased the VC3Y stations. A special thanks to the coordinators of this event.



## Season's Greetings



Season's greetings from the SKCC Board! The year is fast coming to a close, it has been a very good year for SKCC. This year saw our membership shoot beyond 26,500 members, our best K3Y celebration with nearly 50,000 QSOs, the 2nd annual Canadian Operating Event with more than 2,150 QSOs and two new monthly events, the two hour SKS Asian Sprint and the Oceania QRS Saunter. Our monthly events; Brag, Slow Speed Saunter, SKSE, SKS, and WES have all increased participation. SKCC has a weekly

"Introduction to SKCC and Q&A" on the LICW ZOOM schedule. And the introduction of the new SKCC "cootie" and straight key for members has been a "huge" success, so... a very good year for SKCC? Unquestionably! Indeed! 2023 will see all SKCC activities by members hopefully continue to grow.

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

73, SKCC Board of Directors

Doug N3PDT....President  
 Randy KB4QJ..Vice President  
 Ron AC2C...Treasurer  
 Ted K8AQM...Secretary  
 Roger VE3RDE  
 Mark K7MJG  
 Dave W1DV  
 Randy N8KQ  
 Drew AF2Z

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

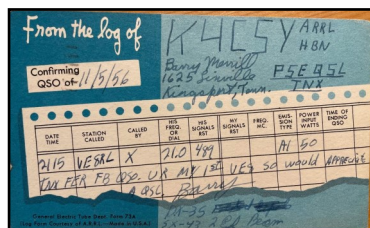
## VE8RL via VA3FRL

I went through dad's QSL cards, typed the call signs in [qrz.com](http://qrz.com), and found four people with email addresses. It only took about 15 minutes. I sent them images of the cards that they had sent him back in the day. One guy responded.

He said, "What a pleasant surprise!!! Thanks for taking the time to track me down!! And I do recall the QSO, not only because your Dad was my first VE8, but that was also the first day I was using my brand new "Catfish Special" 2 element 15 meter beam: the boom was an 8-foot 2x4 and the elements were bamboo fishing poles wrapped in aluminum foil, from an article in CQ Magazine."

Their contact was in 1956 when the fellow was 15 years old and living in Tennessee. He remembers it from 66 years ago. Not only was it rare to get NWT, but he had just made a home-made antenna from scratch. "It's all about the antenna."

73, Fr. Rick VA3FRL





## The VC3Y/VY2 Story

Three years ago AC8W, KG8CO, NU8Z and K8AQM planned to operate from Prince Edward Island (PEI) Canada (VY2). Within SKCC, PEI was extremely rare; there are only two SKCC members neither of whom have been active in many years. Plans were made to take equipment and set-up at a motel...Covid! The door to Canada was slammed shut and it was nearly impossible to travel to Canada. Finally after three years it became somewhat easier to enter Canada. Our thinking was changed, now the trip was to rent a station (PEI DX Lodge...Google it)) and to make an all-out effort to eliminate the need for VY2 in SKCC. The station VY2TT, is a BIG TIME contest station owned and built by Ken WidELITZ, K6LA. When not operating in contests Ken “rents” his station.



This picture does not really do justice to the antenna setup available to the operator(s). You need to visit the website and read the antenna description. We heard we were the loudest signal on any band we were on, read the antenna description and you'll understand why.

Inside the operating area was equipped with four operating positions. Although not setup for multi-multi operations, we were able to quickly and easily set the positions for a multi-multi operation. Check out the four operating positions we had:



Station 1 on the right, 20m operated by Mark NU8Z  
Station 2 on the left, WARC, 15m and 80/160m by Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM



Station 4 on the left, 40m operated by Stan AC8W/  
VA3CW. Station 3 was an “extra” and not really used.

Stations 1 and 2 had K4d radios with KPA 1500 amps which we ran at usually at less than 1000 watts. Stations 3 and four had K3s radios and Alpha amplifiers.

Unfortunately and our own fault we could never figure out how to use the receive antennas for 160m, we had a constant S9 noise with the vertical, We also didn't know where the big log periodic was (although clearly stated on the web site) so we made a “quicky” 30m dipole at 20 feet for 30m.

## The VC3Y/VY2 Story



NU8Z on 20m



AC8W on 40m



K8AQM at 30, 17, 15 and 12m  
80 and 160 at night



VA3DXQ/VY2 (KG8CO) doing  
his POTA "thing."

We used our lap tops rather than the shack computers since we wanted to use the SKCC Logger.

If you're wondering where KG8CO operated, Brian is a great fan of POTA. There are so many eligible parks in the area and most extremely rare that Brian spent the trip operating POTA and made over 450 QSOs mainly CW from the parks. Here is Brian operating from Cedar Dunes PP.

Although we spent most of our five rental days on the air making SKCC QSOs, we did spend some time before our rental, sight-seeing on PEI.



They have great ice cream on PEI



No, not the shack address but  
cool street anyway.



Cavendish Beach and yes  
there were swimmers in  
the water...Brrrr!



Only "some" of Ken's  
awards for VY2TT



What would a trip to PEI be without a trip to  
the famous "Anne of Green Gables home."



## The VC3Y/VY2 Sory



Relaxing in Toronto



Fish and potatoes, a PEI staple!



VE9AQM/VY2, VA3ACW/VY2 and NU8Z/VY2...your SKCC team of VC3Y/VY2

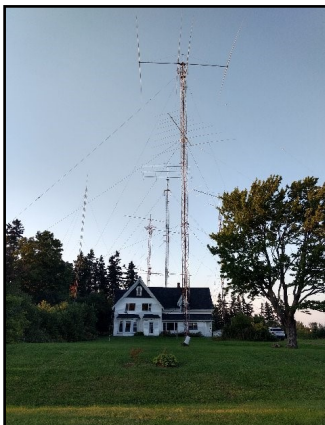
Finally, a few pictures of “behind the scenes” of those wonderful rigs:



Common mode chokes, bandpass filters, grounding and more.



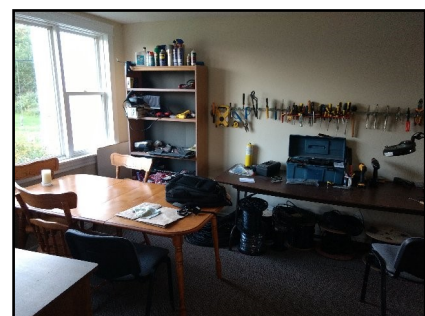
Sewer pipe, when toilet was flushed it was an “entertaining” sound!



Front yard



Kitchen area...VA3DXQ at the bar

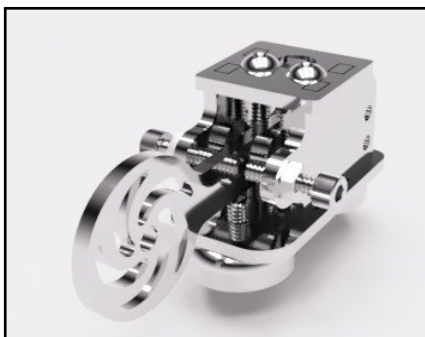


Well equipped work bench area

## 73 de the VC3Y/VY2 Gang!



## Tango Keys



Ran across this unusual key intended for portable operation. The round end of the lever is the size of a quarter coin. Colin K6JTH also plans to make sideswipers and paddles next year. <https://www.qsl.net/k6jth/>  
73, Wes AC8JF

## SKSE September, 2022



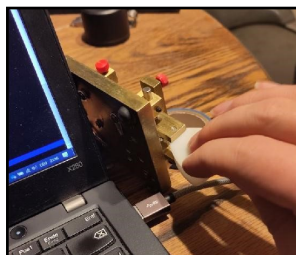
Nice activity for this SKS-E edition. I found many friends to make fb contacts. This month I4IKW was contacted on three bands. Many thanks to all and I was glad to have a contact with W0HXL "SKCC 94T", one of the earliest SKCC numbers ! Also thanks to N3KRX for an new number for me. 73, Bernard F5DE... and see you all soon !



Very nice SKSe today; Many thanks for all QSOs and at next WES; 73, Bob F6EJN



Some interesting qso, amidst the QRN of electrostatic discharges from thunderstorms in the area. In 20 meters VE4AEA from MB, and last qso with JR2IUB in 40 meters. IC756 ProII, SS key... 73, Mark I4IKW



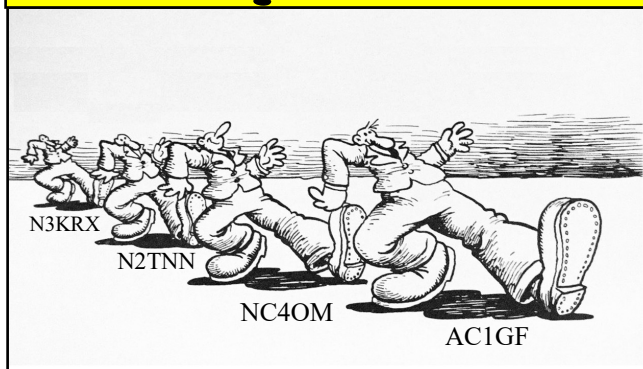
IC746PRO @ 100W, Triple Leg GP on a 10m fiberglass mast. Used a W5JH "Black Widow" paddle sideways as a straight key because I didn't bring a straight key to my vacation QTH...20m was in a good shape for both EU and DX here, and the location on a farm outside town is very quiet, very different from my home QTH in Munich (DJ5CW). 73, Fabian SO5CW



Junker Straight Key. German "Taste" = Key. 73 de Gerald HB9IRF

## September & October Slow Speed Saunter 2022

### Slow Speed Saunter



Just a dozen contacts for me... hard to stay indoors when weather is nice hi hi. A couple of my contacts wanted to exchange FISTS numbers as well, so not sure if they had something going on too. Used my TS-590SG, 75w to a multiband vertical and Kent str key. Very nice SKCC event. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Had a couple real nice qsos. Always a good time. Tnx for the contacts. 73, Bud AA8CL

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
N0CW	Chuck	23240S	CA	4
W6WYN	Reimier	26270	CA	2
WB6IZG	Bruce	17714S	CA	14
N3KRX	Jerry	2525T	DE	19
N9KJU	Ken	19964T	IL	2
N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	15
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	3
N5DR	Cecil	19844S	LA	11
K1YAN	Gary	7563S	MA	2
AK3X	Peter	7217S	MD	7
K8JD	John	1395T	MI	14
NC4OM	LOGAN	26278	NC	30
W1DV	Dave	1433S	NC	12
N0HOV	Joe	23610S	NE	19
AC1GF	Bob	19399S	NH	31
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	12
N2RIC	Rich	18534C	NJ	5
AA8CL	Carmen "Bud"	2339S	OH	3
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	7
KG8RRY	Gerald Sorensen	24548	OH	11
W4CMG	Cathy	20093S	TN	7
KJ5T	Steve	22288C	TX	1
W15H	Mike	11770S	TX	4
K04RSJ	Mike	25684	VA	2
N2TNN	Dean	25132S	VA	23
KK0I	Jack	2370S	WI	2
W3NP	Dave	3182S	WV	3

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### Slow Speed Saunter Results

Results for Slow Speed Saunter: 1 Oct 2022

Overall | Soapbox

#### Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
N4API	Brian	11673	GA	1
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	4
NN3E	Kevin	19625S	MD	1
W1DV	Dave	1433S	NC	13
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	15
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	1
KF9IV	Rick Hartnett	24296	OH	1
NJ8L	Vern	13613S	OH	19
NQ8T	Steve	5919S	OH	1
W3HMS	John	20679	PA	5
WB5JWI	Les	5013S	TX	4
W15H	Mike	11770S	TX	5

#### Participants and QSOs by SPC

GA: 1 / 1	IN: 1 / 4	MD: 1 / 1	NC: 1 / 13	NJ: 1 / 15
OH: 4 / 22	PA: 1 / 5	TX: 2 / 9		



Always a fun time. Ran 50w from my older Icom IC-7200 with a wooden base Kent Key. Thanks for all the contacts. (Pic taken with my really old Sony Mavica, one of the original digital cameras). 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Combined with the QSO party - Houston had a lot of QRN and above 14 MHz was dead hear. Still had a lot of fun. 73, Les WB5JWI

100 % of time: operated 7.114. Lots of new and slow ops - had a good time. I was CW QSO #2 for KF9IV -- his QSO #1 was in 1991!!! Good to hear all these fists working to improve. Semper cw. 73, Dave W1DV





## Brag August, 2022



Another fun month in the books. Thanks for all the QSO's, exchanges and Rag Chews. Ya'll are the best!!! See you in September... 73, Bud AA8CL



Busy month, as usually this time of year. Thanks all for the Brag contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Busy month! August will be my last month as a Tribune. I'm 31 Q's away from Senator, which I should reach in a week or so. I love this group! 73, Steve K9NUD



As always, fun it is. 73, Tom KB3CVO



73, Virginia KC5SAM



Alas! The dog days of summer, hot days, hot shack, cold bands. That is all. 73, Chuck N0CW



Not too much radio this month 13 over all 7 during WES. Just 6 for brag! but very Happy with overall participation. 73, Angel N4SNI



Monsoon season here in the NM desert. Not a lot of rain, but gobs of lightning for QRN and scary strikes for periods of being QRT. Still, 66 brags plus bonus station (TNX WM4Q). Photo of lightning coming off our mountain aiming for my Miata and 5BTV vertical. That's when you unplug the coax!!! 73, Paul NASN



Another good month of QSO's! Using my cat "MAX" to check orientation of photos with my new phone, looks OK! 73, Gene W9KMK



Nice Month with some fun on the upper bands when the Sun allowed. 73, Jerry WA4JK



I am new and still learning but having a blast. 73, Mark W5MHG



Thanks all for a fun August! Random soapbox pic attached..... 73, Pat W5WTH



August started very fast, stalled in the middle of the month (personal reasons + band + weather) but picked up very quickly during the last week. Thanks all for exchanging NRs with me. I'm having a blast. I'm on track to make Tx4 in September! 73, Chris WX7V





## THE LAST CW MESSAGE SENT BY THE US COAST GUARD

By Jerry Proc VE3FAB

The United States Coast Guard has closed down all CW operations. Here is the final message sent by station NMN from Chesapeake Virginia, at 0001Z on April 1, 1995.

CQ CQ CQ DE NMN NMN

BT

0 010001Z APR 95

FM COGARD CAMSLANT CHESAPEAKE VA/NMN

TO ALL

BT

USCG NOW CLOSING DOWN CONTINUOUS HF CW WATCH CEASING ALL MORSE CODE OPS IN THE HF BAND. AS WE CONCLUDE OUR WATCH WE WISH THE MARITIME COMMUNITY FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR TRADITION AND LONG STANDING SERVICE TO THE MARINER ON MORSE CODE BEGINNING IN 1901 WITH THE REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE EXPERIMENTING WITH WIRELESS AS A MEANS TO COMMUNICATE ON LAND AND SEA TO THE FIRST MORSE CODE RADIO INSTALLED ABOARD CUTTER GRANT IN 1903. OUR ORIG COMMS MISSION WAS TO RCV DISTRESS ALERTS. BUT SINCE 1901 THE CG HAS FAITHFULLY AND DILIGENTLY LISTENED FOR TRAFFIC RESPONDING TO HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CALLS FM MARINERS IN NEED OF ASSIST OR RPTG POSITION WX NAV OR SAFETY INFO. OVER THE YRS WE HAVE PROVIDED MARINERS WITH URGENT SAFETY AND NAV WARNINGS OVER HF CW AND RCVD VESSEL LOCATION UPDATES FOR THE AMVER SYS. WE WILL FEEL A SENSE OF LOSS WITH THE PASSING OF CW. THE NEED FOR OPERATORS WITH SENSITIVE EARS AND A FAST PRECISE KEY WILL BE REPLACED BY COMPUTERS MODEMS AND AUTO ALARMS. THE SPECIAL EMOTION AND EXCITEMENT ENJOYED BY CW OPERATORS CANNOT BE DUPLICATED AND THE CHILLING SOS SIGNAL WILL NEVER AGAIN BE RCVD BY A CG UNIT. BUT CW HAS RUN ITS COURSE AND NOW WE LOOK FWD TO SERVING YOU ON THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMM SYSTEMS VIA THE GMDSS. FM ALL CG TELECOMM SPECIALISTS WE BID YOU A 73. WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT. SIGNED CG CAMSLANT.

BT

DE NMN SK

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### Note About The Final Message

It was sent on 5870, 8470, 12718.5 and 16975 khz simultaneously. The message on 5870 khz was sent by tape. For all other frequencies, it was sent at 25 wpm by hand. A tape machine sent the message around 15 wpm and it was the last one to finish. There were minor errors in the message sent on 8470 khz as compared to the official copy. This was likely caused by the 200 or so observers who had their eyes on the lone CW operator, TC3 S. Morales. In spite of this, he did a wonderful job. When the last did and dah were sent, there was silence - and the realization of the end of an era.

## SKSA September, 2022

The first SKSA was held September 9, 2022 and if this first-ever-event is any indicator, this will be a great event and gathering for Asian operators as well as many NA, EU and SA members. 51 operators submitted scores and many more who also participated did not submit a score, for more than 450 QSOs! Check this out:

### Participants and QSOs by SPC

CA: 1 / 1	CHN: 7 / 35	CT: 1 / 1	HKG: 1 / 3	JPN: 31 / 402
MO: 1 / 0	NJ: 1 / 2	NM: 1 / 7	PHI: 2 / 7	POR: 1 / 11
THA: 4 / 8				



73, TF BD7JNA



Hi, everyone, I'm BG4NMT from China. GL AND 73.



73, Enos BG7KO



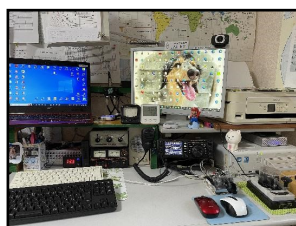
73, Li BH6KOK



My first and I do enjoy the event. 73, de Taz DU9JJY



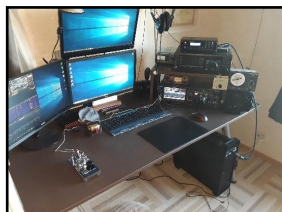
I'm enjoying an antique bug key. 73, Noriaki JA1IAZ



Participate for the first time. I will submit it without being able to interpret the rules. Thank you! 73, Masahiro JA1LKY



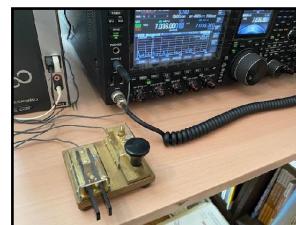
I joined SKCC club to start the SKSA TEST this time. I enjoyed so much to communicate my mechanical KEY HST2. Very thanks to give such a chance to use HST2. And cul YL and OM. Thank you. 73, Hiro JF1JDG



It was my first straight key contest. 73, Hiro JH1JNJ



TNX FB QSO! 73, Jin JI1JDI



It was very fun! Using whip ant. 73, Aki JJ0SFV



Had a good time. Thank you everyone. 73, Rico JJ1CKN



I enjoyed SKS. Thank you for the QSO. My key was GD107WS. 73, Sugi JK7UST



## SKSA September, 2022 II



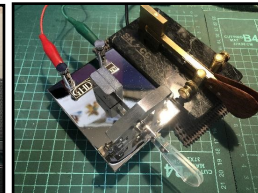
I wanted to join this contest, but unfortunately I didn't have a straight key. Because, I am in temporary simple 2nd shack. When I was worried, a member of SKCC advised me to make that tool, so I hurriedly made a tool by few easy parts. I named this tool "Survival Grove Key". I have communicated with this several people using this SG Key, and none of them seemed to think they were using such a key. I could use it naturally. I was a "NONE" at the time of the TEST, but I enjoyed it so much, I became a member "#26524" afterwards. VY TNX FER ALL! 73, AK-KY JJ1VNV



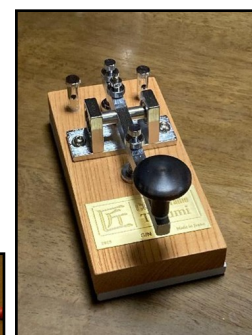
TNX for calls from PHI CHN, INA, HNG and JPN. CONDX wasn't much great so no chance for me to hear the US, EU and VK/ZL stations. Hope next time! :) 73, Hiro JJ1FXF



TNX AKSA. It was my first time participate in SKCC's event. I just started straight key. It was a 30minute operation. but it was a lot of fun! 73, Mac JK1BZC



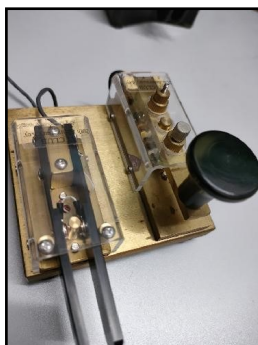
Short-time operation, but fully enjoyed with both 2 cootie keys. TNX all contacts! 73, Tom JM1TBU



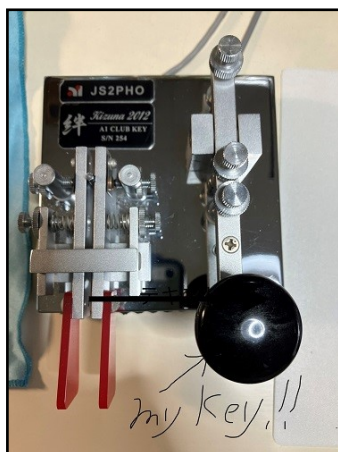
I participated in this event using the straight keys in the photo. Thanks to all the stations that called me. I hope to enjoy this event again next month. 73, Ken JM4AOA



I enjoyed it. 73, Yosi JN1FAO



TNX FER QSO. 73, Taka JR6CSY



I enjoyed 1st SKSA QSO. 73, You JS2PHO

Congratulations for the inauguration of SKS in Asia! Although CONDX was poor for DX contacts, it was exciting to operate tiny straight key via remote system. Hope better condx for DX next time. 73+88 de JS2AHG aka JE1TRV SKCC#561T





## Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 3 Issue 2

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.....*

It's progressing – slowly at times. As usual, I have a box full of components ready to go, and in the trial fit some parts prove to be from Impedimentum Incognito and I have to scramble to order the correct item at outrageous shipping charges. Sigh.

The TGM MQ-26 Quagi is assembled, tested and tuned, ready for the roof this week. An interesting widget, it is 2 elements on all 6 bands and a quad reflector. Took me two full days to assemble and an afternoon to test and tune. Currently taking up half my patio, but I'm arranging to raise and install it this week. Once up, my nearest neighbours won't see it, and the further ones I don't care about. A glorified TV antenna in appearance. I got the last one ever to be made. The instructions were clear. Came with a bag of spares. Can't wait to use it.

I tried to work WAE SSB but it was no-go. Only heard about 7 Europeans, and none came back to my call. Next time. CQ WW DX RTTY is up next, it will be my last contest from this QTH.

The yagi is on the roof, looking every bit the large TV antenna my neighbours think it is. The rotator is suspiciously large. Still working on the wiring and cabling and the rig is still at work. I figure the boom is about 38' in the air.

CQ WW DX RTTY is done. Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning and afternoon for about 20 hrs in the chair. That's harder than it sounds. And, I'm officially retired as of Saturday evening (hurrah) so my time is my own now (such as my XYL allows.) Tripled last year's score, so I really can't complain about the sparseness of stations to work. Only 15, 20 and 40 worked for me this time. While I'm going to miss 40m, it only accounts for 18% of my Qs on the weekend. If I get better 10m and 6m in the future, I will be well compensated for my loss. Not much DX in the log, and some strange gremlins in the software this time around. They should be left behind when I disassemble and shake out all the gear in the next couple of weeks. You might still find me as a pop-up VC3Y/VE4 this week, if I'm lucky. The truck just delivered the dumpster, so clearing out the bakery is about to commence.

I hope I have a new shack to report on in the next issue. Till then, get on the air and work somebody every day.

I still 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....*

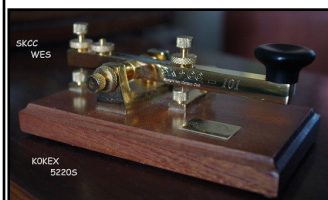
## WES September, 2022



Conditions better than last 2 or 3 months. Some decent propagation into Europe for a change. Highlight of the contest was working W7AMI(IDAHO) on 10M. That's a new one towards my 5BWAS. Also, working PA2DK/p was cool, believe he might have been operating from an "IOTA" island. Photo shows my 10M 3L "Quad" in progress. It's really a "Hex". Still need to install the director element. 73, Bob AC1GF



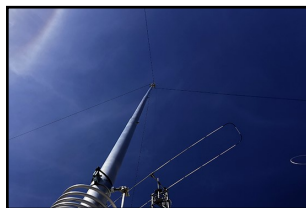
Had fun but propagation conditions were not friendly. Rig ICOM7400, max 80 w, dipole up 5m. 73, Jo DL5KUD



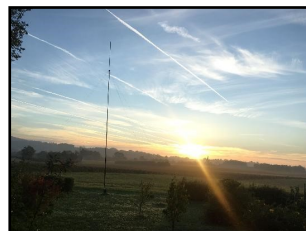
Thanks to all for the great contacts, my air time limited due to family events. The key I used seemed to fit the Theme....Llaves key S/N 101 gift from family. 73, Rick KOKEX



As usual a great event! Worked everyone I could hear. Thanks! 73, Jim AD0AB



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



Thanks all for qso! 73, Duc F5UQE



Great weekend nevertheless the covid quarantine! In these moments radio, CW and SKCC are the real great support to overcome the COvid!! Tnx Team! And?!!!!!! my first qsos with a Bug!! 73, Ugo IU4NYV



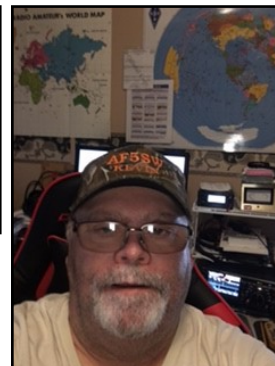
It's been too long since my last WES! Glad to make a few QSO's, especially with two different ops at VC3Y/VY2 on Prince Edward Island, on two different bands - thanks, Mark and Stan! Equipment: Argonaut 509 paired with a Brown Brothers straight key, running 5W to an inverted vee about 30 feet up. 73, to all, Colin AE3A



Very good WES despite random spread to USA. Lots of new SKCC numbers and other non-SKCC stations. Thank you for these QSOs and see you soon. 73, Bob F6EJN



WES Always an interesting appointment. Good signals in all bands, listened to some signals even the 80 meters, but did not manage to make qso. The September WES also brought Max KH6ZM into the log, connected on Saturday around 19z in 15 meters with not very strong signals, listened again on Sunday always at the same time, with definitely good signals, (559/579) considering my GP antenna. See you in October! 73 Mark I4IKW



As usual, I had a blast! Thanks to everyone involved that makes these WES's such a success. I was unable to get on the air much until Sunday but the contacts that were made has gotten me very close to my Tx5 and I really appreciate those newer members that are getting involved! Looking forward to making more contacts and friend's! 73, Kevin AF5SW #20090T



Fairly quiet conditions on 20m, I got 8 great QSO's in the log thanks to F6EJN Bob, IU-4NYV Ugo, VC3Y/VY2 Mark(NU8Z), VK2GR Allan (last VK worked VK7CW was 5 years ago !), I4IKW Mark, EA4HKF Jose, CT1EYQ Joao, IN3LOY Marco.. All on 20m. TS-440s 100 watts, 20ft fishing pole vertical. 73, John G0RDO SKCC 2133s



## WES September, 2022 II



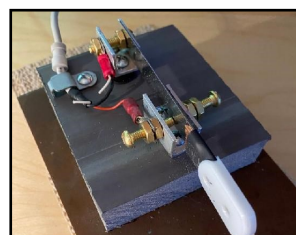
Great band condx on this one. 10m was fabulous, and even picked up a couple 10-10 numbers hi hi. Ran my old IC-7000 at 50w throughout the event into a multi-band vertical using a 1943 Lionel J38. Really a good time so thanks all for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



New bug too fast even at 18wpm, so several qsos by tapping the dah like a vertical SK. Sorry about that fist, tried to make it sound OK. Love the dual lever bug with no dang knob to get in the way. 73, Hank K5TKS



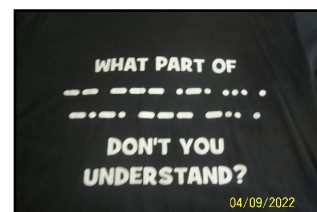
Boat Anchor day for me..Enjoyed. 73, Tom K7ROH



What a great event! I finally got Senator this weekend, making it even better. My only regret - the two or three of you I just could not pull out of the weeds. I switched between my KX3 @ 5 W to my IC-7300 @ 100 W and made a few from the car using my QCX Mini @ 5 W. 73, Steve K9NUD



This Idaho boy went hunting only bagged 4 KS#KCC stations. Time to do more target practice. Always fun participating in the WES. 73, Bill K8MPW



Limited OPS on Saturday only. Managed to work KS5KCC AND KS1KCC. IC7300, J38 to a 4BTV. 73 and STAY Tuned! Daryl K9QEW



Tnx for the QSO,s Rig K3s K-line G5RV at 30 ft Bencher Key . 73, Ray K9EYT



Another fun WES event! I wish I had more time to participate as I need the practice, but carved out some time to get on the air. Thanks to all! 73, Kent KA0LDG



Thanks to all who participated in making the WES so much fun. Band conditions were fairly good and I was able to work a few of our DX brothers. Hope everyone has a good autumn, and see you in October. God bless you and your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Did not have much time to spend on WES but thanks Qs. 73, Craig KA9ERV



Nice to see the bands open this weekend. Thanks to all who participated! 73, Warren KC9IL



I actually had more time this month! Thank you everyone for the great QSOs. 73, Eric KB3NSK



See KS4KCC comments. Spent most of my time as Bugs. (no bunny) ;-) 73, Randy KB4QQJ



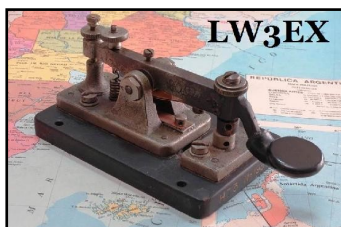
The longest distance 1 of my qso's went was 4,355 mi./7693km (F6EJN). The second longest was 4,355mi/7009km (CT7AUP). I am very happy to have made so many qso's and proud of my qrz rig; a Tentec Argonaut VI running 5W to an end-fed 80-10 antenna up about 40ft. It was a good way to remember 9/11. Thank you to everyone. 73, Christine/KE4WKH



## WES September, 2022 III



I acquired an old Viking Adventurer on the Thursday night before the contest. It needed a new power cord and some other repairs. I did not have a variac available, so I just removed the electrolytics and replaced the one after the choke with 32 uF of film capacitors. I now had a 15-watt output, a bit chirpy using crystal control, connected it up to my Racal RA17 receiver and a home brew DDS as a VFO. Using this I worked a grand total of 6 WES QSOs. Netting was a bit tricky so back to the workshop. This is not a pristine Adventurer so I chose to add a couple of small switches one to turn off the keying while netting and one to make switching between crystal and VFO simpler. Back to WES, I worked another 4 QSOs including I4IKW, did not have the power to work KS6KCC but thank him/her for trying to copy my 15 watts. I wanted to try calling CQ using crystal control, so I added an OA2 voltage regulator to the fix the chirp. Unfortunately, this took longer than expected and I did not make it back to the WES. I had a really fun time; sorry I did not work many of you. 73, Brian KF6C



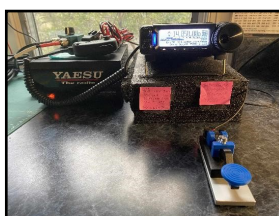
DX PROP conditions were quite good on Sunday, I focused mainly on 10m QSO Stats: 5 > 21MHz - 29 > 28MHz TA33 - 50W - Home Made DSK & Telefunken Type H.T.3 (Spark-gap transmitter 1918) TU everyone for the QSOs. BCNU 73, Walt LW3EX - ... ZUT



SO MUCH FUN....SO LITTLE TIME! 73, Mike KG4IMI



Good conditions for a change, wish I would have had more time to spend on this one.... 73, Gary KI7PBR



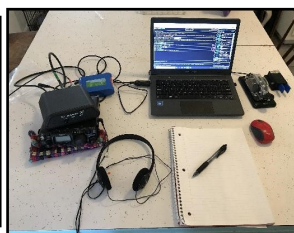
2nd WES in which I've participated. Last one I had 1 QSO, so to have 7 this time is improvement. Thanks for the practice! 73, Teri KO4WFP



Had fun using the J-38. Wish I could have spent more time on the air. Princess the CW Cat was always ready to help. 73, Randal KG5IEE



The bands were in pretty good shape but had to bow out early with family commitments. S&P operation garnered 7 Club Stations and 6 Non Club. 73, Rick N8XI



My first WES, thanks everyone. See you next month. 73, Seth KZ5H

This is my other hat. Time in this event was split between the normal WES routine as N0CW and participating as a KS6KCC operator. Worked JS1DEH, JR2IUB, and JJ1FXF in nine minutes during the last hour on 15M, thanks guys! Special thanks to Jim, W6JIM for organizing the club effort and too all who rode the ionosphere. 73, Chuck N0CW



Only made 11 contacts but had Fun :-> 73, Donnie KI4DT



Note the hand of the toddler (very-YL) "helping" operate the key! [Picture of me & my station for 100 extra bonus points.] 73, Andy

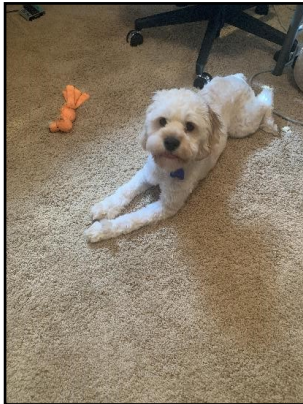


DIY Key. 73, Jim N4JAW



I set up at a local city park on Saturday. This was the first WES I used a sideswiper, also used my straight key. Thanks to everyone who worked me! 73, Tim N5TML

## WES September, 2022 IV



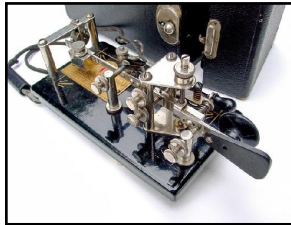
Enjoyed the privilege of operating with the SKCC Club call. Had a blast with great conditions on 15 and 40, sometimes on 20, and very few takers on 80 meters Saturday night or Sunday AM. 10 meters provided some fireworks to six-land on Saturday afternoon. More stations needed to check out both 10 and 15 meters continually during daylight hours next month. Those bands are open and need to be utilized. Many many QRP stations worked- only 1 or two did not make it through due to QSB and weak signal. Operation curtailed due to family during last 4 hours on Sunday. and many interruptions walking the new Jr op. See pix of Coco the Cockapoo. Thanks for all of the QSO's. 73 KS1KCC-SKCC/K3EW/Phil



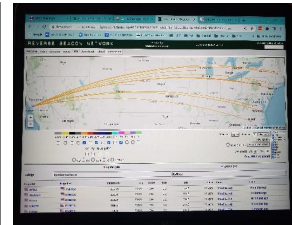
What a great WES this month. Lots of fun working as KS3KCC. Thanks to all the stations I worked. Nice to be busy on all the bands and DX also. 73 & CUL KS3KCC / WA3GM DAH / GREG



Very little time on Saturday, wife planned a almost end of (swimming) season party for family es I had to attend... hihi Then a fire es smores, etc.. LOL But had a great time. Thanks to all that worked my 90 watts es 5BTW. Even some dx, Max, KH6ZM, David, CT7UP Ted es the gang VC3Y/VY2 es more. 73 CW, KS7KCC/ Randy, N8KQ ..



What a grand WES!! Forty meters started out kind of weak but finished strong. 20 was very productive and the last 15 minutes on 80 meters was a mini pile up. Strongest signal was W1DV at 40 over...big signal. Most fun surprise was working PA2DK portable! cool surprise. It was great to hear some of the VC3Y stations playing in the WES. I got to play with a newly acquired pristine 1929 Vibroplex Lightning Bug from one of the LICW members. It now sits ahead of the Martin Jr as my favorite bug. What a dream sender. I ran the KX3 into a Ten-Tec 405 amp for 50 watts out. Thanks for all the contacts and fun chats. I needed KS2KCC and KS0KCC for a KS# sweep but never heard a dit from either. 73, Randy KB4QQJ



We did our very best to contact as many SKCC members as we could. The picture shows us peppering the East Coast with our 100 point bonus! We had a smaller team this year, so a special thanks to all our team members for working extra hard to make up for our shortage! Thank you Team! Team Members: N0CW, KE8AQW, WK4WC, WB2UZE, W6UG, AI6W and W6JIM. Thank you to everyone in the SKCC for making this a fun event 🍷. 73, Easy KS6KCC



Sunday operation while attending (vending) the Findlay, Ohio hamfest! Even with the 40 meter hamstick horizontal, I was able to make many contacts! Josh-W9HT operated while I drove to the hamfest and Josh drove while I operated on the trip back to Indiana. Thanks to Ted-K8AQM for allowing me to activate KS8KCC ... 73, Ken de N8KR

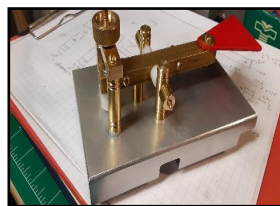
Multi-op Club operated by AI-K9FW, Terry-K9FMX, Steve-AC9XS, Ed-WA9BBN, Josh W9HT, and Ken-N8KR. AI-K9FW took the lead with over half of the 400+ contacts made! Pictured is Steve-AC9XS (visually impaired) in the forefront with Ed-WA9BBN handling the computer logging. Lots of fun when the shack is filled with SKCC ops! 73, Codie KS9KCC



## WES September, 2022 V



We had a lot of lightning this weekend and had to disconnect the antennas. But had a lot of fun when I was able to operate. 73, Larry N9CB



K2 5wts g5rv at 35ft n/s inv vee.. had 41 qsos qrp..ha,,,more LEGAL QRM,, haha.. tnx to all skcc officials as they are busy sending COOTIE keys from steve, w1sfr.. he is staying busy.. my hobby is making keys, and now i have 86 keys.. all "QRMers".. ha.. it is LEGAL..ha.. so, c u all next month and u all takecare and do daily QRM.. ha.. pix is key nmbr 86..73, Dave Larsen n9zxl



Good conditions for the most part running QRP on 15, 20 and 40M. Received 549 or better most QSOs and worked quite a few other QRPers on WES. Don't know how you could complain about lack of activity or fun! Used Ten Tec Scout at 5W. Many QSOs on my homebrew Terminated Folded Dipole (TFD), but at times the vertical yielded better signals as polarization shifted. Fun working the KSnKCC, VC3Y, and club stations, and good to work so many new SKCC NRs. CU next



The limited time I had to play in the WES was very enjoyable. Very happy to have been called by I4IKW, Mark, on 40m and to have LW3EX, Walt, hear me call him on 10m. Thank you for the QSOs, everyone. These Sprintathons are awesome. It's great to be able to pop in and out of the shack and make a few contacts. Thank you to the SKCC for a job well done. The TA33-JR-N is getting closer and closer to being on the garage. It has been taking a while to get together as it often plays second fiddle to other things that need doing here on the homestead. Fingers crossed, you'll be hearing it next month. No bonus for the picture but I did get 400 points for working some bonus stations! Thanks for hearing my QRP station! 73, Will, NQ2W



Thanks for the Qs. Ten-Tec Jupiter and NT9K Pro Pump SKCC Club Key. 73, Mitch NW0M



Football took some time away this weekend but still had time to make quite a few Qs. Used my K4 at 100 watts and OCF dipole again. Key was Bencher RJ-2. 73, Bill NZ0T



Thanks for the contacts! I used an Icom 705 but picked up a couple of contacts portable with the KX2 while walking my dog. 73, Ron VE3SIF

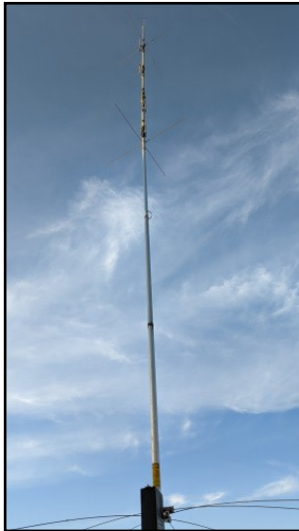


Well, I did Sept WES as QRP...used a few rigs from about 2 watts to 5 watts, into an end wire lodged in the trees out front. I was surprised (pleasantly) how well it all did... overall most reports were 559 or better. I did work Portugal and Prince Edward Island ( a bit of a throw from north of Toronto, ON). I was quite enthralled with Steve Weber's ATS-4 Appalachian Trail rig.. it did very well and was a joy to listen to. The NorCal K1 was quite strong in reception it seems.. I had to operate the volume at almost the bottom and I was running the ATT button on 40m band!! I also used Dave Benson's DSW II (Small Wonder Lab) rigs on 20 and 40 meters... rigs circa year 2000 or so. Not bad, but not as tight filtering as the Weber rig.. but A-OK I am sure if the band is not full of WES activity. I still wonder about how poorly I think 20m works for me.. I did few contacts on 20 and one contact on 15 (where I was hearing almost nothing). I will continue this a bit next WES once I get AGC installed on my QRP Labs QCX, and also pad my tuning capacitor on the Wilderness/NorCal Sierra to slow its tuning rate and give me a larger segment to tune through. So the test was fun, I worked pretty much a good amount of the stations I heard and called. A success. Keys used were a Bunnell WT 8 amp straight key, E.F. Johnson model 500 bug and another WT 8 straight key for monaural input as required. 73, Brian VE3HI

## WES September, 2022 VI



It was good to work KS1KCC, KS4KCC and KS9KCC in the WES. Band conditions were poor overall from south east New South Wales. Most of my 20m contacts were with weak signals. Thanks to those who exchanged details with me. 73, Allan VK2GR



Only had the last 1/2 hour to work the September WES. Worked only two stations but one of them was KS9KCC. Thanks, Codie! 73, Kevin W2NC



Had a great time working the WES with the Flex 6400M and KN4YB right angle bug. Thanks to all that participated! 73, Ken W0HRO



In & out of the shack as time permitted. Had QSO's on all bands from 10 to 160. Condx both good and bad. 15 was vy active and 10 was open with good sigs but very few gave it a try. Wrked KS1KCC on 4 bands. Got 6 KSxKCC stns. Wrked Max in HI on 3 bands Keys: Begali Intrepid, Junker SK, and Twanger cootie. Rig: K4/KPA-1500....Ant: Optibeam yagis on 20-10, EFHW on 40 & 80, horizontal loop on 160. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia

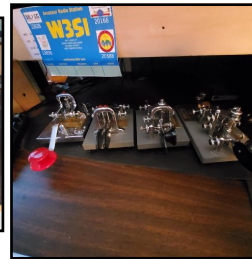
A lot of fun trying to work the KS#KCC stations. Not quite a clean sweep, but a few new ones in my log. Thanks for the QSOs! 73, Cathy



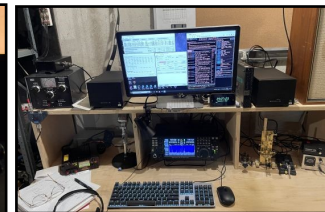
Work & storms were the main things this weekend but I did have a minimal period to participate. First WES using my (new to me) Vibro Keyer and did so as a Cootie. Fun. 73, Blu W1BLU



Fun weekend as usual - good to see so many high numbers (relatively new members). Also good to see some action up on 15 and 10 meters. Time was limited with farm stuff on Saturday and church & ministry obligations Sunday but sure enjoyed the time I was able to be QRV! Semper cw! 73, Dave W1DV



Rainy busy weekend with just a little time before the end of the event. I was hoping to get more on-air time but the hours got away from me. I have been tinkering with my 50 year old SB200 and it is almost ready to rock-n-roll. See yall next WES, I will be QRP again. 73, Bill W3SI



A good weekend! Activity level seemed fine, with a lot of club ops being chased. Nice to have 15 and 10 open with interesting targets. 20 meters continues to be very productive for me late in the day. Overall, my SPC count was the highest I've ever had. No family activity this weekend, so got to devote my usual 16 hours or so. Thanks to all who participated. 73, John W1TAG





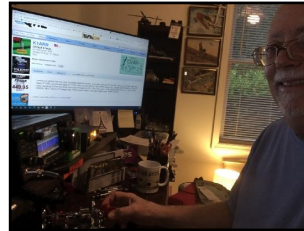
## WES September, 2022 VII



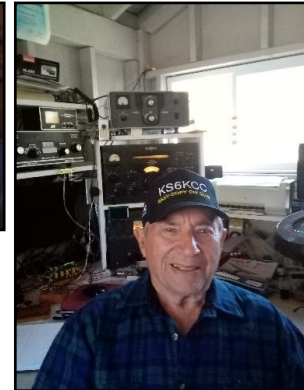
During this month's WES I had my second highest QSO counts. As always, great fun. 73, Drex W4DHT



73, Rod W4NNF



Sent CQ for a while as our church club station K4MMC then did Search & Pounce. Found VC3Y/VY2 as part of the Canadian special event. Thanks to all you fine ops who I was privileged to contact! 73, Dave W4QDV



If you worked KS6KCC between 1600 and 2000Z on Saturday or Sunday this is who was behind the key. 73, Phil KS6KCC AKA "Easy".



Only had last hour to participate this WES. Spent all the rest of the weekend preparing for camping. Had fun with my 40M QCX at the park. Photo has QCX decode of QSO with DREX, W4DHT. 73, Steve W6WU



Lots of fun. The bands seemed to be in excellent shape. I had lots of contacts on 10 and 15 Meters and even a few on 80M. 73, Terry W7AMI



I enjoyed this WES! Worked several KS#KCC stations 1,3,4,6,7 and 9, some on multiple bands! Also worked VY2 and several club stations. It was great working 80 M on Saturday night. So, thanks for all the QSO's 73 Gene W9KMK



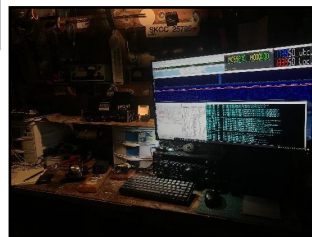
I could only get on late this afternoon but it's always fun. 73, Bill W9SA



We need more Clubs to chase... Bands were better this weekend as well...73, Jerry WA4JK



Great WES weekend. The high bands (15 and 20) were good in West Texas with decent skip. For my soapbox picture I am uploading a picture of my polyphaser/ground. It works hard protecting my rig from lightning surges and never gets the glory that a key or rig will get. :- ) I had a direct strike to the antenna wire in the spring and have only suffered from a wonky AT (attenuator) control as a result. 73, WA3RSR/5



Running in dark mode. Need to get the backlight fixed on the 850 hi hi. 73, Cliff WA2LMC



First WES since July, and first time using this club call since March 2021. I had forgotten how much fun these events are. Borrowed a friend's FT-891 so ran QRO, 35 Watts, instead of my usual QRP. See you next month. 73 de Mark NX1K Op at WA9ZDC.

## WES September, 2022 VIII



Always fun! Glad to catch some clubs and work the Canadian VC3Y stations too. I've been using the Bencher straight key for more than 25 years. Stay well & 73! Mike, WB2FUV



I went out for a bike ride on Saturday and stopped at a local park to make a few QRP-portable WES contacts. Thanks to everyone who worked me. 73, Craig WB3GCK

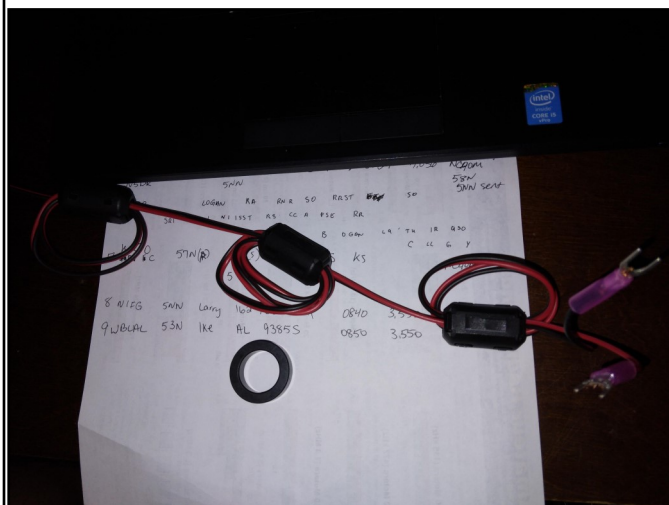


Reached my desired outcome of transition from a 'C' to 'T' running my usual QRP output. Closed on quite a few needed WAS for QRP award. Was thrilled to have the KS1KCC station call me on 10M, and even more excited at CT7AUP being worked with my 5W on 20M. The desk needs reorganized, as too many keys in the way of key in use. Thank you all for the ears to hear my QRP signal. 73, Mark



WV3V QTH, N. Las Vegas NV. Always practicing! A small but mighty station. Main rig, Kenwood TS-50, w/HF6V vertical. Some QRP in the background. Hope to work you on the air or in the filed for PO-TA. 73, Jason WV3V

## Whipping RFI in the Shack



*Editor....When you use a 40 dipole on 80 expect "lots" of rf to return to the shack!*

This is what I used to acquire two QSO's with N1FG-Larry and WB4LAL-Ike on 80m this morning. There was some bad QRN on 40, so I tried tuning up 80m. I had a 3:1 SWR and was getting SIGNIFICANT RF back on my key. So much so, that it wasn't allowing me to key properly. VK4TJ-John instructed me to wrap the lead with some toroids in attempts to fix the issue. I wrapped the lead three times in 3 different toroid clamps, then touched the two Y terminal leads together inside another toroid ring. I got their numbers and it

was certainly manually keyed! A fun effort to get 2 more Q's in the books on my C-quest for my club's call--an attempt to become worth more points for the upcoming WES.

73, W4EWN NB Amateur Radio Club



*Editor ....This story has appeared before but it's so special and this being the Christmas issue of the Rag Chew, it's worth sharing again for those who have never heard it.*

## **Enemy Sub Delivers Unforgettable Gift**

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

Lee Wayne Maloy as told to Kathie and Scott Armstrong

Lee Wayne Maloy

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I waited frozen in that moment of time with my shipmates as we heard the torpedo skim down the ship, clanging as it went. It banged into us four or five times, and then silence. By

some miracle the torpedo's warhead never came in contact with the ship, and we were saved.

Several months later on Christmas Eve, I had just celebrated my 20th birthday on Dec. 21. We were on our way home from the Mediterranean approaching the Straits of Gibraltar on our way to the North Atlantic. We were happily bound for the East Coast of the good old USA. It was a stormy night that Christmas Eve, and I was once again on watch at the bow of the ship.

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

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

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

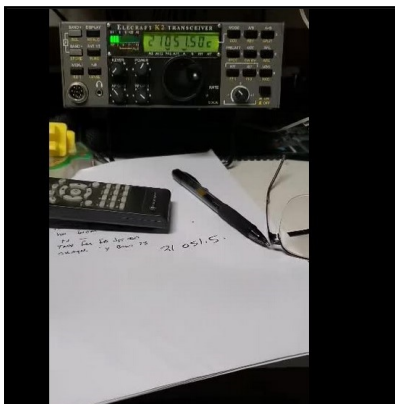
There was a flashing. Dash dash, dot dot dash dot. I mouthed the letters as I saw the German submarine blinking its Morse code message. I couldn't believe what was I was seeing. M-E-R. Could I be reading it correctly? Another "R" and then, dash dot dash dash, a "Y." It was happening so fast as the second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

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

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

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

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



## Working DX is Easy!

JJ1FXF was booming into se Michigan this afternoon. Heard him 579 off the side but at 60w I needed to point at him to complete. Thanks Hiro for very fb qso today.



These antennas are gonna spoil me. 😊 73, Curt KU8L



## SKS September, 2022



Wow was it nice, even getting a late start. Thanks for all the contacts. Great group of operators. 73, Bud AA8CL



Casual operation for the last 45 minutes of the sprint. For fun I used my MFJ 9200 on 40 meters with a Navy flameproof key. Band was in great shape. 73, Peter AK3X



Fun sprint but missed our bonus station. Made 3 on 20m, 15 on 40m, and 4 on 80m for a total of 22 contacts. Not bad for me (hi hi). Ran 75w from my TS-590SG to a multi-band vertical. Kent Str Key. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Got on 20M with heavy QRN, worked a few and then the band went out, I switched to 40M which was hopping with signals and also gave 80M a try. Thanks for all who pulled out my 4W QRP. 73, Steve K4JPN



So proud of you guys for pulling out my signal. You should see what I'm calling an antenna here at the old folks home. Proud of the honest RSTs also. Always skeptical of a 599 considering the antenna here. Thanks all for a little fun. Used my new GHD-207 bug and learning to love it. 73 y'all. Hank K5TSK



I had about 15 minutes to play and was lucky enough to find N2ZUT as my first contact! 73, Randy KB4QQJ



Had the K3/P3 and Vizbug out for a ride. Some Fun!!! 73, Nee NE9EE



Spent a few minutes on 20 but wasn't very productive so worked 40 the rest of the way which was very good. Used my K3 at 100 watts and the old girl still is a great CW 'test rig! Antenna was an OCF dipole at 30'. Key was a J-38. Thanks all for another fun SKS. Bill NZ0T



I brought my POTA rig into the shack, and cranked it down to 1 watt, thinking that nobody would hear me. I was shocked to be able to work 8 stations over the 2-hour period. Great fun!!! 73, Jay WS0Y



Really getting a kick out of SKCC. Thanks to all who make it happen. 73, James N4JAW



## K3Y is Coming!



**K3Y QSL Card Designs Wanted!** The *SKCC Anniversary and Straight Key Month* event (SKM) is approaching. As usual we are calling upon members to create QSL card designs for this special occasion...

2023 will be the 17th anniversary of SKCC's founding. Our annual *Straight Key Month* will start on January 2nd. QSL card designs are needed for the special event call sign, K3Y. ("K3Y" resembles "KEY", as in straight key.)

Submitted designs will be displayed on the event webpage where members will vote for their favorites starting in mid December. The most popular design will become the official K3Y QSL card of the January *Straight Key Month* event. Others will be featured in the SKCC 2023 print calendar.

You can see some of last year's cards featured in the 2022 calendar here:

[https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-docs/SKCC\\_Calendar\\_2022.pdf](https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-docs/SKCC_Calendar_2022.pdf)

Archived calendars from past years are in the SKCC Groups.io group files section here:

<https://groups.io/g/SKCC/files/SKCC%20Print%20Calendar>

There were many popular images submitted for past events that did not win the top spot. Designers are invited to update their past cards and resubmit for 2023.

If you've ever created a QSL card, or wanted to, please consider designing a K3Y card for *Straight Key Month* 2023. Guidelines can be found on the K3Y QSL card page at

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

We're looking forward to seeing your cards. Have fun!

Drew - AF2Z

SKM/K3Y Planning Group



## Oceania QRS Saunter September, 2022

Editor..... The first Oceania QRS Saunter was a success! Plenty of stations enjoyed this first-ever event.



Nice propagation with NZL,AUS,JAPAN,Thail and (not SKCC). GP antenna on 40M,yagi 3 elts on 20/15/10M. 73, Duc F5UQE



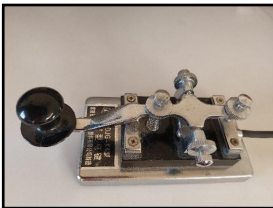
This time, I only communicated with one station, but I enjoyed it. Next time, I would like to communicate with more stations. 73, Ken JM4AOA



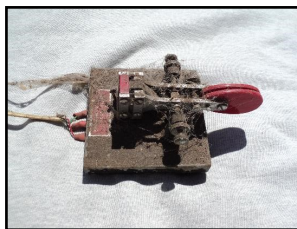
Bands were in pretty good shape but I could only manage 2 contacts. I could hear several of the VK and ZL stations but just could not make it back.....Stan, ZL2LBQ and Duc F5UQE were the strongest this time. While calling CQ QRS I was answered by EF1IBR. Kind of a surprise. Looking forward to the next one as the bands hopefully improve. 73, Randy KB4QQJ



Sure enjoyed the inaugural OQS event. Although there was severe QRN on the low bands, was able to get old friend John, VK4TJ and new member Andy, VK5LA on 40m. However, most of the action for me was on 20m which was in extremely good shape to OC due to (or in spite of) the recent solar flares. Looking forward to the next OQS and hope that everyone had as much fun as I did! 73 from New Hampshire – Larry N1FG



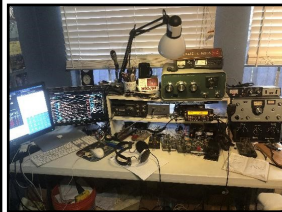
The OQS was a lot of fun. Operated on 20m and 40m. My straight key is pictured. 73, Adam VK2NNW



50-50 mix of new and old members. Started out with a FB 10 mtr opening, but fizzled somewhat by close of business. A good start, in any case! I call this photo "spider sarcasm", but it's pretty indicative of how much I use my paddles since joining SKCC... 73, John VK4TJ



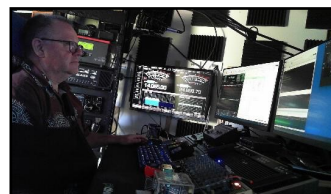
The OQS was most enjoyable, great to hear so many on the bands. Picture of my station. 73, Garry VK2GAZ



I spent several hours, without any luck, chasing OC stations but the bands were horrible. A lot of QRN and deep, deep QSB. I only heard one member from Japan and he was down at 219 es QRN es QSB so no joy. Tnx fer trying Hir,JJ1FXF, I appreciate your trying so hard for me. 73, Les WB5JWI

Log of Mike ZL1RA					
Call Sign	RST	SPC	Name	SKCC No	
1. ZL1PKN	599	NZL	Peter	26553	
2. ZL2GVA	5NN	NZL	Gerard	None	
3. VK2GAZ	7	AUS	Garry	1460C	
4. JJ1FXF	399	JPN	Hiro	2389C	
5. VK4SE	5NN	AUS	Jeff	26340	
6. N4CQJ	35N	USA	Matt	342507	
7. VK2DVA	35N	AUS	Colin	219071	
8. IU1HCC	509	ITA	Ross	221391	
9. EA7BGU	7	ESP	Manuel	1597	
10. F5UQE	419	FRA	Pascal	134685	
11. N1FG	429	USA	Larry	162206	
12. VK2NNW	35N	AUS	Adam	20432	
13. VK4TJ	57N	AUS	John	44745	
14. VK4DKK	53N	AUS	Derek	26381	

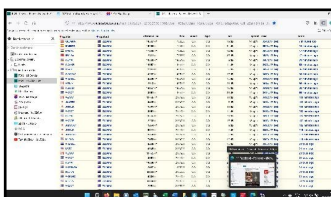
Thoroughly enjoyable first SKCC Oceania QRS Saunter. I'll be a regular! 73, Mike ZL1RA



Tough band conditions, using left hand first time (after surgery), but enjoyed muchly - thanks for first SKCC QSOs :) 73, Jeff VK4SE



Just about fell out the operating chair when V63JB from Micronesia called me on 15 metres! 73, Andy VK5LA



My type of fun with a straight key. Enjoyed it immensely. Thanks to Garry VK2GAZ for promoting and reminding us in ZL of the event. As per attached image, difficult to keep to 12 wpm but I did slow down to below 12 wpm if needed. 73, Ian ZL2AIM

## **The “Glass Arm” or CW Operators’ Carpal Tunnel Syndrome of Today**

**De KA8TVY Dr Horacio S Falciglia**

I am a ham radio operator who recently (9/2021) developed the “glass arm.....

Telegraphers using the original straight key, making the up and down motion were often the victim of an occupational hazard related to the muscles of the wrist, the median nerve and the forearm. In the 19 th century among operators working at the railroad, post offices, navy, merchant marine and others after several hours a day of pounding on their keys experienced “paralysis of the wrist, the “glass arm”. Ham operators also developed this malady that today we call it the “carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS), (1). In 1888 J.H. Bunnell introduced his double speed (sideswiper) to overcome the glass arm...The Bunnell key (2) was patented in 1888, (16 years before the emergence of the semiautomatic key) and it was sold until 1920’s.

Bunnell’s sideswiper or “cootie” key was operated using a horizontal motion of the hand and arm with great relief of the glass arm’s pain. In 1902 Horace Martin invented a unique key that instead of the up /down motion, the keying lever went also from side to side; it used a battery powered interrupter circuit to allow the key to make dots automatically simply by holding the lever to the right. This greatly lessened the tension on the operator’s wrist. He called his invention the Autoplex, and it went into use in 1902 (3); it cost 25 dollars, about 2 weeks salaries then and it required a battery which also were expensive in 1902. Soon after Martin came up with an improvement to the key that did not require a battery. Instead the dots were produced by a mechanical oscillation of the horizontal lever striking a fixed post. Unlike the Autoplex, this new key, which he called The Vibroplex, could only produce about 10 dots or so before oscillations subsided (3). But a telegrapher does not need to send that many dots in one sequence, so the Vibroplex accomplished its goal and soon became very popular.

In the early 1900’s a poor telegrapher was called a “bug”. When the Vibroplex was invented operators rushed to buy the Vibroplex and started using them without practice; the results were poor sending of Morse code, most of the time they could not be copied and their keys became known as “Bugs”.

Some of the advantages of CW are its ability to override noise and static and still made itself readable, occupying only a bandwidth of 300 Hz compared to 2, 5 KHz for SSB and up to 10 KHz for FM. CW radio equipment is very cost-effective and Morse code remains the simplest and most efficient way to communicate in radio. I got my first CW certificate in July 1957 in Buenos Aires. Mariano Abastas LU7EE, (SK) at the Argentine Radio Club LU7EE was my CW teacher. After I passed the 5 WPM got my novice License (LU7DAU). I operated in CW and SSB. My father Salvador (LU1DFH, SK) was my inspiration, he was an army officer who provided regular patches to Antarctic personnel relatives; he was involved in Rescue operations as well. My uncle Raul (LU6DEC SK) was a Morse code specialist in the Argentine Army and he was another person I admired for his skills with the code. I immigrated to New York in 1972 to specialize in Pediatrics Neonatology at Bellevue Hospital, New York University. I came to Cincinnati in 76 and worked at CCHMC and Good Samaritan Hospitals; I took Ham radio classes at the OHKYIN Amateur Radio Club as a Technician, John Hugentober N8FU (SK) was my teacher, Elmer and dear friend. John has worked at the post-office in Cincinnati.



Telegrams there, were sent by Morse code, and John has also an outstanding speed. (Photo 1 J-

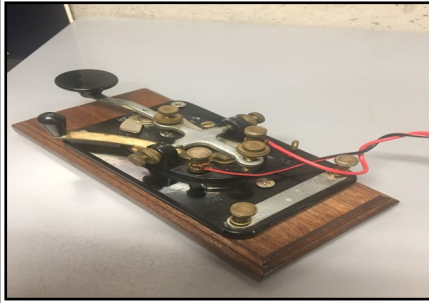


Photo 1 J-38

38 Straight Key) I got both my general License and my USA citizenship in 1984. I had to stop this hobby for about 18 years due to my busy medical profession as a Neonatologist; most of the nights we were trying to save dying premature infants at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. It was time demanding and very stressful ,yet in many cases we were successful. In addition to CW, in January 2019 when the HF propagation was not great I joined the digital mode in FT8.

K1JT Joe Taylor's invention was a blessing at a time the propagation in HF has been poor. I spent three to four hours in my basement during the pandemic, getting hundreds of

QSO's in FT8 mode. Unfortunately this mode also required the use of the laptop computer and the "down click" of the mouse connected to it, Double whammy as far as injuring my wrist and triggering CPT syndrome. I also on and off practiced another hobby, calligraphy which I love since my days of high school. I practice the Copperplate style that also requires very much the use of the wrist. The Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson is Copperplate style; it is the example we need to follow. I am sorry that today few schools now teach calligraphy. I have tried (unsuccessfully so far) to teach my grandchildren the power of penmanship of this forgotten art. In September I began with my carpal Tunnel symptoms, paresthesias and tingling at night ;I also have same symptoms driving my car or pounding on my J-38 Morse key. I did the Phalen's maneuver /the wrist flexion test "I pressed the back of my hand and fingers together with wrist flexed and having the fingers pointing down to the floor for 2 minutes. Test was positive, I developed severe tingling of fingers . I knew that I have CTS and I needed to see the orthopedic surgeon Dr. Peter J Stern. Dr. Stern at UC Health did the 2 points test confirmed I had Carpal Tunnel syndrome. The Carpal Tunnel ( 4) is a small passageway on the palm side of the wrist where the Transverse Carpal ligament is the roof of the tunnel covering several anatomic structures: Among others: ligaments, vessels, ulnar nerve and Median nerve. The pressure of the Carpal ligament on the median nerve(4) produce the tingling and numbness of the first three fingers that gets worse at night due to accumulation of fluids in the Tunnel ( Photo 2 Carpal Tunnel Anatomy).

The treatment that I received at UC health for three months since September included a wrist support sleep brace that I wore during the entire night. After two months without improvement I received a dexamethasone injection on my wrist, I also tried non steroidal antiinflammatories (ibuprofen) . Nothing seems to work. On less severe CPT cases than mine where the wrist brace has worked and there is no need for surgery I would recommend : 1) for your computer the use of an ergonomic mouse pad with wrist support ,2) a steering wheel cover for the car( its called "Just Squeeze it"),and 3) hand exercises for CTS. Obviously you need to stop CW ,typing or whatever make your symptoms worse.

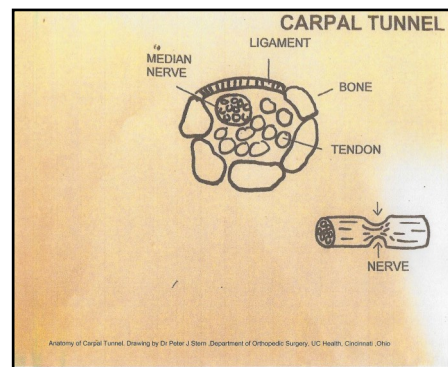


Photo 2 Carpal Tunnel Anatomy

On November 30 I had Carpal Tunnel syndrome surgery at UC under local anesthesia with lidocaine and Marcaine without sedation. It took 15 minutes ,they did a longitudinal 3cm incision on my palm ,then they sectioned the carpal ligament, they applied 5 stitches to the skin and a light dressing for ten days. No antibiotics or ointments. Two days after surgery my CTS symptoms went away. Results of CTS surgery are 80% cure,15% better,5% no change, infection in < 1% . Major risks: infection <1% ,recurrence (rare), injury to median nerve, tenderness in palm, temporary usually less than three months.

I am now on day 10th after surgery typing this letter without pain or tingling . I drove 48 hrs after surgery without problems. Surgery worked. Now it comes the hard part :I will need to retrain my skills with the Morse code, I don't want to tempt my luck by going back to the Straight J-38 key which I used for 40 years, so I will switch most likely to the single paddle.



Photo 3



Photo 4

Kent.

My other options are the cootie key, manufactured by Steve Roberts, W1SFR, (Photos 3 and 4, both images). At a later time I could try either an electronic keyer or a Vibroplex bug. It appears is easier to switch from a straight key to a paddle or a bug than to start learning Morse on a paddle. This is controversial.

If medical and or surgical therapy does not work, there is another alternative for CW operators with the Glass Arm. It is VOSK- A Voice operated Straight Key for hands free CW operation invented by Arthur J Glazar, W2NN an electric engineer. In the August 2011 issue of QST (5) he described VOSK as a battery powered accessory that converts audio output into contact closures. He mentioned "if you vocalize the sequence "dit dit dit" into the VOSK microphone, the Morse letter S appears at the output jack". Arthur stated that he suffers too from a "glass arm" and he cannot longer use a straight key. VOSK does not require special training and helped him "once again to generate Morse code with a distinctive swing ". I wrote this report with the idea one day it may help my fellow hams with the "Glass Arm". And remember don't give up on CW. Samuel Finley Breese Morse would not have like it! Our beautiful hobby and art begun with Samuel Morse doing the first transmission in 1844 over a wire from the Capitol Building in Washington DC to Baltimore, Maryland that covered a distance of 38 miles. He sent "What hath God wrought".

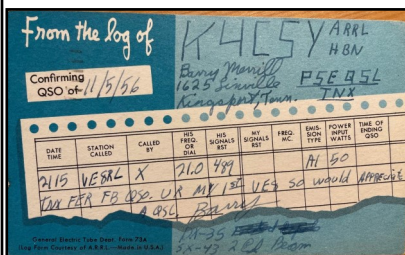


de KA8TVY, Horacio

## References

Ham Radio History: The Vibroplex Morse Code Key and the Carpal Tunnel Syndrome in the late 1800. Bravocharlie AD8BC, November 2014  
The Art of Side-Swipery by Jerry Bartacheck KD0CA  
Telegraphkeys.com. Bugs (semiautomatic keys)  
Dr Peter J Stern MD . Department of Orthopedic Surgery, UC Health (drawing of CT).  
VOSK- A Voice Operated Straight Key for Hands free CW Operation. Arthur J. Glazar, W2NN.  
QST, August 2011, 37-39.

## De SKCC Face Book

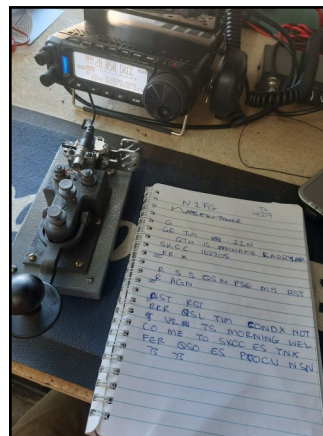


I went through dad's QSL cards, typed the callsigns in [qrz.com](http://qrz.com), and found four people with email addresses. It only took about 15 minutes. I sent them images of the cards that they had sent him back in the day. One guy responded. He said, "What a pleasant surprise!!! Thanks for taking the time to track me down!! And I do recall the QSO, not only because your Dad was my first VE8, but that was also the first day I was using my brand new "Catfish Special" 2 element 15 meter beam: the boom was an 8-foot 2x4 and the elements were bamboo fishing poles wrapped in aluminum foil, from an article in CQ Magazine."

Their contact was in 1956 when the fellow was 15 years old and living in Tennessee. He remembers it from 66 years ago. Not only was it rare to get NWT, but he had just made a home-made antenna from scratch. "It's all about the antenna." 73, Fr. Rick VE3FRL



Greetings all, new member here. I acquired my first straight key at a ham swap (\$5) and spent this past weekend freshening it up a bit. Now, thanks to the good folks at LICW, I am learning how to use it. Still needs a base of some kind because in this state, operating it requires two hands. 73, Peter



A cracking QSO yesterday with Larry N1FG. Victoria, Australia to New Hampshire, USA. Nothing but good old straight key CW, 10W and an EFHW on 40m. Thanks so much for the QRS and the huge effort to hear me.

73  
VK3TBR  
SKCC 26549



FB QSL card!



My new key just came in! Love it!  
73, Dave KN4OK

## SKSE October, 2022

### Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	F6EJN	Bob	508S	FRA	33	25	12/6/2	1,075
2	CT7AUP	David	24197S	POR	26	20	9/6/1	720
3	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	18	14	6/2/1	367
4	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	16	10	4/2/0	240
5	EA3NO	Lluis	6653S	ESP	13	10	4/3/0	220
6	WO7T	Mark	3298T	AZ	11	10	5/1/0	195
7	SM7BUA	Mats	122	SWE	12	8	4/1/0	166
8	KO4WFP	Teri	25974	GA	8	8	2/4/1	139
9	SP7OGP	Piotr	9749	POL	10	6	4/1/0	130
10	AF2Z	Drew	2082S	NJ	6	5	4/2/0	110
11	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	7	6	1/2/0	77
12	EA7EGU	Manuel	159T	ESP	7	6	2/0/0	72
13	GW3OIN	John	14560	WAL	4	4	2/1/0	56
14	VE1AHX	Ben	18100S	NS	5	5	2/0/0	55
14	WB5JWI	Les	5013S	TX	5	5	1/1/1	55
16	K9QEW	Daryl	2963	IL	4	3	2/1/0	52
17	DL8FMA	Manuel	24047	GER	6	3	2/0/0	48
18	K3TM	Roger	5016T	MD	4	4	1/1/0	41
19	K8AQM	Ted	1629S	MI	3	3	2/0/0	39
20	OE5WEO	Peter	26031	AUT	3	3	1/1/0	34
21	F5UQE	Duc	13468S	FRA	3	3	0/1/0	19
21	K0KEX	Rick	5220S	MO	2	2	1/0/0	19
23	W1Z1Y	Ron	9621T	MA	1	1	1/0/0	16



Many thanks to all for a pleasant SKS-E. I found three new members. Rig here : TS-590SG (abt 80 watts CW) into my old multi-band GP antenna model Hi-Gain DX-88. The photo is dated 1995 when I was keying a big pump key made by young mechanic apprentices. It was elected the biggest key in France at this time. 73, Bernard F5DE

I gave up....



and



For ....



Using an indoor antenna from my new QTH. First contacts. Moved from super-station to HOA station. I love the new QTH...but miss the old station...LOL. 73, Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM



Only one EU contact. bands not the best only Portugal heard here in Houston. 73, Les WB5JWI



My first SKSE hope to do better next time. QSOs on 15 and 20 meters. TNX to ON7PQ, WO7T, F6EJN & F5UQE. 73 & STAY TUNED! DARYL K9QEW



Had a very enjoyable evening working the 'regulars' and a few new ones. Rig IC-7300 @100W into LW (or GP on 20m). Key was again my favourite "Woody Cootie". 73 de Luc ON7DQ



## WES October, 2022



Busy weekend with company so just jumped in every few hours to give out the TKA bonus. Managed 20 contacts and enjoyed each one. Conditions seemed good and worked a couple on 10 meters. Picture is of me working as area 2 call during the anniversary event back in 2007. 73, Frank AA2XB



Got on when I could, but got great reports on 40 & 20. Great fun making the contacts. 73, Bud AA8CL



These events are a lot of fun. I feel I'm improving my straight key fist - at least I hope so... Thanks for the contacts! 73, Mike AD0WB



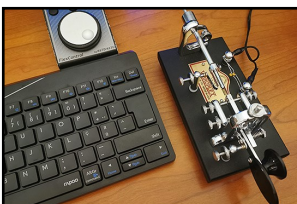
It's been a while since participating in one of these. Always fun. Sunday Morning held a 10m surprise for Europe and Israel. 73, Rich AE4OK



Many thanks to all. TKA contacted : W1TAG, W9SA, NE9EE (3 bands), KC4PGN, WA3GM and N8XI. Other three-bander was AF2Z. No contact on 40 m and 80 m this time. Always a pleasure to be here for a few friendly contacts ! 73 to everybody and see you next time, Bernard F5DE



Just played a little on Sunday. Rig is YouKits HB1B with 4 watts to end-fed wire. Key is Vibroplex Vibrokeyer wired as a cootie. 73, Steve AI9IN



This was a very nice WES. The propagation on 10 meters to US was very good, so lots of fun on this band. First WES using a bug. Thanks for all the QSO's. 73, David CT7AUP



10 meters was really good Saturday during the day. Best I've seen 10M since getting re-licensed in 2018. 15 meters was also very good. 40M good Saturday night. 20M meters very good Sunday night. Some dead periods during the day on both days. Photo shows 10M "Octagon" in progress, almost done. If I can only figure out how to lift the boom over the 2 posts?? Thanks for the QSOs! 73, Bob AC1GF

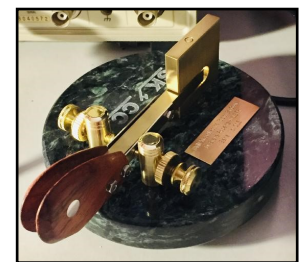


I started with my Icom 7300 at 5 watts and then for fun put some of my old kit monoband QRP rigs into the game. Used my Small Wonder Labs DSW 20 and DSW 40 at about 2.5 watts each and my OHR 100A on 80 at 5 watts for the last few minutes of the WES. That was fun. That little blue DSW 40 got me 90 percent of my contacts to get to S. They all still work FB. 73, Peter AK3X

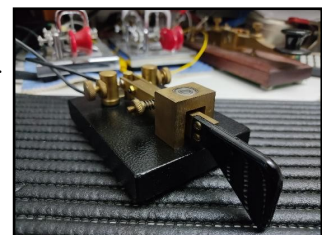
Hi guys, good conditions this weekend in 10 mts band, thanks to all for qso's, 73, Lluís EA3NO



A great event as usual. I'm not a TKA, but I was surprised how many there are. A word to the newbies, please don't zero beat me when answering my CQs. Going +/- 10-50 Hz will greatly increase your chances of getting an answer. Regardless, I answer everyone I can hear. 73, Jim AD0AB



Really enjoyed this WES!! Especially the European stations coming in on 10 meters!! Thanks for all of the fun contacts and looking forward to next month. All of my QSOs were made with my W1SFR SKCC Green Machine side swiper which performed flawlessly unless I got too excited and started banging it around the desktop. Hi Hi 73, Kenny AF4QK

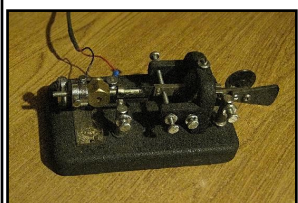




## WES October, 2022 II



Very friendly WES, good propagation on the bands in particular the 10m. Several OM contacted on 4 or 3 bands. 20 hours of traffic without real interruptions. Many newcomers and veterans returning after several years. 2 antennas used, the Cushcraft 2 elements 40 m and the Mosley 3 elements 10, 15 and 20m. the two antennas are at 70 feet above the ground completely clear towards the USA. power from 300 to 400 watts. Thank you to all the participants and see you soon on the airwaves. In the photo, the first antenna is a TE 33 Emtron WARC 3 band. Be well. 73, Bob F6EJN



Mostly a 40 meter WES. A few Qs on 20 but not a lot heard there and nothing on the higher bands. Bought a McElroy P500 bug made around 1940 Saturday afternoon and used it for part of the WES. 73, Gary K1YAN

Christened a new IC-7300 this weekend. It worked great. Bands were up and down this weekend but I sure had fun anyway. Used a Vibroplex Champion this contest. 73, Bob K3CKO



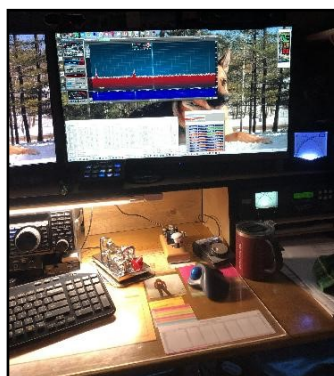
Hello ! WES friendly, thank you all. 73, Frank



The 10m opening Saturday was fun, moved to 20m Sunday. Logged 8 new members and worked some old friends including John ZS6BJJ. Thanks to the TKA awesome bonus stations. The image is another awesome operator...I wish I could setup antennas like she builds webs It's fun watching all the activity. 73, Rick K0KEX



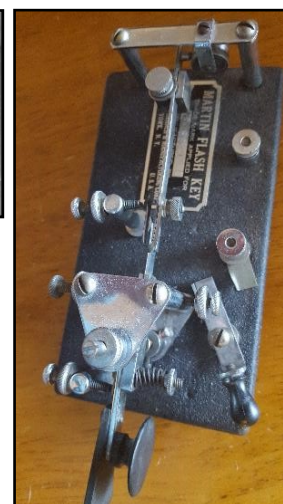
Great fun and with 10m opening up ! Had QSO's on 10, 15 and 20m. Just with a 20ft vertical antenna. 73, John G0RDO SKCC 2133s



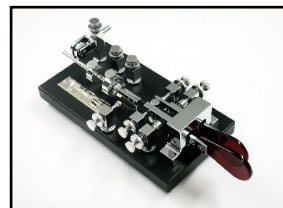
Great WES! 73, Ed from Frosty Maine K1EDG



Used my TS-590SG and ran 50 watts on all but one QSO, when I jumped it up to 95 watts to work 4X1WQ in Israel (hi hi). Used my old Lionel (1943) J38 straight key. Multi-band vertical. Always a great time in the WES. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Just worked DX this time, mostly 10 meters, but one contact with AUS on 40. Highlight was working John ZS6BJJ on 10 meters to finally earn my SKCC WAC. 73, Dan K0FD



I tried a little up on 10 mtrs. The band was quite good but not a lot of WES activity. I didn't have a lot of free time. Unfortunately, this is becoming way to common. However, the bands all seemed to be in excellent shape! 73, Steve K2FW

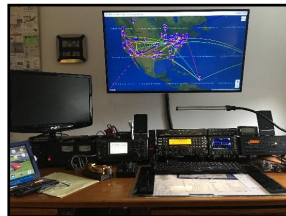
First time back on the air after moving from super station (sigh) to an HOA. Stealth antenna strung in the garage surprised me....not bad for 50 watts and right angle Alpha Delta (40-10m) at 10 feet! Need an electrician...light blink/dim at more than 50 watts. 15 amps serving two bedrooms...ugh! Oh well, I will conquer this place! Two more stealth antennas planned that will be outside...shhhhh, don't tell! 73, Ted K8AQM/



## WES October, 2022 III



10 and 15 on Saturday were very hot bands. 156 SFI and A index proved to be winners for those two bands on Saturday. Strong signals from AVi 4X1WQ and John ZS6BJJ. Sunday was another story with high Sfi but very high A index. Signals were markedly weaker from those two as well as most EU stations. Spent part of first 8 hours and then stole a few mments after midnight. Dog walking, XYL interruptions, and the METS game took precedence over operating. From 4-6 pm laid out ground anchor points for upcoming AB577 and 10/15 meter JK antenna erection. This also took precedence over operating. want to get antenna system up before cold sets in. Spent a little time on Sunday between 9AM and 4PM with XYL and dog walking interruptions. Most stations worked were weak or really weak. FTDX10 performed admirably for these old ears. Hope I did not miss many who called- If I did , Sorry. Very happy with my score in that I missed 4-12 midnight on Saturday and 4-8 on Sunday. Thank you to all who participated and called and congratulations to all of those TKA awardees. Coco the Cockapoo, new Jr OP, did cut into my operating time by constantly bringing me the ball to play fetch in the middle of pileups of course. 73, Phil K3EW



Saturday was good on 20 here in the Midwest. Thanks for the Q's K3s, G5rv up 25 Ft. 73, Ray K9EYT



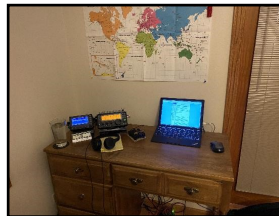
Slow start Saturday morning on noisy 40 meters, then things got better. 73, John KA1LHJ



Fun WES, conditions were pretty good and I got 9 on 15 meters and 1 on 10 but that one was Spain. Fun being a bonus station and I used all three keys just for fun. CU next month. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Got on late but did real well on 40Meters. See you next time! 73, Rich KB1FGC



My first sprint since erecting a new 134' doublet, which did not disappoint! Awesome DX on 20, 15, and 10M. Here's my current minimalist QRP station. Thanks for all the TKA's. I used this weekend to get over my own TKA hump, finally exceeding 100 SK to augment my hundreds of BUG and SS Q's. 73, Steve K9NUD



Thanks to all who participated. 10 meters was open most of the day, and really enjoyed the openings with my new TA-32JR antenna. Good to see Bert F6H-KA back on the air, though I didn't work him. Everyone have a great month. God bless you and your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



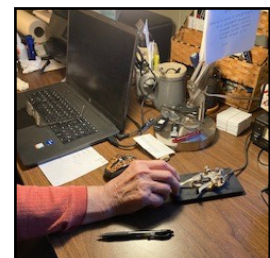
The bands here were FB worked 5 DX stations. Lots of fun in WES! Thanks to all & 73, Craig KA9ERV



40 meters seemed noisy so I mainly stayed on 20 meters. IC7300 and J38 to a 4btv antenna. 73s & STAY TUNED! 73, Daryl K9QEW



Once again, lots of fun with WES! I would have made more Q's, but the leaves needed raking and 30+ bags later we finished for now - more leaves yet to fall. Thanks to all who I worked and hope to do it again! 73, Kent KA0LDG



Just about wore my fist out. Had a great time. 73, John KC4PGN

## WES October, 2022 IV



That was a fun WES. Bands were really alive. I worked several members from the mobile traveling to and from SC. Hope that didn't confuse too many. From home I ran the KX3 to a Modified Ten-Tec 405 amp for 65 watts out. It was great to work my friend Walt LW3EX again! It's been a while. Great openings on 10 and 15 meters for the WES and 17m has been open to EU and AUS for a week now. Get on that band and play!! 73, Randy KB4QQJ



Good time playing WES with old radios and some time with one not so old. I spent the 2 weeks before retuning the TCS12 to cover 1.8 to 14.4 MHz and bringing the HRO up to good working order. I didn't end up using the HRO much, the RA17 worked so much better. The home brew SDR above the Racal is used as a VFO for the TCS, not much chirp with a DDS. At first my output power was falling as I keyed the TCS12. It took a while to realize the vibration of the antenna relay, in the TCS12, was moving the plate tuning capacitor, easily fixed with the lock. I started out S&P with 10 Watts on the TCS12 on Saturday and up to 2300Z had 3 Qs on 40 using HRO as RX and 18 on 20 using RA17 as RX. I was not finding much on 80, with the HRO Saturday evening so I went to the Elecraft K4 to see how the band was on a modern rig, nine QSOs running 1KW later I went to bed. On Sunday morning a quick change to the TCS12 gave me 20 watts on 20 and 30 watts on 40, not bad for single 1625 (12-volt heater 807). With this new power I did runs of 7 and 6 on 20 and 40 with the TCS12 barefoot. Seeing all the activity on 10 and 15 I just had to see what I could do; back to the K4/KPA1500 running 1KW! Runs of 21 Qs, mostly EU, on 10 and 13 on 15, I guess I missed the good openings, but it was fun. Finished up with 9 more Qs running the TCS12 barefoot. I worked 20, 40, and 80 on my retuned TCS12 but just couldn't make a 160 Q. 73, Brian KF6C



Not many contacts this weekend but still had a great time participating. 73, Mark KC4NLD



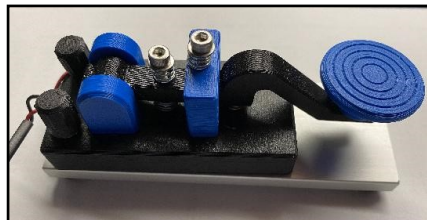
Nice to qso with Wes friends. Enjoyed it. Thanks to all and cuagn next time. 73, Chris



73, Mike KG4IMI



All WES Q's on my "SS." 73, Gary



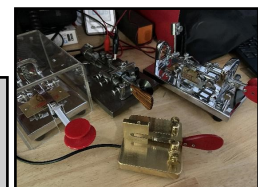
Thank you to all who answered my CQ for the WES. I really enjoyed this event. QSB presented a problem at times but I worked through it. I am looking forward to next month's WES already! 73, Teri KO4WFP



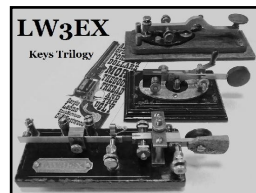
Nice day for WES in my backyard. 73, Seth KZ5H



Many thanks to all those participating in this weekend's sprint. Limited time due to commitments in the pro shop. Fall golf is in full swing and it was a beautiful weekend to get out. Managed to get a few hours in each day. As always, a fun time pounding on the straight key, cootie and bug. Catch you all next month...73, jack dit...dit KK0I



Good time with the 10 meter DX and working with the monthly theme I used a Torsion bar side-swiper for the first time. Good practice and now working towards the TKA award. 73, Dean N2TNN



Congrats all SKCC. I had a great Radio time, FUN as always QSO Stats: 10 > 14MHz - 46 > 28MHz TA33 - 50W - Home-made Keys Trilogy Thanks everyone for the QSOs. BCNU 73, Walt LW3EX - ... ZUT

WoW the propagation was jumping. Not 1958 but I liked it J Today 101022 the SFI is 161. Gave out my TKA #22 to 125 members, including several new members. Looking forward to the November WES where we will be honoring our Veterans. Thanks for the contacts/points. 73...Rick N8XI, SKCC, the KEY to Amateur Radio



## WES October, 2022 V

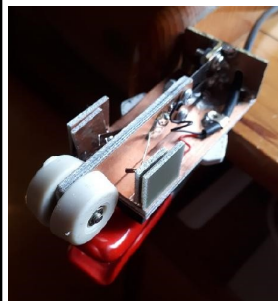


Set up my end fed half-wave outside, and ran the coax through the window so I could work in our cozy livingroom - just a little too chilly to sit outside for long periods today. Used the Xiegu X-6100 which is a great little rig for WES, and this weekend 20m was the best band which is unusual for me.

Thanks to all the ops that make this such a great event, 73, Mike N2HTT



Was a grind but very fun making all those contacts. K3/P3 1KW VIZ BUG 73, Nee NE9EE



Time was limited to a few hours on Sunday. Still great to see 10m open. Picture shows a "mini" cootie that I built for portable use, but I like it so much that I also use it in the shack ;- ) 73 - Luc ON7DQ



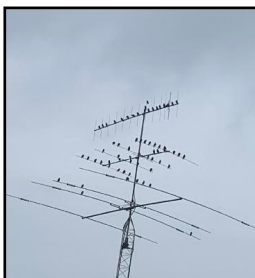
Great band conditions Saturday (10 thru 40 meters) followed by a marginal Sunday morning and then conditions improved throughout the day. Best personal score in a while here. Kudos to all the members who put in the valiant effort of earning TKA status. Pictured here is how it used to be around forty years ago. Notice the exhaust fans on top of tube finals to keep things cool and stable in the usually warm garage shack (except in the winter). Amazing juicing up of any old receiver can be done with one or two 1954 vintage three tube RME-23 preselector/preamps. These can be switched in or out separately or cascaded for around 60 dB of additional front end gain. All QSOs made with the 144 year old Bunnell straight key shown. Signing off from "Smithsonian Radio." 73, Chuck N0CW



Returning from town Sat. noon for WES, very heavy rains hit. Flash floods almost washed out our rural roads. An 8 mile detour got me home for WES. On the bright side, the standing water on my vertical radials gave me a nice electrical ground for a change. Good RSTs for my QRP from France to JA on 15 and 20M. Sure was a fun weekend every time I got on. Lots of good activity chasing TKAs. 73, Paul NA5N



I had 8 QSOs in about 3 hours when I noticed I was seeing some very high SWR on 20M. I went out to check my antenna. I found my 100' long wire had broken and come down. So those contacts (including ON8WR in BEL) were made on about 5 feet of wire just dangling from the remote tuner. I shut down so I wouldn't damage my radio. I'll ask for help from some local hams to repair or replace the antenna. 73, Ken N9KJU



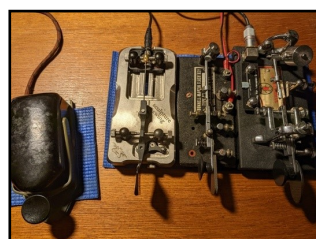
10M Sunday was very active. Had a surprise QSO with Bert, F6HKA and a 2xQRP with John, ZS6JBJ (8461 Miles on 10M). Had a fun ~15 hours of operating mostly S&P and a bit as CQ. The 2 antenna ports of the TS-2000 and the remote tuners made for quick band changes as Sked would show needed TKA stations. Looking forward to next months WES honoring Veterans and current service personnel. Looking for any station that wants to schedule a Marathon as that's my current quest, along with Sx6. 73, Vern NJ8L



Ft817n. 5wts g5rv 35ft n/s inv vee.. ha more QRM..ha..45 qsos, 5 countrys.Nice 15 and 10 mtrs. Worked 40 and 20 al-so..used my homebrew key nmbr 87..Ha. 88 will get hr also soon..so, tn timer to the board members.. they must be busy..i dont think i worked any one who was using a cootie key... so for qrp qsos, i tell looks like a bunch of new mbrs this month, as usual.. those nmbrs are increasing.. so takecare and c u agn. So, 73, DAVE N9ZXL



Another FB event! The TKA award is enviable! C U for the 2 hr. sprint .... 73 Steve NQ8T



10 meters has been excellent this WES and have worked most of my stations there, highlights being QSOs with LW3EX, KP3W and V31CO. Attached the combo of keys I have been using. 73, Jo PG4I

## WES October, 2022 VI



I have been doing this ham radio stuff on and off since 1984 and I truly believe it's getting more and more exciting. I didn't expect to be able to play in this month's WES and things changed. Now, I couldn't sit in front of the radio as much as I would have liked, but any BIC time is better than none. For the most part, the bands were hopping. QSOs on each band, 10-80m. I finally raised my Mosley TA-33-JR-N and it played quite well. The jury is still out with a northeasterly heading...I wasn't on the radio at optimum times for Europe but I did get F6EJN, Bob, and VE1GA, Lee (I know Lee isn't in Europe but he is on the way there from here.) on 15m and 20m, respectively. They're both on the other side of the mountain...so that's promising. My fist did its usual gibberish sending and I apologize to the ops who witnessed that. I'm still trying to send too fast. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for hearing my QRP station and getting me in the log. Thank you to the SKCC members who organize these great events. Thank you to AC2C, Ron, for the SKCCLogger...it's awesome. The SKCC is a great group of folks. I am very grateful to be a part of this organization. Until next time, 73, Will, NQ2W



Not a lot of time again this month and almost all was on Saturday. I used my basement station so I could continue working on some bench projects down there. 10 was good on Saturday but there was not a lot of WES activity there. Rig: K3 Line at 500 watts. Antennas: EFLW & yagis. Keys: Vibroplex Lightning bug c1942 and the Navy Flameproof. 73 Dave W3NPde West Virginia



Lots of fun being part of this group and contest. Looking forward to the next. 73 to all and cul, Ed VE3EKA



A very nice weekend. Conditions on 10 and 15 meters were fantastic on Saturday, not so much on Sunday. Seemed to be a lot of activity. An Es cloud over the U.S. provided a lot of 8 and 9 land QSOs on Sunday. The picture below shows the clothespin in place to slow the bug down a little. Thanks to all who participated. 73, John W1TAG



Great fun with 10m so good. As you can see from the picture it is Maple time here. That is my 40m vertical made from miscellaneous Hy-Gain and Telrex aluminum, complete with a Telrex Anti-corona ball at the top. This antenna does all 40m and some 15m work. 500W did not produce any corona! CU next time. 73, Bob VE3KZ

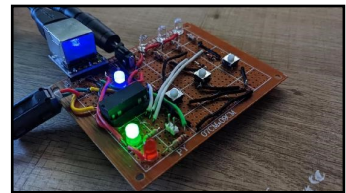


Nice to have decent conditions and I actually had some time to participate. Good to have some openings on 10 and 15, even though my only antenna is 80 meter dipole (fed with ladder line and Godzilla sized Palstar tuner). Also good to see so many new members jumping in. 73 all Dave W1DV

A new "Guardian of the Key" arrived last week to watch over my W1SFR TBHSK (straight key). I caught him napping during Friday's marathon, but he stayed awake while I worked the WES! Good Ninja! 73, Cathy W4CMG



For a change the bands were wide open this weekend. I ran QRP & many of you tried hard to hear me. TU for the effort. I wish I would have had more time to operate but the time I did spend was, as always, fun. I went DK, (double key) this WES. I don't have the guts to try the bug. Those of you that did sounded FB. 73, Blue W1BLU



First WES - using my strange homebuilt pushbutton key. Wasn't using it as a cootie with the multiple buttons though, just in a straight key mode with a single button. Had good fun and also DX thanks to ON8WR and F6EJN being my first contacts on another continent! 73, Gt W1FIF



Not a lot of operating time but I heard a few on 40M and 20M, which is normal, but I also heard some on 15M. I enjoyed my time on the radio today and as always it is great fun to work SKCC WES. 73, Bill W3SI



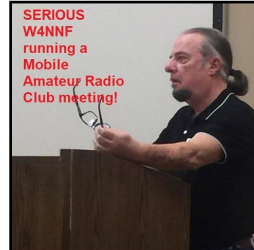
## WES October, 2022 VII



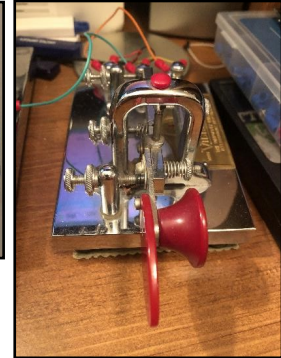
Bands were excellent. It was nice working 10M for once. Took it easy this time. High score was not the goal this time. Just happy to meet my ham friends on multiple bands. 73, Ben W4LRB



Well that was fun. Lots of action from 40-10m. Even got a QSO on 160m! Still amazed how well QRP works especially when the higher bands are open. My thanks to those who worked hard to pull my signal out of the noise. Great to work Bert F6HKA again. 73, Andy W4NLT



It was another great WES! I'm going to try to participate in every single one going forward...just a lot of FUN. Couldn't put that many hours in the chair this time but worked MANY nice OM's and YL's. 73, y'all Rodney W4NNF



Wired up my Vibrokekeyer as a Cootie. Sorry for the sloppy sending. Hope to get better at the art of the Cootie. 73, Rin W4RIN



This was a fun WES, I had many more QSO's than expected and on several bands! Also, I finally added RSA to my collection on 10 M. So, thanks for all the QSO's and TKA's given out!

73, Gene W9KMK



Another fun WES. Thanks to all for the contacts and kudos to the sprint organizers. TKA theme was a good idea and lots of participation from the TKA ops. Worked 40 & 80m from my off grid shack. 50-70 watts Yaesu 857 D - to Par end fed 40m and 80m vertical. Powered by Bioenno 30 Ah battery. 73, Mike W8MDE



Did not have a whole lot of time this month due to family things but I did have a great time for the time I worked. Thanks to all who found me and worked me. 73 C U Next Month Greg WA3GM



Nice to hear the bands active again. Great to work some SKCC DX stations. Biggest surprise was when Take, JR2IUB heard my 100 watts and vertical and gave me a 579 report. Also glad to be able to give out some extra points with the TKA report. Picture is of my TKA machinery. Thanks to all 73, Gerald WA5AFD



On Saturday, I made some contacts while QRP-portable on some property owned by a family member. I went for a bike ride on Sunday and stopped in a local park to make a few more contacts. Thanks to those who worked me. 73, Craig WB3GCK



Propagation was great on Saturday, worked South Africa and many European stations with 100w and my vertical! 73, Joe WB9EAO



Enjoy the Mariposa. Next month I'll post a picture of my new Titan key by W1SFR. 73, Chris WX7V



Search and pounced 15m and 10m. I had a good run calling cq on 20m. Thanks for the qso's. 73, WB9TFF Donna

## Bulletins

### Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) reorganization effective January 1, 2023.

The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) have announced a realignment of their Field Organization resulting in the addition of a new section and name changes to several others effective January 1, 2023. This will result in the changes to ARRL contests that use ARRL/RAC sections as multipliers, including Field Day, ARRL November Sweepstakes, and 160-Meter contests.

The RAC Field Organization will be reorganized into the following sections effective January 1, 2023:

- Newfoundland and Labrador (NL)
- Nova Scotia (NS)
- Prince Edward Island (PE)
- New Brunswick (NB) - the Maritime Section (MAR) will be abolished.
- Quebec (QC)
- Ontario East (ONE)
- Golden Horseshoe (GH) - currently called Greater Toronto Area (GTA).
- Ontario South (ONS)
- Ontario North (ONN)
- Manitoba (MB)
- Saskatchewan (SK)
- Alberta (AB)
- British Columbia (BC)
- Territories (TER) - Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut will be combined into one section.

Note that this change is forthcoming and will not impact the 2022 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW/SSB) or 160-Meter Contests.

Please direct any questions to Dave Goodwin, VE3KG, Regulatory Affairs Officer, RAC, by email at [regulatory@rac.ca](mailto:regulatory@rac.ca).



## What? Who? How?

Ran across this picture and had to post it. Does anyone know the story behind seeing President Kennedy using a straight key as shown here?

I would be very interested in hearing the story and reposting it here in *The Rag Chew*.



## September Brag 2022



Good month for me, nice propagation and many qso! 73, Duc F5UQE



Another fun but busy month. 73, Curt K2CWM



Thanks to all who participated. Band conditions here were not too good, Spent a lot of time calling with no replies. Hopefully things will improve, as we move toward winter. My wife bought me a TA-32 2 -element beam, which should help. Best 73 and God bless you & your



Pretty good month. I got marathon #51 and worked Japan Lithuania and Australia this month. Also got to use the KS5KCC call on the Club WES. Running 75 watts with the 7610 and a doublet antenna up 30ft. 73, Allen KA5TJS



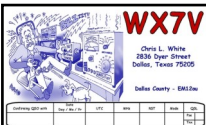
Gotta love it! 73, Tom KB3CVO

Thanks for the Brag contacts & QSO's. I had several non SKCC replies to my SKCC CQ's last month, which led to some very nice QSO's with a few longer SKCC QSO's too :~} Not a bad month. The propagation held up pretty good for a change

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression>  
I worked all the VC3Y/ Sections except VE4 as indicated by the overwritten - with an X on the VC3Y Log Search page. I heard Malcolm, VE4MG but he alluded me each time I called him. And...I am awaiting Denis, VE9DCD to confirm our 20M Contact on the VC3Y Log page.

<https://www.skccgroup.com/ve9skcc/ve9skcc-logsearch.php?callsign=N8XI>  
Pictured Left to Right Used with Left Hand - Vibroplex VibroKey modded as a "Cootie"

With Right Hand - 1972 Speed-X STR Key 2021 (Oct) Begali Simplex Mono Basic paddle  
1945 Vibroplex - Lightning Bug. 73, Rick N8XI



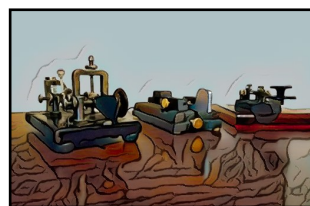
Another great month for SKCC. This is my 6th month SKCC membership anniversary and I'm loving it. Thanks all for the QSOs and the encouragement! Found a copy of my very first QSO card proof. Enjoy. 73, Chris WX7V



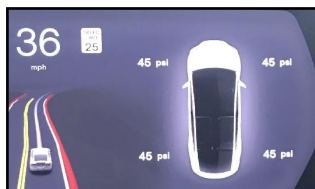
September is always a busy month for me with Dr appointments and getting the house ready cleared away for winter and I don't get much time to operate the radios. I did however make a few QSO's and am happy to do so. Maybe October will be a busier radio month. 73, from Solomon's Island, MD. Bill W3SI



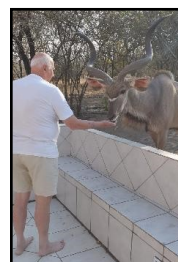
Good month, quite a few QSOs outside of the club this month. Had a lot of fun, especially around midnight Central Time. The photo is my old novice rig. 73, Les



Thanks for all the Brags this past month, especially our newcomers to the group! See you next month...73, jack KK0I



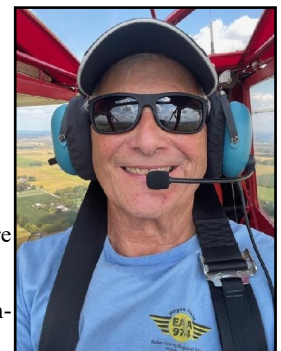
Random pic....73, Pat W5WTH



All contacts were on 10m band-conditions are improving. High-light was QRP/ QRP 5W QSO's with Vern NJ8L on 3 consecutive days, also with Werner N8BB. Also managed to log QSO with bonus station Ben W4LRB. Thanks to all for enjoyable month-73, John ZS6JB

SKCC Month					
Month/Year	SEPTEMBER 2022				
Log	Day	Call	Name	SKCC	
1	15M	16	ZL26LO	STAN	43568
2	40M	26	UK7AD	ANDREW	9839
3	40M	26	UK4TJ	JOHN	44748
4					
5					
6					

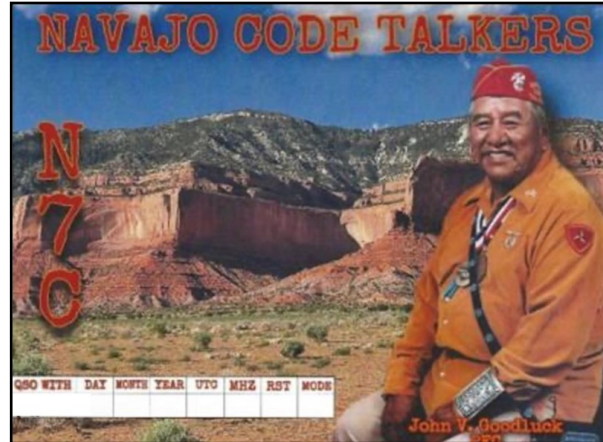
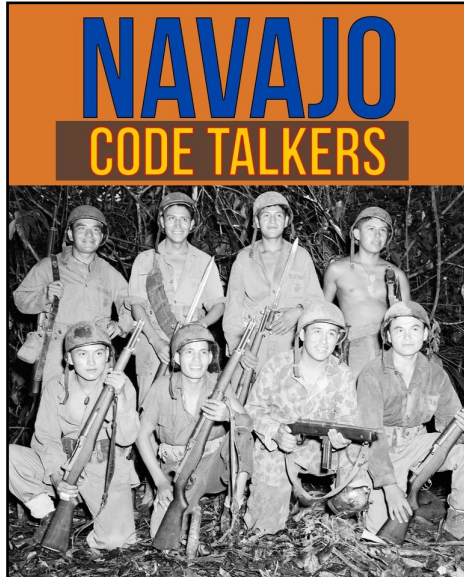
Hello friends in CW! Thanks for running this highly prestigious brag session - my first one! Hope to work more of you through October. 73, Tim VK3TBR



Still a little too much of this going on with good flying weather. It cuts into my radio time! 73, Bob W8YD

## Navajo Code Talkers (a bit of history)

(Although not sending cw this is an important part of history during WWII and those who helped make victory possible)



Navajo Code Talkers Day was established through a presidential proclamation by President Ronald Reagan on August 14, 1982. In 2014, Arizona passed legislation declaring every August 14 Navajo Code Talkers Day in Arizona.

On August 7, 1942, U.S. Marines of the 1st Marine Division hit the beaches of Guadalcanal, Tulagi, and the Florida islands in the first land offensive against Japan. Of the 11,000 Marines who landed, 15 were Navajo Code Talkers. This was to be their inaugural test in battle—three months after they'd been initially sworn in at Fort Wingate, New Mexico on May 4, 1942. In those three months, the code talkers went through basic training, underwent extensive instruction in radio operation and message transmittal, and developed and memorized a code that not even other native Navajo speakers could decipher.

REVISED 15 JUNE 1945  
(DECLASSIFIED UNDER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIRECTIVE 5200.9)

ALPHABET	NAVAJO WORD	LITERAL TRANSLATION
A	WOL-LA-CHEE	ANT
B	BE-LA-SANA	APPLE
C	TEA-WITL	ARM
D	NA-HAER-CHID	BADGER
E	SHOGE	BAG
F	TOIEN-JEH	BARKER
G	NOAGI	CAT
H	TIA-GIN	COAL
I	NA-GOSHI	COM
J	BE	DEER
K	CHIMOI	DEVIL
L	LAA-CHAA-ER	DOG
M	AB-ZAR	EAR
N	DEER	ELE
O	AB-WAS	EYE
P	CHOD	FIR
Q	TSA-E-DOWIN-EE	FLY
R	NA-N	FOX
S	AB-TAD	GAIL
T	ELIETIE	GOAT
U	JERA	GUN
V	TSE-CHAS	HAIR
W	CHA	HAT
X	LIN	HORSE
Y	TEN	ICE
Z	YER-RES	ITCH
1	A-CHU	INTERFIRE
2	TRELE-CHO-G	JACKASS
3	AB-NA-TSINNE	JAW
4	YIL-DOI	JERK
5	NA-AB-NE-DI-TININ	KEY
6	ELIETIE-VAEIE	KEY
7	SIBER-VAEIE	KEY
8	AB-JAO	LAMB
9	WAS-DOIE-TSO	LION
0	TEN-TLEI	RAVON
1	BE-TAG-TRI	MIRROR
2	NA-AB-TSO-SI	HOUSE
3	TAN	MEASLE
4	A-CHIN	MOSE
5	A-RAA	OIL
6	TLO-CHIN	OWEN
7	BE-ABER-AN	OWL
8	CLA-GI-AIR	PANT
9	SI-RO-SIN	PIG
0	WE-SHONI	PRETTY
1	CA-VELITR	QUICK
2	GAB	RABBIT
3	CHAP-NEE-TA	RAB
4	AB-LODE	RICE
5	SIBER	SHEEP
6	FLESH	SNAKE
7	Z-AB	TBA
8	A-NOH	TOOTH
9	TAN-TIE	TURKEY
0	SHI-DA	UNCLE
1	NO-DA-IR	UTE
2	A-REH-DI-GLINI	VICTOR
3	GLOE-IR	WEASEL
4	AL-NA-AB-DEON	CHISE
5	TAN-AB-AB-IR	VOCCA
6	BEER-DO-TLE	SING

In 2001, President George W. Bush honored the 29 Navajo Code Talkers of World War II. These Marine Corps radio operators used a secret code based on their native language to radio military plans between allied forces. The Japanese couldn't break the code because only Navajo speakers could understand it.

Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima," said Maj. Howard Connor, the signal officer of the Navajos at Iwo Jima in 1945.

For more information and interesting stories check "N7C" on QRZ.com.



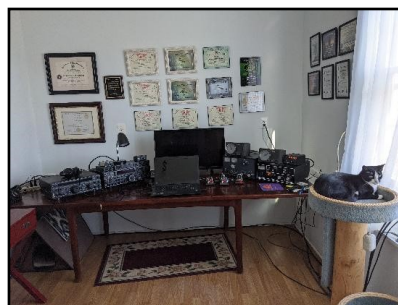
## SKCC QSO Party October, 2022



Thanks all for qso,nice propagation on 20 and 15M. 73, Duc F5UQE



Thanks for all the QSOs. The 40m was active around 2 a.m. GMT. About fifteen non-SKCC QSOs. Excellent annual activity. 73, Bob F6EJN



Nice to spend a little time with my SKCC buddies. 73, Mike K1EEE



Nice event. Used my wooden base Kent straight key. See y'all next year. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



QRM from CA QSO Party on 20m High noise levels on 40m otherwise fairly good conditions. Operated about 3 hours total. 73, STAY TUNED K9QEW Daryl



Had some time on Saturday and a half hour on Sunday. Very little participation, terrible time running into California QSO party participants all over our r=frequencies. This was toughest contest to find folks to work. Glad I did not spend much time on this event. Parts of the first 5 hours and 1/2-hour Sunday. Suggest for next year we schedule it not to collide with a large event such as California QSO party. AND we need to advertise the event much better than we did this year. 1/2 of qso's outside of US. 73, Phil K3EW



Only time for a handful of contacts. Still a fun event. Hope to do more next year. See you then! 73, KK0I jack dit...dit



Fun QSO party this year! Made my contacts Sunday morning, and had some excellent band conditions on 20m. Thanks for all the QSOs and new numbers. 73, Colton KE5DXX



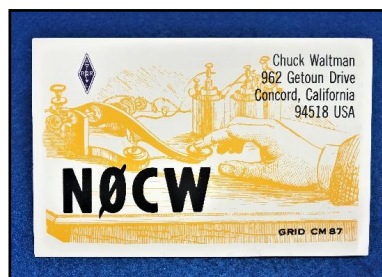
S&P using 1975 Speed-X STR Key, 1945 Vibroplex Lightning Bug, Vibroplex VibroKey "Cootie." Thanks & 73, Rick N8XI



Bands not as good as I would have hoped. a lot of QRN here in Houston and nothing above 20 meters seemed to be open. Still fun for the few hours I could be on. 73, Les WB5JWI



A chance to exercise recently acquired Swedish pump key from Poland. Higher bands seemed in better shape this weekend, or maybe it was just the added activity from state QSO parties. Big thrill for me was being called by F6EJN Sunday morn-



Being in CA and not having a 6 land call saved me from being piled up on by CA QSO Party stations. It was like a game of dodgeball however to find space to operate at times. Limited action on 15 and 20 during the day, 40 M completely blown away by the other event Saturday evening with 40 over 9 signals here. I was pleased to work France, Portugal, and Japan during the SKQ, TNX. Let's get back together and play WES next weekend! 73, Chuck N0CW

## "DEATH SENTENCE"

De Jim KG4IKQ

It is so easy for us to take communications for granted. Not including storms and catastrophes, have any of us truly considered the implications of not having ready means of communications on a day-to-day basis? No cellular telephone, no email, no Internet, no television. Nothing but possibly a newspaper. No telephone except a hard-wired system that relies on someone else to be maintained. Travel limited by various shortages as well as travel restrictions. Perhaps sporadic electricity, or none at all. What would our lives be like without amateur radio, or even broadcast radio?

In the 30s and 40s, one of the first things that happened when German forces moved into new territory, was the imposition of various edicts and proclamations that limited communications and required turning in of any personal radios. It wasn't just the Germans, but Europe in World War II is my main topic of interest.

Forget amateur radio. Telephones might remain in service, but through a switchboard manned by a real-life and listening operator. Newspapers might still be published, but tightly controlled and censored by the new government, as was the mail. Books were either outright banned and destroyed or had to be approved by the local authorities before publication.

The allies were desperate to get information out of the occupied territories, and one of the most hazardous of all resistance jobs was the wireless operator. Usually, the operator was an allied military operator, but on occasion, a local civilian would be trained to handle the hardware and transmissions. With the technology of the late 30s and early 40s, a complete station of transmitter, receiver, spare parts and a power supply would easily fill a standard suitcase. Operators were constantly on the move trying to prevent radio direction finders from identifying their station location. But being on the move meant being subjected to constant encounters with security forces of all types; collaborating police departments, occupying military checkpoints, Gestapo and field police forces, and the constant hazard of civilian collaborators and betrayal.



Many times, operators bluffed their way through with forged papers and cover stories, but some things just can't be explained away, and that's the inspiration for this drawing. Operators of the time were "rock-bound", tied to a handful of crystal-controlled transmission frequencies. There was no getting around it. If you wanted to transmit, you transmitted on whatever crystal(s) you had, for as long as was required. Being rock-bound made it that much easier for radio direction finding to locate you. Once you were identified by your fist, your schedule, your call signs and your frequencies, you could be given undivided attention.

There was no explaining away a pocketful of FT-243 crystals, it could only mean one thing; either you were

the operator, or you were hiding them or delivering them. It certainly would guarantee "detention", a spirited interrogation, and even torture, imprisonment or execution.

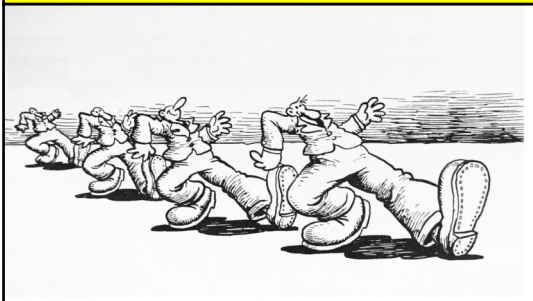
Some operators, or their security team if they had one, would shoot it out with the Gestapo, rather than be caught or have their equipment captured. Perhaps that's what happened here in this drawing. Or perhaps, desperate to transmit and fed up with the oppression, some brazen wireless operator has decided to "liberate" a few captured crystals from the bad guys.

9 x 12 ". Graphite pencil on vellum finish Bristol Board.



## November Slow Speed Saunter 2022

### Slow Speed Saunter

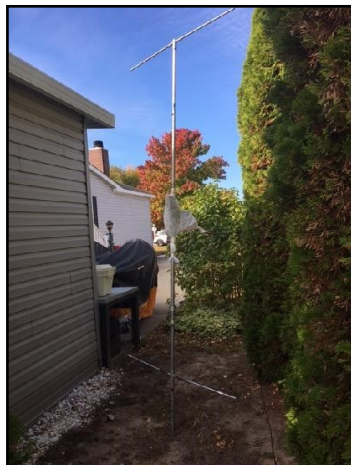


#### Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
KO4WFP	Teri	25974T	GA	10
AH6RT	Mike	26387	HI	5
N9KJU	Ken	19964T	IL	6
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	8
NN3E	Kevin	19625S	MD	1
K8AQM	Ted	1629S	MI	6
W1DV	DAVE	1433S	NC	11
W4JL	Dave	15400S	NC	6
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	3
K8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	3
NQ8T	Steve	5919S	OH	18
W3HMS	John	20679	PA	5
W4CMG	Cathy	20093S	TN	3
W5H	Mike	11770S	TX	6
N2TNN	Dean	25132S	VA	6

#### Participants and QSOs by SPC

GA: 1 / 10	HI: 1 / 5	IL: 1 / 6	IN: 1 / 8	MD: 1 / 1
MI: 1 / 6	NC: 2 / 17	NJ: 1 / 3	OH: 2 / 21	PA: 1 / 5
TN: 1 / 3	TX: 1 / 6	VA: 1 / 6		



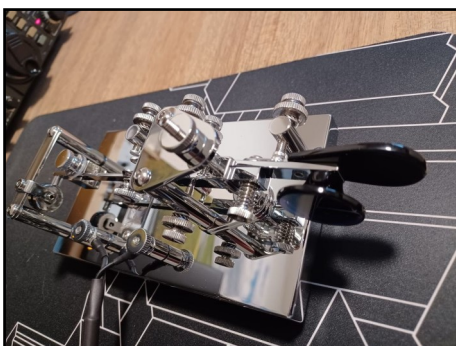
Stealth antenna here in HOA, Sigma V vertical dipole 5 band 20-10m, Seven foot tall...need to hang birdfeeders from top. Bottom is bird perch for deep snow and feedline to heat perch and keep birdees' feet warm...LOL. New EFHW going up tomorrow! 73, Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM



An enjoyable outing even though I wished I could have spent more time at it. One QSO was an enjoyable conversation and not just a fast exchange while I am working toward my S. I need to take my time more often. Thanks to all. 73 de Ken, N9KJU



TNX to all who suffered thru my JUN-KER turned on its side. Always a nice event. BIG TNX! to all who make it possible! 73, Steve NQ8T



### New Bug!

Great TNX to Alberto, received my J36 IIQOD today, also my first BUG, will be a challenge tonight on 40m, hi. 73 de PE1FJN Marc

## Making Do.....

Imagine this is your station and these are your antennas. I didn't have to imagine because this "was" my station and these "were" my antennas! It was a dream that took me 62 years of ham radio to put together.



The shack, seven stations with seven amps!

But it came time to "downsize" because the work and care for the yard, towers and station was just too much.

I moved into an HOA! I know, I know, "Are you nuts! Antenna restrictions, noise, busy-body neighbors, RFI!" I heard it all from my ham buddies. But it



Five towers with many dipoles and yagis covering all bands 160-6m.



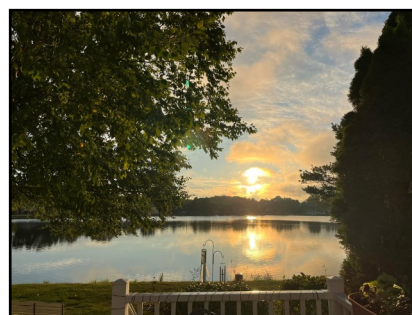
K8AQM/KS8KCC in SKCC action

was time and one must do what has to be done. My new home is beautiful...from my deck I can cast into the lake. It's a "no motor" lake and a catch and release too. So there will always be

fish...some I've already caught twice (my first hook was in their lip!). But the view; I love it!

So what do I do to get back on the air? No one is more resourceful than ham operators.

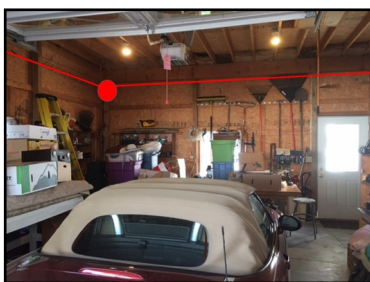
Here's how I "make do." First, nothing beats a dipole for dependable output and QSOs. I have an Alpha Delta 40-10 that I strung inside the garage. In one corner is the center balun and the legs of the dipole are at right angles to each other. The antenna outline is shown there in red with the circle representing the center balun. The antenna is about 8-9 ft up and it took



Sun rise from our six foot glass patio door in the family room!



Antenna layout in the garage corner



View from the garage entrance with car inside.

very little adjusting to bring the SWR on all bands down to 1.5:1. I used this antenna with 50 watts (more story about why 50 watts later) in the October WES and doing S&P made 59 QSOs around the country and to EU and Argentina. One thing I learned...there is a BIG difference in SWR with the "aluminum garage door" up or when it is down! In the up position the SWRs go nuts, good thing I

tuned it to operate with the door down...lesson learned!

I've always said, "You just can't have too many antennas." The dipole works "good enough" but I wanted something more, especially for DXing. I traveled for years through the South Pacific and carried a Force 12 "Sigma V" antenna which is a vertical dipole covering 5 bands 20-10m and it worked amazing well for a nine foot pole and no radials. I know next to salt water and being DX adds 20 db to any signal but this antenna really works! I am lucky



to have a neighbor who is ham friendly and doesn't mind seeing/not seeing an antenna in "our" bushes. This is the Sigma V (BTW, you can't find these antennas any more but I have one made and copied from the original). My neighbor's shed has vinyl siding so there is only a small effect in tuning. The center balun/switching in this picture is covered with a plastic bag as I was working for a couple days tuning and running the coax and switching line (you change bands from the shack...no running outside to change bands). It tuned very easily and I'm ready to go for some DX now! I have it planned to tell anyone that it is an exotic bird feeder as I plan to hang two plastic feeders from the top cross bars. The bottom bars...oh they are perches for the birds when the snow is deep and that's an electrical line/heater to heat the pole so the birds' feet stay warm and don't freeze!

I have a third antenna (the Precise RF HG3 QRO-A magnetic loop that will go temporarily on our deck). I'll report on it next issue.



The inside station is really just normal ham radio, nothing exotic. I kept an K3, P3, KPA 500 and tuner for myself from the old shack. But here is the reason I ran only 50 watts in that WES; there is only a 15 amp circuit for our two bedrooms and not enough juice! An electrician is scheduled to come in and upgrade the entire home wiring with three circuits (20 amps each) and a 220 drop just for the shack/office!

The entire purpose of this article is to show just one way we hams can beat the HOA dilemma of no "permanent" outside antennas.

I am sure other hams in HOAs have found good solutions to antenna restrictions. "The Villages" (HOA) radio club in Florida has even published a manual of antenna ideas and suggestions...Google them! We hams are truly a creative group so maybe others out there will submit an article and picture about how they solve antenna restrictions...and this is how I "make do!"

## New Antenna at VE4DL

*Here is VE4DL's answer to a limited space for antennas:*



I figure the beam is at 11m above ground and we're at 746 feet at the patio. Ham IV rotator (gross over spec for a 17lb antenna). Everything is grounded at the entrance and I have an auto-disconnect for the inside distribution, will earth everything at power off. No more going out in the storm to unscrew the feed line. Maybe I'll be up by December.

*(VE4DL is the VE4, VE5, VE6 VE7 and VY1 coordinator for the COE)*

## Oceania Slow Speed Saunter October, 2022

Editor.... Conditions were poor, very noisy, K index was 5

Oceania QRS Saunter Results				
Results for Oceania QRS Saunter: 15 Oct 2022				
Overall   Soapbox				
Overall results				
Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
VK2GAZ	Garry	5460C	AUS	8
VK2TER	James	26421	AUS	2
AH6EI	Glenn	14429	HI	3
AH6RT	Mike	26387	HI	4
ZL2AIM	Ian	2955T	NZL	9
ZL3TK	Stan	16208	NZL	2
Participants and QSOs by SPC				
AUS: 2 / 10	HI: 2 / 7	NZL: 2 / 11		



Band conditions were challenging with a K index of 5. Working conditions, difficult. 73, Mike AH6RT

SKCC QRS SAUNTER OCTOBER 2022							
TIME Z	STATION	MHz	NAME	QTH	RST OUT	RST IN	SKCC #
	ZL3TK		STAN	WAITARE			16208
0820	VK3TBR	7.038	TIM	HORSHAM	339	459	26549
1005	VK3MJ	7.038	MARK	GEE LONG	459	569	25012

Thought it must be me not hearing much, but relieved yet disappointed that there were so few OMs. Much prefer this nice stress-less way to operate compared to contesting; will engage more next time. Thanks for playing 'manager' Garry. 73, Stan ZL3TK

### From VK2GAZ, Garry

I found the conditions a little challenging however, had a most enjoyable time.

### From VK2TER, James

Challenging band conditions but still had fun. Enjoy using the straight key.

### From AH6EI, Glenn

TU to K4WOP, W7ZDX, W5GW for Oceania Saunter contacts. conditions again challenging - contacts were on 10m ! Running FTdx10, 400w, HexBeam Aloha

### From ZL2AIM, Ian

13 QSO's on 10m and 15m bands but only 9 of them were SKCC members. Key was Marconi Nato Marine key. Tried my best to send at 12 wpm but notice on my RBN reports it was 14 wpm. For some reason I make too many mistakes if I send at 12 wpm.

### Straight Key Month 2023

### K3Y QSL Card Designs

(Entries submitted as of 18-Nov-22)

<https://skccgroup.com/>

**New K3Y QSL card design entries** for the 2023 Straight Key Month event and SKCC Print Calendar have been uploaded. You can see the current entries and design details at <https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-qsl-vote.php>

Do you have an idea for a K3Y card design? *Please send us yours!*

73,

Drew - AF2Z

SKM/K3Y Planning Group



## “WAITING ON LONDON”

De Jim KG4IKQ

During WW2, British Special Operations Executive conducted sabotage and intelligence gathering Resistance activities behind the lines in all theaters of war. The agents would usually bond into at least a three-person team; the "Organizer" or team leader, a "Courier," and a wireless operator. SOE broke with the pattern of the day, and began deploying women into the field on their teams. There was a lot of controversy initially, typical of the era regarding the appropriateness of ladies in a combat role, but they distinguished themselves in every theater and every application.



Here I have chosen to depict one of the most well-known of all, Noor Inayat Khan, on a Type 3 Mk. II radio, usually called a B2 set. Noor worked around the Paris area, maintaining communications when operator after operator and agent after agent were being captured and imprisoned. She doesn't know, or perhaps maybe she does, that her luck is about to run out, and after betrayal she will be captured in October of 1943. She is still at her set, getting ready to receive traffic from London, and respond if needed. Perhaps she is in some rundown apartment in Paris, but she still has mains power, even though she is using an oil lamp.

On a good day, the B2 put out 15-20 watts into a simple 66' wire antenna, with a corresponding ground or counterpoise. It was rock bound, with a general frequency range of about 3.3 to 16 Mhz., and was rated for about 500 miles, more than enough to reach London from anywhere in western Europe except the most southern parts of France along the Mediterranean. But as we all know, range and communication is not just about power, it's as much a function of frequency, propagation, antenna configuration and operator skill. Paris is only about 220 miles from London, a paltry distance for 15 watts on 80 to 40 meters, but under wartime conditions there was no guarantee of establishing contact, using unreliable power, indoor compromise antennas, and under wartime jamming. Add into that the incredible adrenalin rush and your shaking hands, knowing that the second you press that key down you have painted a figurative target on your back, keeping one ear for the headset, the other listening to the street noise for the squeal of tires, slamming car doors, heavy boots pounding up a stairwell, and flickering power as block after block of power grid is turned off, in an effort to isolate your building when your radio stops transmitting if you have made the mistake of using commercial mains. The ultimate game of hide and seek, with the most terrible of consequences.

Noor and the other operators of SOE and OSS were still topics of discussion when I was an instructor at JFK Special Warfare Center in the 1970's, as we discussed clandestine communications and compromise antenna construction and expectations, and tried to learn from their successes and failures, and their triumphs and their disasters in operations like Northpole (German) or Grouse-Freshman-Gunnerside. Described as both heroic and incompetent, often in the same sentence by the same person, Noor, among so many others, is an inspiration for all service women and all radio operators, and has a remarkable story that you would be well served by typing her name into an Internet search engine.

14" x 17". Graphite pencil on smooth finish Bristol Board.

## SKSA October, 2022



TNX FB QSO!GL AND DX .73, Wang BG4NMT



I love this event. 73, Taz DU9JJY



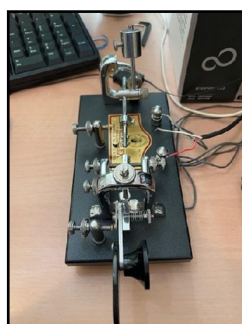
I enjoyed so much and want to say THANK YOU to EVERY STATION. But it was not so nice condition on 15m band .But I hope to join many stations and better to change the condition especially 15m. See you next time. 73, Hiro JF1JDG



Thanks for all the Qs. 73, Misa JF1UOX



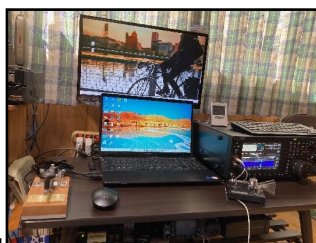
TNX FB QSO! 73, Jin JI1JDI



I plan to use a different key each time. This time with a bug key. 73, Aki JJ0SFV



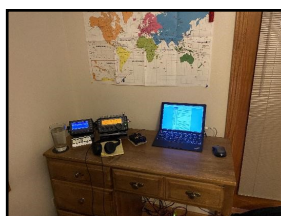
TNX for your calls. Worked AR, OR, LA, WA, ME, NJ, CHN, AUS and JPN. :) 15m band was FB this time and had many calls from the US. 40m was also FB for domestic Qs but heard none of neighbor countries. Sorry that I couldn't copy some of you due to higher noise level here. Thank you, all. 73, Hiro JJ1FXF Have a good day!



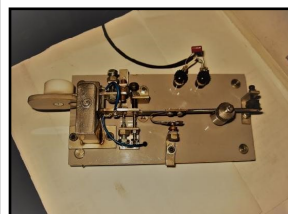
I enjoyed participating in this event again this month. This time, I called on other stations. I mostly use the straight key on the left side that is currently shown in the photo. I'm left-handed, so I'm using this straight key with my left hand. I'm also looking forward to next month's event. 73, Ken JM4AOA



Worked JF1UOX and JJ1FXF on 15 meters. Conditions were good. 73, John W1TAG



Okay, not an impressive score, but I nearly worked Misa, JF1UOX on 15 meters QRP from the car on my evening commute. I got home and fired up the KX3 and got the contact @ 5W using a 134' doublet up 35'. He boomed in at 579. Awesome job for a new member, Misa! 73, Steve K9NUD



MNI TKS TO ALL. 73, Take from near Mt. Fuji Japan. 73, Take JR2IUB



### Participants and QSOs by SPC

CHN: 3 / 47	CT: 1 / 1	HKG: 1 / 14	IL: 1 / 1	JPN: 22 / 327
LA: 2 / 23	ME: 1 / 2	NJ: 1 / 4	PHI: 1 / 2	VA: 1 / 1



## Mystery Solved!

*Earlier in this issue a picture of President Kennedy was shown with a telegraph key. The mystery of "What, Who, How?" is solved! Thanks to CW Ops newsletter, "Solid Copy," the picture was explained in great detail.*

\*\*\*\*\*



The gold telegraph key was presented to President Kennedy by Senators Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson and Warren G. Magnuson, both of Washington, in the Oval Office, White House, Washington, D.C.

President F. Kennedy pressed the key as he speaks over the tele-phone to open the Seattle World's Fair (also known as the Century 21 Exhibition) in Palm Beach, Fla. on April 21, 1962. By pressing the key, the president focused an antenna at Andover, Maine and a Navy radio telescope station in Maryland on a star in the northern sky to pick up a radio signal turned loose by the star's energy 10,000 years ago. The sound was transmitted by microwave radio and cable to Seattle and set in motion various exhibits at the fair. It all happened in 20 seconds.

The SeattleMet reports that the President opened the fair with the words "May we open not only a great world's fair, may we open an era of peace and understanding among all mankind. Let the fair begin!". He pressed the key and, 3,200 miles away, carillon bells rang, the Space Needle's rotating restaurant began its slow spin, and the International Fountain sprang to life as 2,000 balloons floated toward the sky.

The key in JFK's photo, is the same telegraph key that President W.H.Taft had used to open the Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition in Seattle in 1909. The key was presented by George Carmack, the man who first discovered gold in the Yukon Territories. The key was made of solid



gold and was adorned with 22 solid gold nuggets that were found by Carmack. It was mounted on a piece of Alaskan marble. This key became the official telegraph key used by seven different US Presidents to signal the opening of various events around the country.



Following the 1909 ceremony, Taft gave the key to the White House Chief Telegrapher Edward Smithers who continued to use the key until his death in 1939, when the key was given to Smithers' widow. Since the key was no longer at the White House, a new chrome plated Presidential key was made and presented to Franklin D. Roosevelt in April 1939, when he used it to signal the opening of the Omaha Railroad Celebration. In 1999, Smithers Grandson, Thomas D. Quinn Jr, donated the key back to the White House.

## October SKS 2022



Finally available the entire time. The first 45 minutes were great, then 2 contacts the last hour. All part of the fun and challenge. Thanks for the fun and the contacts. 73, Bud AA8CL



Just a dozen for me this evening. Ran 50w from my TS-590SG to a multi-band vertical using a Lionel J38. Thanks for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



My First time in SKS in a long time. I did first hour on 40M, and 1/2 hour on 80M. it was a fun contest. Thanks to all who worked me. 73, Bob K3CKO



Not bad for an indoor dipole at 12 ft and legs at right angles to each other. Got to get an electrician here! Need more than 50 watts! Photo is sunrise this morning from the deck....nice! 73, Ted



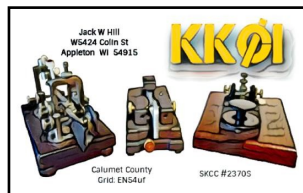
Good Conditions to start out on 40 (Nice to work KP4YO Armando there too ) then finished up on 80 which also produced a few more Q's. We hope everyone has a great Halloween Weekend - 73 all, Larry K8TEZ



TNX'S FOR THE QSOs. 73, Ray K9EYT



Managed 2 QSOs on 20m rest on 40m. Seemed like good activity. 73 & STAY TUNED! Daryl K9QEW



It was an honor once again to be the SKS bonus station. As always, ran the "trio" of keys (1919 Vibroplex Original, my main key, Begali HST "cootie" and the Nye Speedx straight key). Many thanks to all those who were able to work me. We'll catch you all on the next one! 73, jack KK0I dit...dit



My wrist has not been so sore since I entered the two-week ARRL Novice Round-up in 1968. I had a great time, but do need to move from an indoor wire to an outdoor if I can sneak a stealth wire out from my 2nd floor bedroom window down to a tree. 73, Mark K9TR



A lot of activity and many stations from the west coast on both 20 and 40 meters. Nice to have VK2GR call on 20. As always, a lot of activity from the Fort Wayne group! See you all next month from FL! 73, Ken N8KR



This might be the first time I submitted for the SKS. I got numbers closer to my 'S'. I'll take that. 73 de N9KJU, Ken

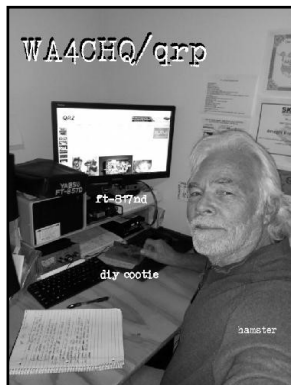
Used my Vibroplex Know-Code key to fire up my Ten-Tec Jupiter at 5W to a Mosley TA-33-JR-N at 32 feet, A 40m dipole at 60 feet, and an 80m dipole at 50 feet. Very enjoyable - 40m was fantastic! I was hoping for better results on 20. I was surprised that 80 didn't produce more Qs. Oh well, maybe next month...Loudest signal of the evening was Dave, N1CGP, up in Maine. He was a whopping 30 over here on 80m. Great job on that new feedline, Dave! Thanks for your patience copying my not-so-reliable fist and getting me in your log. Thank you SKCC for organizing a FB sprint. The SKCC Logger is awesome! Until next time, 73, Will, NQ2W



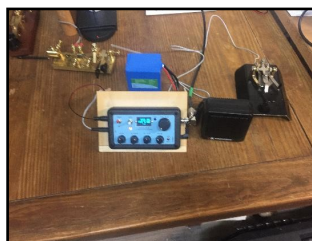
## October SKS, 2022 II



Another great SKS! Started out on 20M for a few minutes then 40M ending up the last 22 minutes on 80M. Great band condx here. Used my Elecraft K4 at 100 watts into an OCF dipole at 30'. Key used was a Bencher RJ-2. Thanks all for the fun!! 73, Bill NZ0T



I had fun operating the sprint. It's been quite a while since I participated in one. 40m was wide open...some really loud stations! Tnx to the guys that heard me! I was using my FT-817nd to a Delta Loop and my DIY cootie. 72, Neil WA4CHQ

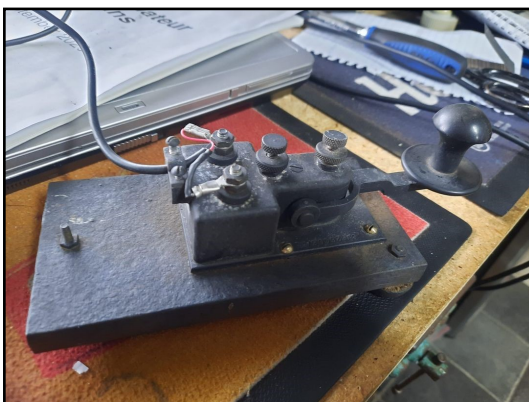


Fun sprint! I got in late but found the group right away on 40M. Thanks for all the QRP contacts! 73, Gene W9KMK



For the second time this year, I'm sitting here the day after at 3pm MST, warming up for 5pm SKS start only to realize it was last night. Need to do a better job with my calendaring on Smartphone, since my brain is not so smart. Sorry to have missed you all..... Next time. 73, Mark WO7T

## Hello CWers!



I started learning CW in April this year, and have recently discovered SKCC. I have just upgraded from an iambic paddle to a straight key. Ain't she a beaut? Made two contacts tonight on it, fellow SKCC members VK7AD & VK4TJ. Hope to catch you on air sometime! CW ops are some of the nicest hams I've had the pleasure of working. 73, Tim VK3TBR SKCC 26549

## Overcoming Serious Sending Issues

Not complaining but here is where I am "at": My hands & wrists were severely injured but I still have them! I was determined not to request a waiver.

I struggle with kit building, double key strokes on the keyboard, I have a difficult time getting the mouse where it needs to go and often have spurious clicks along the way. Signing my name (pen / pencil) is a challenge and often my Mary has to sign me in where required.

My keys of choice are a Lightning Bug & a Junker. When Tx'ing, I brace my arm and hand against the table to attenuate the hand & arm tremors. I use sticky shelf liner under the key and often add pressure from the index finger of my left hand.



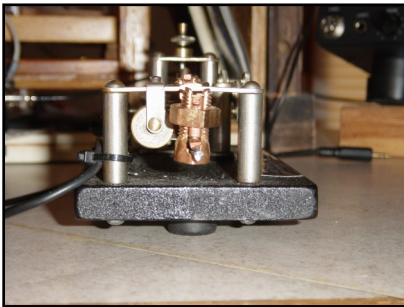
For the finger twitches, I have a lot of weight on the bug and have the springs set pretty stiff so that finger tremors will not inadvertently close the contacts. I set it up to have to forcefully push the paddle to close the contacts. A sensitive key is out for me. I had to "play" with the lever stop spacing to suite the limited flexibility of my hands/ wrists and "twitching" index finger es thumb and come close to correct timing.

I sometimes use the DAH side of the bug as a horizontal straight key. Nothing new here, it is pretty

common.

I'd be happy to share pictures of how I cobbled up weights to slow the bug down.

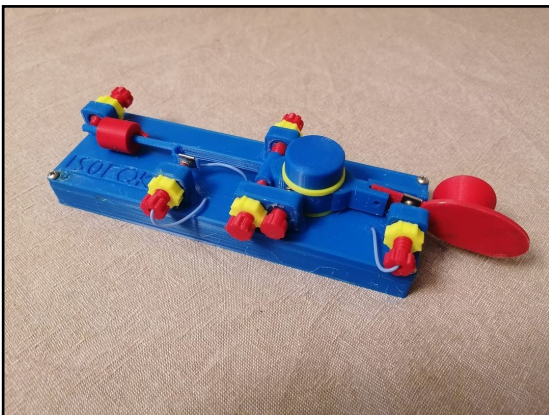
MNY TNX! to my Elmer Barry, W4LSV and to my cheer leader Ted, K8AQM. Barry taught me basic CW and sent me a VIBROLEX ORIGINAL to work with. I had the opportunity to operate at Ted's Multi-Multi station several times. He had an amazing collection of keys to try out.



72/73 Steve NQ8T 5919s



## 3D Bug



3D Bug ..... My colored plastic bug, looks like a toy but it's not.....He is a real racer. Use this bug during INORC induced activity from Oct. 24 to Nov. 2 to enable callsign II0IAR, QRZ info. 73, from IS0FQK, Pat.

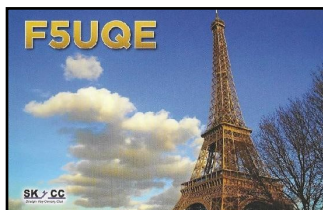


## SKSE November, 2022

Conditions were not the greatest this month but conditions are getting better and the higher bands of 15 and 10m are picking up. Be sure to check these bands during this event and other SKS events.



Not much time but always enjoy a few QSOs. 73, Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM



Merci for qso! 73, Duc F5UQE



This is the first time I have ever tried an SKS-E. I am hoping I can participate next month. Solar indices were not that promising but some QSOs were made. Four on 20m (3 European and 1 stateside off the back of the beam) and one on 40m. Thank you to F5UQE, CT7AUP, I4IKW, F5DE, and W5DW. The picture below shows the geographical/topographical challenge I face. Europe is all uphill from here! I am very grateful for your fine receiving capabilities and patience in copying my QRP signal. Thank you for the contacts and thank you to the SKCC for the opportunity to participate. I hope you hear me next month! 73, Will, NQ2W

On 40m I got 3 QSO's in the log thanks to SP7OGP Piotr, HB9CPS Geo and F5DE Bernard. TS-440s 100 watts, 20ft fishing pole vertical. Morse key a British Marconi PS No213A big straight key. 73, John G0RDO SKCC 2133S

### Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 2022-11-03

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

#### Overall results

Rank	Call sign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	CT7AUP	David	24197S	POR	29	25	9/12/0	980
2	F5UQE	Duc	13468S	FRA	22	15	3/8/1	460
3	I4IKW	Mark	24889	ITA	13	10	5/4/0	245
4	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	17	9	3/3/0	228
5	SP7OGP	Piotr	9749	POL	12	8	6/3/1	221
6	KO4WFP	Teri	25974T	GA	10	9	5/3/1	200
7	G3ZRJ	TONY	3492T	ENG	12	7	1/1/1	114
8	DJ5CW	Fabian	1982T	GER	7	7	1/1/1	79
9	NQ2W	Will	25403T	NY	5	4	3/1/0	75
10	VE1AHX	Ben	18100S	NS	4	4	2/1/0	56
11	K8AQM	Ted	1629S	MI	3	3	3/0/0	54
12	N9KJU	Ken	19964T	IL	4	4	1/2/0	51
13	KA1LHJ	John	19120	CT	3	3	2/1/0	49
13	W9KMK	Gene	19270S	MO	3	3	2/1/0	49
15	N18W	Steve	26659	OH	3	3	2/0/0	39
16	EA3NO	Luis	6653S	ESP	3	3	0/2/0	29
17	G0RDO	John	2133S	ENG	3	3	1/0/0	24
17	JJ1FXF	HIRO	22608T	JPN	2	2	0/2/0	24
19	HB9CPS	Geo	20350	SUI	2	2	1/0/0	19
20	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	1	1	1/0/0	16
20	VE4AEA	Lloyd	13127T	MB	1	1	1/0/0	16



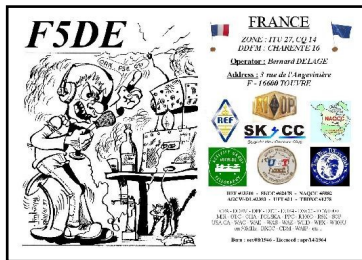
Picture of the KATI bike trail "rail to trail" from Kansas City to St Louis, Fall of 2022. Lots of QRM on both 20M and 40M but some signals were strong and readable! Thanks for the QSO's! 73, Gene W9KMK



Participated SKSE for the 1st time. Unfortunately no EU stations heard here this morning. I'll try next time. TU 73, Hiro JJ1FXF



## SKSE November, 2022 II



Transceiver : TS-590SG, antenna : multiband Ground Plane Hi-Gain model DX-88, key : Lionel J36 bug key + Junker straight key. Thank you all and see you soon again ! 73,Bernard F5DE



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

## EFHW Magic?

I recently added a Par End-Fed Zedz 80-10-JR-KW (EFHW) to my antenna arsenal. Having an "in the garage" shorty 40m, I wanted something outside in my HOA home that would give me 40m and 80m outside. After figuring where I could "hide in the open" the 74ft EFHW, I was excited to tune it up and try it out. 40-10m was great without a tuner...but 80m....stunk even with a tuner! I've always been against tuners and thought antennas should be resonant on the frequencies they were to be used. The need for a tuner to me was like buying shoes too big or too small. Too small you cut the toes out, too big then you stuff paper in them but either way, they never fit right and aren't effective! The antenna installation sheet said it was factory tunes on 80m at 3.555 MHz which should be perfect for SKCC work! So why didn't it resonate where it should on 80m? It resonated at 3.725 MHz 1:1!

Okay, re-read the directions..."may not need either a ground or a counterpoise"...AHA!, maybe it does need a ground or counterpoise! Counterpoise, how long? Maybe a 1/4 at the frequency of 3.555MHz where I want to operate? So using the standby formula:

$L = 468/F$  in MHz

.... I need a counterpoise of 65 ft 8 inches for a quarter wave...ugh, how to hide THAT in the HOA? After some serious zig-zagging I got the 65 ft 8 inches in place. Dang, still a crappie SWR at 3.555 MHz!

Time for some serious research! W3EDP is one of the developers of the half wave end fed antenna (or "Zep" back in 1936). According to his text a "short counterpoise of 17 feet is all that is needed." What shorter is better?!? Okay, easy to do, I'll measure 17 feet from the balun and whack the wire off!

Glory hallelujah! The SWR at 3.555 MHz is now 1:1.2...SWEET and with just a 17 ft counterpoise!

Conclusion: Your EFHW may just work better with a counterpoise...short...longer is not necessarily better.

73, K8AQM/VE9AQM



## SKSA November, 2022



GL AN 73, Wang BG4NMT



I'm enjoying SKSA with my favorite bug key. 73, Nori JA1IAZ



VY TKS one QSO !  
73, Sinya JE3OUU



I enjoyed so much on this TEST, so I would like to say very thanks to all stations to contact. 73, Hiro JF1JDG



Thanks for the good time. See you next time 73, Tomo JF1LXO



This morning only one QSO using GHD GT599SG. I use different key each time. 73, Aki JJ0SFV



I participated for the first time. Thank you very much. 73, Katsu JJ0VXN



TNX for calls. Tried many CQs on 40m but not hear many Asian stations which I felt sad. The US stations were loud and thanks for new NRs. The photo attached is my today's set-up. CQ with Vibroplex at 18wpm and QSOs with one of both straight keys, one is old HIMOND and the other wood base key is from GHD. 73, Hiro



73, Yosi JN1FAO



I participated in SKSA for the first time. It was a lot of fun! I used my favorite old straight key (Himound HK-3). 73, Tomo JR0ECQ



MNI TNX to all who were listening for the SKSA event. Unfortunately the conditions were not so good that almost stations who were operating from any DX didn't hear me I think...Hopefully I will work lots of stations in this solar cycle. 73, Take JR2IUB



This is my first run at SKSA. Lately afternoon 15 meter conditions from here on West Coast have been good. Worked six stations in Japan and Stan, ZL2BLQ, in New Zealand. Nice to meet Nori, JA1IAZ, and Taka, JA0FVU, for the first time. Heard VR2CO but very weak and no QSO. 73, Chuck N0CW



See you next month. 73, Taka JR6CSY



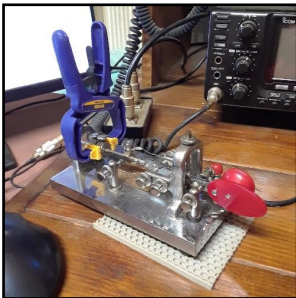
Almost missed the SKSA, thanks to Hiro JJ1FXF for hearing my call. The IC-7300 did a great job clearing up the 15M signals. Looking forward to the next one. L to R Laves s/n 101 Blue Racer 1959 Kent SK-1. 73, Rick K0KEX



## October Brag, 2022



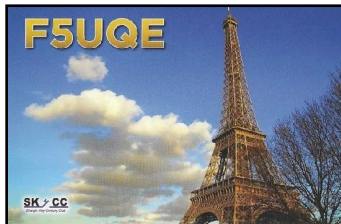
Good time. Always fun. Fall weather is here. Leaves almost gone. Less daylight hours, which all adds up to more operating time...Have a great November everyone. 73, Bud AA8CL



Wow, pretty good month. I got 9 DX contacts and most were on 10 meters and a few on 15. Got lucky and picked up the bonus station the first day on 10 meters. A fun month. Conditions IC 7610 running 75 watts and a doublet antenna at 30ft. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Great month, and it is only 35 days until Krampusnacht! 73, Tom KB3CVO



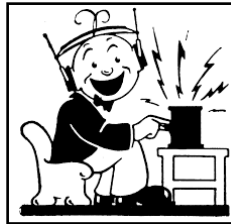
Nice propagation this month! 73, Duc F5UQE



Thanks for all the QSO's. It was a slow month due to a lot of family activities. Hopefully, November will be a better month. Band conditions were poor but there were some opening and it was nice to chat with some of overseas members that I hadn't talked with in several years. This winter should be great. God bless you and your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Overall it has been a pretty good month with variable conditions but we enjoyed some great openings on 10 and 12 meters. Today is Halloween and it was fun to work Judy, KC5BOO who is a member but was apparently not using authorized keying hardware, oh well. Check out her holiday themed QSL card on QRZ.com. Also the really great QSL card that Scott, N0ZB produced for the month (seen pictured on this page) arrived in the mail today! My log also includes some very new members including Gary, K4IIG. I was his very first California "DX" QSO. Welcome aboard to all the 26xxx new faces. 73, Chuck N0CW



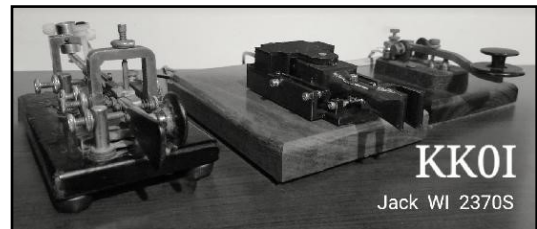
Thanks for all the contacts. Used either a Kent or Lionel J38 straight key. Mostly 50 watts (or 75 watts when needed). 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Finally got an antenna up, not much (inside the garage at 8 feet) but at least on the air! 50 watts only due to poor 15 amp service for two rooms but better times to come! Enjoyed the return to activity! 73, Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM



It was a good month, with plenty of antenna experiments. My 132' ladder-line doublet is a success! Most of my contacts were QRP, with a few happening during QRP POTA activations. I also reconnected my old Drake 2-C/2-NT novice station and made some bug contacts with that



Had a few more new members and new old members I had not worked in the past. Nice to see! Hopefully recruited a couple of new members looking for more CW activity. See you all again next month. 73, jack KK0I dit...dit



73, Tim VK3TBR



## Fort Wayne Hamfest November, 2022

The Fort Wayne, IN hamfest is one of the bigger hamfests in the area. It is a two day affair inside and like most hamfest, attendance is spiraling down year after year. But Fort Wayne is a SKCC hotbed of members and activity! Check the number of participants in any SKCC event and you'll see a very large number is represented by IN and most of those entered are from the Fort Wayne area. This large number is a result of "pushing and pulling" locals into SKCC activity by several including Ken N8KR, Ed WA9BBN and Josh W9HT.



Seated L-R Ted K8AQM, Al K9FW (aka Nee NE9EE)

Standing L-R Josh W9HT, John NJ0U, Ken N8KR, Rose KA9GKE, Ed WA9BBN and Joe W9EAO

I decided to attend this year's hamfest and although a four hour drive through snow and very cold temperatures it was well worth the trip! A Friday night before the hamfest meeting was arranged with many of the regulars attending with a warm welcome at the home of N8KR. Those attending are shown in the picture. Pizza, salad, beer and sodas were on hand along with a dessert special made by Josh W9HT (really...no XYL

needed) of apple crisp and multi berry crisp! The talk through the evening was fast and furious with tales of adventures, great deeds and even misdeeds of the past and even future plans of adventures in SKCC!

The hamfest Saturday was a good time with lots of "I need that..." stuff. Of course you really don't need that but it was fun to shop around. By the way, No body sniffs out great finds better than W9HT and N8KR! How they found a TS-120 and Kenwood 30 amp supply both working, for \$75 is amazing and N8KR found a very good looking TS-751 for \$35 ... we determined it may need new finals but for \$35, it is still a good deal to part-out for much more than \$35!

At the SKCC booth there were buttons available, keys to try and best of all...a chance to make a real 10m QSO across the arena to the W9OU event trailer also on 10m with a Buddy Pole!

To the right is a group picture of all the SKCC members who were available at 11:30 for the group photo.

Bottom line; it was well worth the four hour drive to "hang" with so many great SKCCers at the Fort Wayne, IN hamfest.

73, Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM



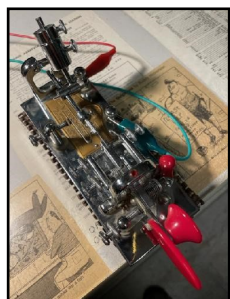
## October Brag, 2022 II



Thank you again for all those SKCC members who are helping me better my Morse skills. In light of the month's culminating holiday, I made a special QSL card to try and send out to all my contacts this month. I also found that the QSL card paired nicely with the Zombie Shuffle. 73, Scott NOZB



Random Monthly pic...73, Pat W5WTH



I've had a great time becoming accustomed to this Vibroplex Blue Racer. It was given to me by the family of a local silent key and long time friend. I added a Vari-Speed which is a great device for controlling the speed. I hope my CW is intelligible with it! 73, Bob W8YD



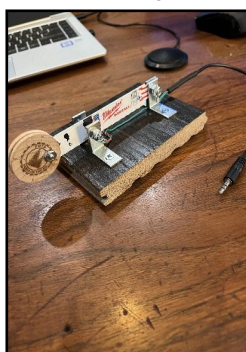
Thanks all for the exchanges and QSO's. Lost my PC this month. Glad I had my SKCCLogger ADIF file saved on a Thumb Drive :~) SKCC, The KEY to Amateur Radio! 73, Rick N8XI



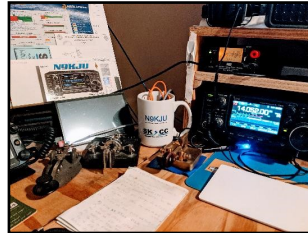
Thanks for all the pleasant QSOs! 73, Sam VE3WH



10m really opened up for me, 103 contacts- 5 qrp/ qrp 5w with Vern NJ8L. Highlight was 66 minute QRP/QRP marathon with NJ8L. Thanks Jo for doing great job as Bonus Station. 73, John



I had a great month of Brag QSO's and worked the bonus station! Next month will put a dent in my rate for sure because of business travel. Also I'll be using this new homebrew key I made over the weekend as much as possible. I'm now Tx7 and hope to make Tx8 between Thanksgiving and Christmas. 73, Chris WX7V



My first contact in Nov was MIKE, KB0SNE. That was CW QSO #1,000 in my master logging program. A little later in the month, I worked Cecil, N5DR, as QSO #1,000 in my SKCC Master Log. And this month was the first time I submitted a score for the SKS. At the end of Oct, I have 90 of the 200 T/S that I need to earn my Senator. 73, Ken N(KJU)



Worked Jo on 10 and 12 meters. Started end fed half wave 160 meter long wire project - got a pipe cemented in the ground and a 75:1 transformer mounted so far - now have to make a path through the woods for the 260' of wire. Had 3 nice Marathon QSO's - which is my goal for the month. As Cecil has said: "it is a marathon, not a sprint". 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia



PF6SKCC Oktober 2022 BRAG station

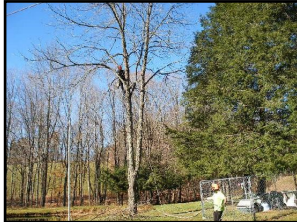
I had no idea what to expect being a BRAG station. So when October started I set my goal to work at least 100 different SKCC stations. 2 days before the end of the month I had worked 200. The bands were very good at times, with good openings on 10 meters where I worked 22 US states. Some highlights: First station worked Ben W4LRB, BRAG station of the month September. Third station worked Curt K2CWM, the BRAG manager. Got G4PVM and VE3KZ on 5 bands! Glad to work Rico PZ5JW and Walt LW3EX on 10 meters. Other SKCC DX worked on 10: ZS6BJB, V31CO, PY2LEE, CN8YR and 9J2BO. Almost made a QSO with Take JR2IUB on 10 meters but we could not finish the QSO...During an opening to the east on 10m worked Indonesia 3 times of which 2 stations were SKCC member. Tried several times to work John VK4TJ and finally got him on 30 meters the last day! Thanks all for calling me, it was a great experience. 73, Jo PG4I



Thankful for SKCCLogger to do all the computing and counting for me since this is first time I have submitted a Brag. I continue to populate my SKCC log completely with QRP contacts. WAS was finally attained in this month, and have now started on TKA. Thank you to all that helped along the way. 73, Mark WO7T



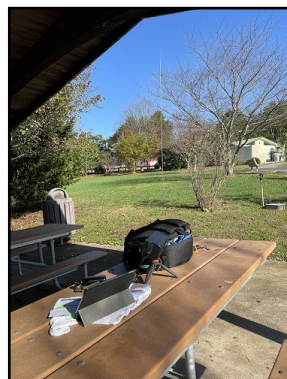
## WES November, 2022



Thanks to all the Vets, non Vets and event organizers who contributed to make this event one of the best. The squirrels did not like my antenna support rope in their black walnut tree and keep chewing thru the rope so I got a friend of mine to cut all the branches that the squirrels used. Carolina windom now up 45 feet, j-38 and Yaesu ft-981 at 80 watts did great this weekend. Found 80,40 and 20 meters worked well for me. Looking forward to next month's sprintathon. 73, Frank AA2XB



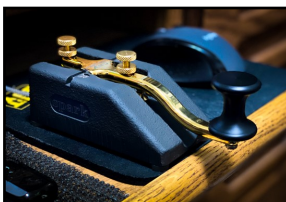
I regret to say that some things just took priority this weekend. 73, Jim AD0AB



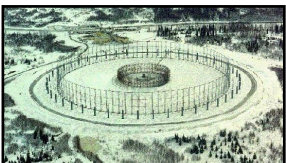
Had a few free minutes and nice enough weather to enjoy the WES at a local park this weekend. Tested quick deploying a 17' whip and that went quite well - I was on the air in under 5 minutes. 73, Bob AK4LP



I think I confused some folks by running 90watts today instead of QRPP. I had Vet points to give and it was fun getting the calls. Thank you to all the vets who participated and I had the privilege to get into my log. Where are the Centurions? 80 meters worked good for me Saturday night and 20 meters worked good for me Sunday afternoon. What is a fun fact for my log is I hunted Bob, F6EJN, on 40m, as my last contact Saturday Night and just now noticed that Bob, F6EJN found me on 20m this afternoon, which as it worked out, was my last WES contact today. Trivia that probably no one thinks funny but me, but sharing it anyway, hihi. Have a great November and Happy Thanksgiving to my fellow state side operators. 73, Bud AA8CL



Always a fun time!  
Thanks for the Q's. 73 de Mike - ADØWB



Fun weekend ! Switched between a Kent straight key and a Vibroplex bug depending on the other stations speed. Served 1978 - 1982 USAF 6981ESS, Morse intercept, the attached photo is of the AN/FLR-9 antenna. 73, Bob AL7JK



Great to hear the veterans and I thank all of you for your service. Thanks for the contacts. Attached image is a park dedicated to veterans in Gahanna, Ohio. 73, Joe AA8TA



USN, Naval Security Group, CTM. 1966-1986. 73, Ron AC2C



YouKits HB1B with 4 watts to an end-fed wire. Key is Vibroplex Vibroyeter wired as a side-swiper. 73, Steve AI9IN



Thanks all for contacts. As always, it was a fun sprintathon. 73, David CT7AUP



10M was pretty good this WES. Made 30 QSOs on 10M, usually only make one or two if I'm lucky. My new 2 element homebrew quad made it's WES debut. Works good to the west and southwest, used my dipole for Europe. A newer improved version of the quad will be made next year. Thanks for all the contacts. 73, Bob AC1GF



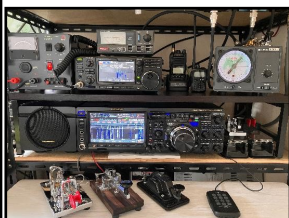
1st, Thank You to all our Veterans! Thanks to everyone who had a part in this great WES! I wish I had read the rules closer because I only get this soapbox comment as my bonus. But, I was able, thanks to you, to set my personal best record with 61 S/P contacts. I'm very pleased because now I'll be working to break this one! 73 my friends, Kevin AF5SW SKCC #20090T (for now)



## WES November, 2022 II



Conditions : TS-590SG rated at about 80 W RF into a multi-band GP antenna. Main activity on 10 meters with USA for fb contacts. Surprisingly no contact on 80 meters this time. I did my military service for 15 months and I had the opportunity to improved my CW hability thanks to my amateur radio license, then being a radiotelegraphist on board the "BB Moselle" FCML in 1969. The photo was took at the radiotelegraphist school of the French Navy in november 1968. Thank you all and see you soon with pleasure. 73, Bernard F5DE



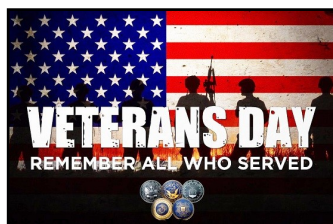
TNX FB QSOs on 20m band. CONDX was rather QSB'ed but enjoyed QSOs this morning. Have a good day! 73, Hiro JJ1FXF



Very fun weekend. It was great to hear from friends old and new. 73, Chris K1ABD

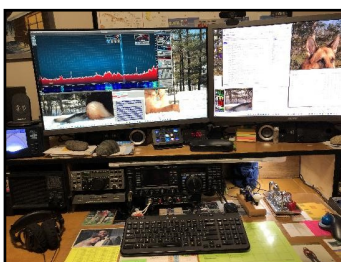


Very interesting WES with a steadily growing spread. Many OM's with new numbers and years of service. Conditions: ICOM IC 7400, ACOM 1200S amplifier and MOSLEY antenna 3 elements 3 bands and Cushcraft XM 240. 5 QSO on 80m, 40 on 40m, 80 on 20m, 64 on 15m, and 56 on 10m. Thank you all and see you next month. 73, Bob F6EJN



To all our Veterans,  
Thank you !! \*\*\*

A great turnout for this event. The comments from the Veterans are always interesting. I shared the weekend with family & joined in the event when time was available. I appreciate all the contacts logged. 73, Rick K0KEX



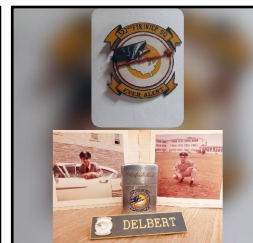
Another great WES and a great turnout of operators! To all my fellow veterans. Thank You For Your Service! 73, Ed K1EDG



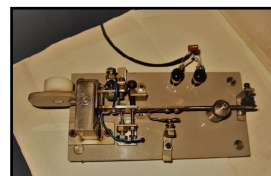
Picked up a few fun QSOs using my TS-440s that developed a fault on Saturday (rough CW on TX & RX) so used my backup FT-100D. Thanks to F6EJN Bob(26), EA1CN Dido, EA7EGU Manuel, W1GF Greg, SV8ANW Jim. All on 20m. Key used Marconi PS No213A (a big straight key) 73, John G0RDO



My 80 and 40 dipoles are down for repairs so 10 and 20 were my best options. Both were open during the hours I had to work WES. Two interesting QSO's: Ales, KN6VJT (not a member, yet) answered one of my CQ's. It was his very first QSO on ham radio. My honor. And late on Sunday afternoon I had my beam pointed toward the east coast and was calling CQ. HZ1BH, Amer from Saudi Arabia (also not a member) answered my call. It was not an ATNO for me but it was just the second Saudi Arabian QSO for me. Thanks to the Vets who participated and for their unselfish and loyal service to our country. And thanks to the leaders at SKCC for another great event. 73, Ralph K0RO



Hello! Strange propagation on both Saturday and Sunday, all bands open and closed at the same time. Most of the qso made in 10 and 40 meters. I listened but without being able to be heard, N8KR and W1DV calling in 160 meters. There were several stations, who responded by sending a call sign once, and leave if asked that it be repeated. Sometimes even good signals, for different causes, cannot be understood the first time, have some patience please! HI! Thanks for those who had the patience to do qso with me! 73, Mark I4IKW Veterans theme: WES for me, also in memory of my father-in-law Phil: Bayonne NJ April 11 1942-Bayonne NJ March 26 2013



MNI TNX TO ALL. I was listening on 40m at night time ( our time ) but conditions on 40m were very poor. I hope the conditions on 40 and 20m bands improve next WES. 73, Take JR2IUB



## WES November, 2022 III



Not the greatest conditions here. One QSO on 10, one on 15 and the rest split between 20 and 40. Did get to play with my mostly restored McElroy P500 from 1941. 73, Gary K1YAN



That was a fun one. Upper bands are getting better! I got Spain, Italy and France on 10 meters Sunday morning and France on 15, thanks Bob! 8 contact on 10. 7610 at 75 watts and the 80 meter doublet at 30 feet. Used the cootie for most but the old bug for all of the 10 meter contacts. Still learning but getting better. Thanks to all the Vets for their service for sure. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Fun WES, I go to play longer than normal so it was a treat for me. A Special thanks to all our veterans worldwide for serving. To those serving abroad, stay safe. To those who have served and returned, Welcome Home. I thought I would bring my "Patriot" key to the air for this theme. It's a nice sender. See you all next month and enjoy your Thanksgiving! Eat Up! 73, Randy KB4QQJ



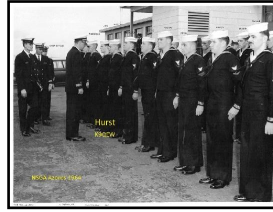
Set my goal at 50 contacts and that's what I did. Band conditions very good, all bands. Ran across some old friends that I haven't heard in awhile. Ran 50w from my TS-590SG into a multi-band vertical (elevated), using my 1943 Lionel J38. Always a fun sprintathon. Curt, 73 K2CWM



Here is where I got my radio start. A personnel yeoman found me on the deck force and wanted to know if I wanted to fill a spot in communications. OJT to RM2, 1967-1971. 73, Alan KA5VZG



Thank you to all the Vets for your service. Hope to be on a little longer next month. Vy 73, Rich KB1FGC



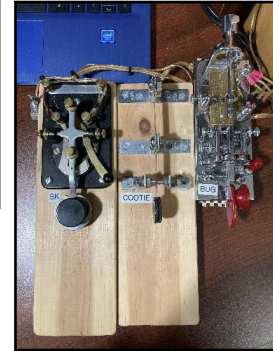
Fun event! Condx good. QSOs on 40, 20, 15 & 10 meters. Former CTR2 USN (Ditty Chaser) 1961-65. Daryl 73 & STAY TUNED! Daryl



Thanks all for the WES! I only had a short time Sunday to participate, but had fun trying out the x6100.... 73, Jim KA6J



Thanks to everyone for a fun WES. Big thanks to all the veterans out there! In honor of Veteran's day, the attached photo is of my Grandfather, Don (W9RWD - SK), a veteran of WW2 at his "shack" in April 1955. 73, Paul KD0SVI



Thanks to the veterans for their service. 73, Jim K3DRJ



Didn't have a lot of time this weekend but managed a few. Haven't done a WES in a while. Enjoyed handing out bonus points! Go Navy!



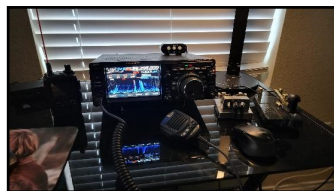
Fun time, got many Vets & Thanks for your service. Thanks for all Qs 73, Craig KA9ERV



Had a SKCC table at 2 Hamfest earlier this year. Fun! Here's a photo. Limited time on the WES Thx to all who served. 73, Jim KD9GDY



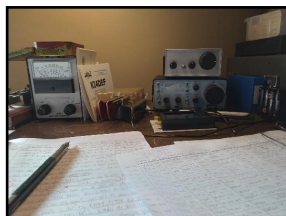
## Wes November, 2022 IV



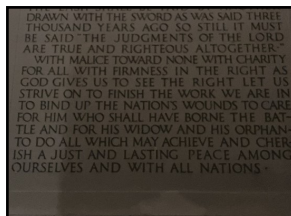
Great QSOs for WES this month. Thank you veterans for your service! Looking forward to the holiday season. Hope everyone has a very happy Thanksgiving. 73 de KE5DXX (Colton)



Seemed to be a pretty good turnout for this one. I did not serve in the military but am very grateful to all the men & women alike who have served our country. My father was in the Navy and served onboard the USS Orion Sub Tender. I am as well very proud of him. I for one will never ever take that for granted or that we get to sleep in peace each night. Thanks to all for another WES contest. 73, Doug KG5YTS



Not really operating the WES, but had a few contacts anyway--thanks, OMs! I was testing a new (to me) NorCal 40A xcvr, 1.5W from a 12V LiFePO4 battery to 135 ft end-fed Zepp up 40 ft. Old Kent straight key. 72/74, Kevin KI4DEF (SKCC nr 299T). 73, Kevin KI4DEF



Here's a pic relevant to Veterans Day that I recently took. 73, Andy KI5PED



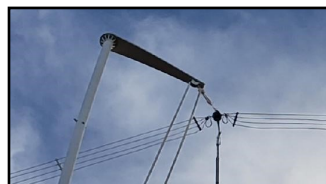
A very enjoyable WES w/little to no distractions (okay, okay...the Packers-Cowboys game was!), but first and foremost, thank you fellow Veterans for your service to our country. With the exception of 160 meters, I was able to capture at least one QSO on each of the bands with the help of the "old" bug, HST cootie, and the Nye straight key using the IC7300 and my "droopy" dipole. Thank you all for the contacts. They are always appreciated! 73, Jack KK0I



I got my Cx3, Tx4 and I got my first EU DX SKQSO with an F6 station....was using both my 891 and 991..fun fun. 73, Gary KI7PBR



Had a good time in and out over the WES, and my first time getting DX and CO (also exciting from MD) on 10 meters! Tnx all es 73, John KJ4KPW



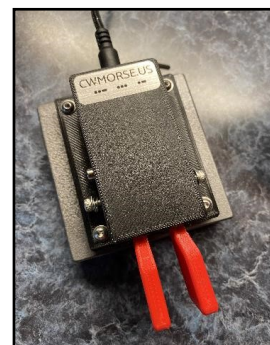
First WES since hanging my new antenna. It's a fan dipole that has been a huge improvement. Thanks everyone for your patience as I learn how to use my Vibroplex bug! 73, Todd DE NØIP



Thanks to all Veterans past and present! USS NIMITZ - circa 1980, somewhere in the Indian Ocean. Good connectivity airborne - thanks for the HF phone patches (over). 73, Joe NØHOV



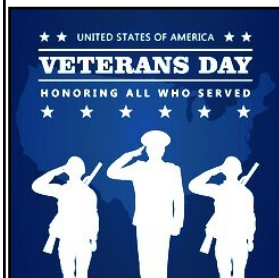
Love the Veterans Theme! Love passing out my 13 Yr Veteran Bonus! A big thank you to all the Vets out there! Ran my TS590/100watts and 90 Degree Viz Bug. 73, Scott N3JJT



I enjoyed this WES. Got on 21 MHz for the first time. Also did a mixture of calling CQ & S/P. Below is my CW Morse paddle modified into a sideswiper. It has grown on me with use to become my favorite key. Thanks to all our SKCC veterans that participated! 73, Teri KO4WFP



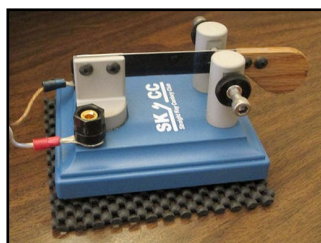
## WES November, 2022 IV



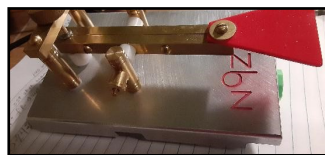
A salute to all U.S. and allied veterans and active personnel who helped and are helping to make the world a better place. From the standpoint of a western fringe QTH (CA) 15 meters was a real work-horse all day Saturday and then only Sunday morning. However, 20 stepped up on Sunday afternoon to close the deal. 40 was noisy and full of RTTY so very limited. Worked three European stations Saturday on 15 then heard none on Sunday. Elves should polish their green pointy shoes, Santa his black boots, and the reindeer their hooves before we meet again next month. Have a happy Thanksgiving! 73, Chuck N0CW



A lot of key time. Was fun. 73, Nee NE9EE



15 & 10 were open with only light action. An enjoyable WES. Many new calls and S stations heard and worked. 73 de AL N4ow



K2 5wts g5rv up 35ft and inv vee n/s. Tnx to all .cu in December to make more Qrm.. ha.. pix is hb key nmbr 87. Tnx to SKCC board mbrs..so, 73 or for qrp, 72.. DAVE LARSEN N9ZXLQRP@GMAIL.COM



Working toward the C and T. Enjoyed the event and the relaxed environment. "MGS" was the official call of the "Huron" so NM8GS was a natural. 73, "Crew" NM8GS

Thank you to all the veterans for their service. As usual, this was a very enjoyable WES...when I had time to be in front of the radio...which wasn't that much. It was great working all the vets. It was also great working some European members on the high bands. It was really great working JR2IUB, Take-san on 15m...it took a while for Take-san to get my call but his patience is what made it happen. Thank you! Thanks to everyone for the QSOs and thanks to the SKCC folks who make these happen. I hope you hear me in the next one! 73, Will, NQ2W



Saturday only operation. Lots of DX on the upper bands made it extra nice! Was first CW contact for Fabio - IU4QSM! Thanks to Bob - F6EJN for his constant presence throughout the event....and I worked him on 5 bands! Lots of fun with one downer . . . the picture tells the story! See you all next month from the winter FL qth! 73, Ken N8KR



Fun WES with good propagation. Made lots of my QRP QSOs on 15M with generally good reports. Worked quite a few on 15, 20 and 40M. Only a few on 80M. Really enjoy the VET theme and all the fellow brothers and sister I shared a uniform with for /9. Highest I worked was /29, /31. and /33. WOW! Made 10 patrols on submarine USS Robert E. Lee, SSBN601. Photo shows us coming off of patrol into Pearl Harbor, 1974. 73, Paul NA5N



Was Fun! But a bit confusing because of the Western Electric Contest (CQ We) ...Used SK, Bug & Cootie in turn every 3 QSO's ...Thanks to all the Veteran's for their Time/Service & Protection!! 73, Rick N8XI



A very enjoyable WES. I have great respect and appreciation for those who served. My father served in Korea and both of my wife's parents were USAF. I hope no one was annoyed when I added "T U FER UR SERVICE" to the Sprint exchange. 73, Ken N9KJU

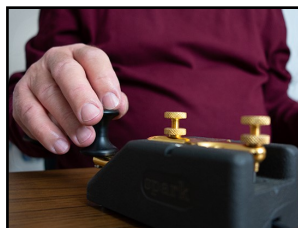
## WES November, 2022 V



Great event to acknowledge the Veterans of the club. TNX for putting up with my cootie ....C U Next month. 73, Steve NQ8T



Nice event. I got on and had some fun working everyone including the many Vets. I also enjoyed passing out some bonus points. 22yrs Army Av. 73, Mark NU8Z



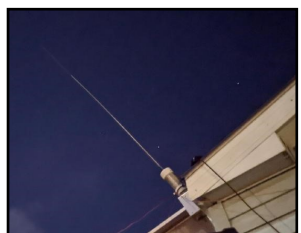
Another good WES. The waves were good and I got several new numbers. Thanks all and 73, Robert



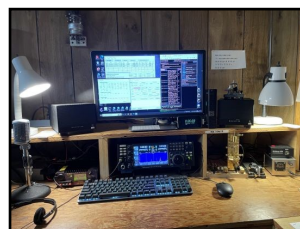
Thanks for the QSOs. Propagation was strange as I could not hear some of the usual states and provinces. Hope to have fun on the next WES. 73, Edwin VE3EKA



Sorry I wasn't able to get in as much time as I wanted but it was fun as usual. Got a few new numbers. I have not had the time to buy and install a mini dipole for 80 meters so I am not on that band yet. Maybe sometime next year that will happen. Looking forward to the next WES and giving the mag loop another workout. 73, Mike VE3FGU



2nd WES - only 40m. Very fun. Thanks to the vets for their service. 73, GT W1FIF



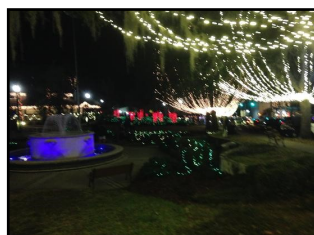
Nice weekend. Conditions here were pretty good. 10 and 15 were nice to EU in the mornings, but died off in the afternoons. Good to see some 80 and 160 meter activity in the evenings. In the picture below, the thing on the left is not really a microphone. It's a heavy object to swing at anyone attempting to interrupt my WES-ing. Otherwise, it has no use. Thanks to all who participated. 73, John W1TAG



Used the TS 530S and all 3 keys as needed to make a whopping 5 contacts. Hi Hi. Bands were good, just didn't have the time. Thanks to all the Vets for their sacrifice and service !! 73, Jim W1WIU



Thank you to all of our Veterans for serving our country. Thanks to those who found me on the ICWC Top9 80M frequency and braved the QSB while I was trying to avoid the RTTY contesters :) 73, Cathy W4CMG



The digital guys messed up Saturday evening on 40-meters. My operating time was limited because of some non-ham commitments, but I still had lots of fun. 73, Drexel W4DHT



I'm delighted that our Veterans were recognized in this WES. It was an honor to contact a few. As always, the WES is a great event. Thanks everybody and to our Veterans, God bless you and your families. Respectfully, Dave W4QDV



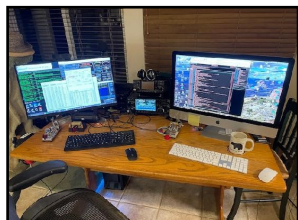
Well that was fun-giving out over 4000 veteran points. Pretty good band conditions which helped my QRP signal out greatly. QSOs from 10M to 160M. Thanks to all that helped - some worked very hard to read my info. 72, Andy W4NLT



Had a good time in WES. Thanks to all who worked me. Used a (HamKey) straight key throughout. pic is of my keys at the base station. 73, Dan W5BM



## WES November 2022, VI



Been a few months since I participated in a WES. Had a great time as always. Nice to be able to work 10m and 15m these days as opposed to couple years ago. Great to hear from so many friends. Always nice to make across both oceans as well. Thanks to all of our SKCC veterans for their service! 73, Ted W6TED



I had lots of fun as usual. I spent most of the time on 10M as the band was in great shape. Best QSO's were PD4I, VO1KGC and VE9VIC all on 10M. Thanks to everyone who called me, apologies to those I couldn't pull in out of the noise. 73, Terry W7AMI



As always had a blast this weekend. And a big thank you to the Veterans. 73, Bob W8ARC



Didn't have but a few hours, but lots of fun. Had some QSOs with new SKCC'ers. Even got to catch up with my neighbor that I haven't heard in a while. Signals were decent, even on 160M. Good time. Thanks to all. 73 – Steve W6WU PS: photo of recent POTA activation with 20M QCX-mini



Very much enjoy the Veterans Day WES! Thanks to the vets I worked for your service. Of course I put the J.H. Bunnell Navy Flameproof on the air for this sprint. I was USAF 1989-93 Bomb loader/ weapons release shop 325th Bomb Wing Fairchild AFB, WA Boeing B-52H. A moment of silence please for the airmen aboard the B-17 and P-63 lost this weekend at the Dallas Air show. 73, Mike W8MDE



I served as an Army physical therapist fresh out of school at US Army Hospital, Ft Ord, California and Fitzsimmons General Hospital, Denver Colorado from 1968-1971. In this picture I am pulling weekend Administrative Officer Of the Day aka AOD. I'm standing on the balcony outside of the Eisenhower Suite at Fitzsimmons named in honor of President Eisenhower. He stayed there after a serious heart attack while in office. 73, Bob W8YD



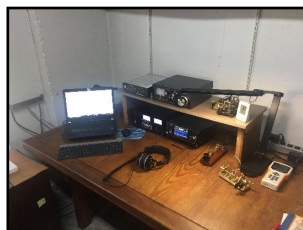
If I had kids and they asked me what I did in the military I would show them pictures like this. I volunteered (NAVY) for an elite research program down south working to improve seat belts and pilot restraint systems. This is me in the early 1980s. I was known as H-120 or the 120th human in the program. I pulled 15-G in -X vector sitting right there. This picture was a low G shot. Great WES everyone. Only got on for about six hours Sunday but had a blast. Met many old friends and I think I made some new ones with SKCC number 25k+. Thanks KK0I for first QSO. I was right Jack, antenna had a failure but I got it fixed after our QSO. 73, Dan W9DLN



Thanks to all the vets for your service! de W9GT USAF, INANG '66-'72. 73, Jack W8GT

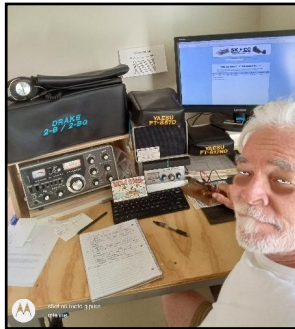


Thank You Veterans!!! Fun but busy WES this month. Had to jump around to find openings on all the bands. Lots of QSB as well. Found myself sneaking in between RTTY stations on 40 to eek out a few more QSOs hihi... Hope to see everyone for the next one. 73 –Cliff WA2LMC



Enjoyable WES, used several bands, 10M,15M, 20M, 40M and 80M. I had years of service from three countries, so thanks for your service! And thanks for your QSO's. 73, Gene W9KMK

## WES November, 2022 VII



Hey...I had a great time participating in the November WES. Couldn't op the last 5 hours but no worries. Thanks to the guys who took the time when condx were poor to ask for repeats and to patiently wait till the exchange was complete. I was mostly using my FT-101ee but for the bands not covered, I used my FT-857d....both at 5w. Key was my DIY cootie, antenna was a Delta Loop. Only worked one YL... 72 to all. Neil WA4CHQ



All my contacts were made on 10 meters with a dipole 20 feet above ground. 73, Mike WA7RV



Was a great WES, operated primarily from my lake house near Corsicana Texas. Nice fall weather, with our first frost Sunday morning. Made Tx8! 73, Chris WX7V



A big thank you to all the veterans for their service! And thank you for participating in the WES.

It's great having propagation on 10 & 15m and working DX like they are locals on all bands. I wonder if the snow helped or hurt my vertical's performance? WES was a lot fun, a big thank you to everyone I worked. 73, Joe WB9EAO



Tribute to dad ... enjoyed using my father's (WA8YGR SK) novice call. I only used his old rigs. Started with his TS-570D, then dug out the TS-140S. Funny how the led display on the TS-140 had such a slow refresh rate that the photo didn't capture all the digits. Life and family has been way too hectic. It was nice to be back in a WES a little bit. Thank you everyone. 73, Keith WN8YGR



Well my TKA pursuit continued with a recent switch over to a BUG. Prior to the WES, I was thinking I just wasn't going to get it, but a committed weekend on the Hi-Mound BK100 has put me at ease after 51 QSOs. The BK100 is a bit clunky and loud, but in reality I think that is helping my sending via BUG evolve to something presentable. Thanks as always for those pulling out my QRP signal here in AZ. 73, Mark WO7T



## KS9KCC...aka N8KR and Crew

Across the country you can now work a “KS#KCC” from the ten call zones. KS9KCC is an interesting story. Supporting SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) in NE Indiana, especially the



Ken, N8KR

Fort Wayne area, KS9KCC was founded in 2019 and is activated for special SKCC events as a multi-multi station (that’s multi operators using multiple radios all at the same time).



KS9KCC QSL card

KS9KCC is the home station of N8KR (Ken) who is the trustee for KS9KCC. Ken has an excellent station which is setup with top end equipment as shown in the picture. Antennas include a tribander, wires for 160, 80, 40, 30 and 17m. The room is capable of supporting three QRO stations operating at the same time.

It’s great to have all this gear and a place to operate but what really makes the station “fun” are the friends who gather and have a good time making QSOs, laughing and “razzing each other!” There are certainly some great friends who come to make the KS9KCC station play. Check out these great pictures of KS9KCC in operation.



Two things to note in these pictures; there is a table for food and there are pinball machines for relaxation when not operating. You have to keep the ops “healthy” and well fed with chili and other health foods (LOL)! When you need a “break” there has to be some non-ham entertainment and that’s what the pinball machines are for. Ken has an additional hobby of restoring old pinball ma-

chines as well as amateur radio. Oh yes, by the way, Ken is a small plane pilot, an accomplished musician and DX traveler operating from several DX entities. His latest SKCC quest is to operate during the K3Y month from each call district, K3Y/1-K3Y/0.

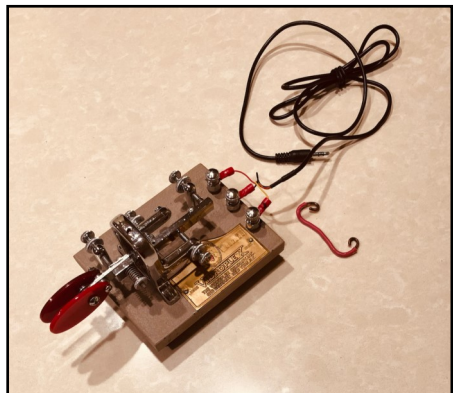


Ken and his wife spend their winters in Florida where Ken enjoys operating as N8KR/4 in his Florida station. He also operates as K3Y/4 and is a co-manger of the Hamcation SKCC booth in Orlando along with Rich W4RQ. He also often flies home for a weekend gathering of fun and operation from the KS9KCC station there in his Fort Wayne, IN home. "It's really tough," says Ken. "I have to struggle through those warm and balmy Florida temperatures in November through April. And this southern propagation, so many stations calling and so little time." (Might be a bit of editor fill-in here...LOL!)

So when you work KS9KCC you'll now have a behind the QSO scene of what's going on at the other end of your QSO. Chase them on every band, they'll hear you!

## Cootie Tip

*Editor...For some (myself included) finding the right spacing between left and right paddles of the cootie has been a problem...too close, sloppy code...too far apart and the cootie gets knocked all over the place! Here is a tip from Tommy N5CTC that just might be the solution you're looking for.*



You can see it is a Vibrokeyer and to make it a cootie there is a shorting link made from a piece of 14 ga house wire shown center right that can be used to connect the two outside terminals together. (It was removed from the key for clarity.)

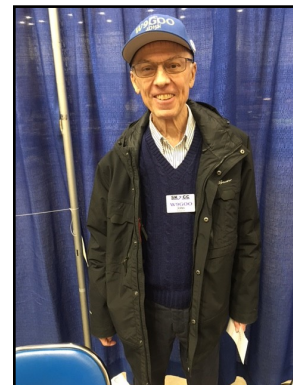
You will also see several small washers placed in between the two oval paddles - one paddle is the original and the other was ordered from Vibroplex to replace the knob originally attached on the right side of the lever. The number of washers was determined by trial and error to find the most comfortable width of the finished double paddle configuration for my hand.....73, Tommy N5CTC

## Do You Know This Man?

If you have applied for any SKCC DX Awards you should know this man. This is John W9GOO, who is the DX Administrator for SKCC. I met John and his family at the recent Fort Wayne, IN hamfest. And for the record, John is as nice as that great big smile shown here!

Thank you John for your support and time with SKCC! I'll see that the Board of Directors double your current salary!...LOL!

73, your editor





## Oceania QRS Saunter November, 2022

### Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
VK2GAZ	Garry	5460C	AUS	6
VK2GR	Allan	7823T	AUS	1
AH6EI	Glenn	14429	HI	5
AH6RT	Mike	26387	HI	1
JJ1FXF	HIRO	22608T	JPN	4
ZL2AIM	Ian	2955T	NZL	6

### Participants and QSOs by SPC

AUS: 2 / 7	HI: 2 / 6	JPN: 1 / 4	NZL: 1 / 6
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Very nice to make contact with old friends and new acquaintances. All in all a most enjoyable time. 73, Gary VK2GAZ

### From VK2GR, Allan

Not much activity on any band when I had time available. Thanks Garry VK2GAZ for another SKCC QSO. Heard good signals from ZL2AIM but just missed him.

### From AH6EI, Glenn

Running 400w. Rig: FTdx10. Ant. HexBeam. key - Bencher straight key. 20m. 5 contacts. 2 SKCC - one T. 5 postal codes. 2 had difficulty with knowing that AH6 is Hawaii and had trouble with my prefix. 73 and Aloha. Glenn in Volcano.

### From AH6RT, Mike

Conditions were poor. Bottom line, participate and have fun.

Good to hear you Ian.

Stay safe everyone.

### From JJ1FXF, HIRO

TNX for your calls. Enjoyed QSO very much. HPE to hear more VK/ZL stations at next OQS. 73

### From ZL2AIM, Ian

Four hours and only 6 SKCC in the log. Conditions not so good

19/11/2022 03:51:59 JJ1FXF 22608T JPN 18.082 17m

19/11/2022 04:08:46 JR2IUB 11167S JPN 21.049 15m

19/11/2022 04:39:15 AH6RT 26387 HI 14.053 20m

19/11/2022 05:59:43 AA5XA 21179S AR 7.051 40m

19/11/2022 06:09:51 VK2DVA 23507T AUS 7.051 40m

19/11/2022 06:15:53 N6CUQ 24270T CA 7.051 40m

## JJ0SFV and Operating Events in Japan



In japan we have some CW contest allowed using only straight keys or preferential use of straight keys.

New year key contest.

<https://a1club.org/contest/yk/2022/> (japanese)

A 1 CLUB straight key contest

<https://a1club.org/contest/index-e.html> (english)

CW ouza ketteisen contest(CW championship match)

<https://www.jarl.com/jolzrw/contest.html> (japanese)

I'm looking forward to meeting you all on the radio. 73, Aki JJ0SFV 26384

*Editor....Recently posted on the reflector and reprinted here:*

## **History and Development of the Navy Knob**

By George I. Levy, NC2M 26325

I recently decided to research a bit about the so-called Navy Knob that many straight key enthusiasts, such as myself, like to use. When I was a Ham Pup, I was told that it was developed by the US Navy as a way to reduce operator fatigue because the knob could be gripped underneath the upper knob, with fingers on the lower ring, and the operator could use the entire forearm to send. Perhaps that's how it ended up getting used, but that's not the real reason for the knob. And, ever the "gotta know the answer" techno-nerd, I decided to put the internet to good use and find out about the history of this little device.

The knob was invented by a gentleman named Louis Steinberger, who lived on Beverley Road in Brooklyn. Steinberger was characterized in the 1926 Who's Who in American Jewry as "the Jewish Edison," and he had many patents to his name. He specialized in insulators - some of his insulator inventions, or descendant products, are still in use today, e.g. the end insulator that looks like a cylinder with holes at each end. Many of his products were manufactured by his Electrose Manufacturing Company in Brooklyn.

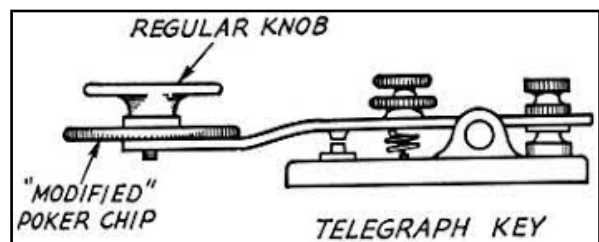
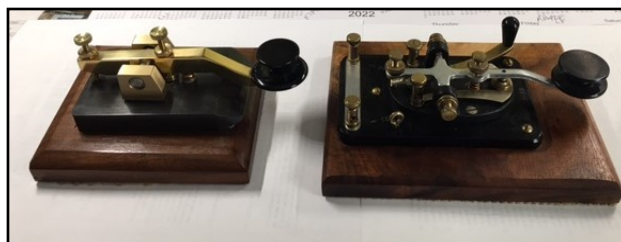
Now, picture the year of 1918. Today, our telegraph keys are merely closing a switch inside the transmitter, and operate at low voltage, but 100 years ago, during the spark era, that was not the case. Morse operators had much higher voltages running through their telegraph keys, with their fingers perilously close to the contacts. Mr. Steinberger figured out that there needed to be a larger disk on which an operator's fingers could rest, thus protected from accidentally touching the key contacts. And, so, he created his knob, with the larger disk under the smaller knob, and filed for US patent 1348249 in January of 1918. World War I was raging, and the US Navy apparently thought the invention was a great idea, so started using the invention on its keys, despite the fact that the patent wasn't actually granted until August of 1920. And it would seem that the knob was a huge success - keeping hands safe and/or reducing fatigue - so the Navy continued using it, and the knob made its way into civilian applications, too, even after spark transmitting was banned. Mr. Steinberger, I believe, died in 1934, and the patent expired three years later. How many knobs would be used during World War II, with telegraph operators unaware of how and why they came to be? How many are still in civilian use today?

Here's a link to the patent: <https://patents.google.com/patent/US1348249A/en>

So, when we're using our straight keys, perhaps during tonight's Sprint, we can think of Mr. Steinberger and his century-old invention that still helps us today.

--

73,  
George, NC2M  
SKCC #26325





## SKS November, 2022



Got an hour late start but we made it. Ran 50 watts from my TS-590SG into a vertical. Lionel J38. Good band condx. Thanks for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Thanks for the contacts see you in the next WES. 73, NEE NE9EE



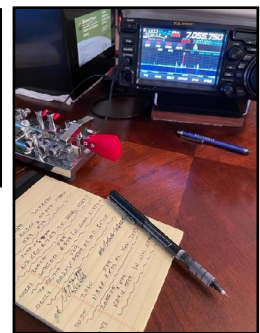
Got in late and left a little early, but thankful for the contacts nonetheless. 73, Steve K9NUD



Very poor conditions but moved closer to our "C." 73, Crew NM8GS



Lots of fun and great practice for this old fist. Picture is my original Radio Shack straight key from 1981. It sits in front of a TenTec Century 21 which was my first HF rig at that time. 73, Bruce N9DGL



Considering my high tech logging system with high speed ultra fine point and my 15 ft wire up 10 feet, I'm having trouble understanding my low score. Thanks for those who pulled me out with my dual lever bug. 73 all. Happy Thanksgiving!!! 73, Hank K5TSK



Not a lot of air time tonight but plenty of fun meeting a few first time contacts. 20 meters was dead, dead so I stayed on 40 meters. See you all next month ;- ) 73, Rich W4RQ



## Josh, W9HT 7474s

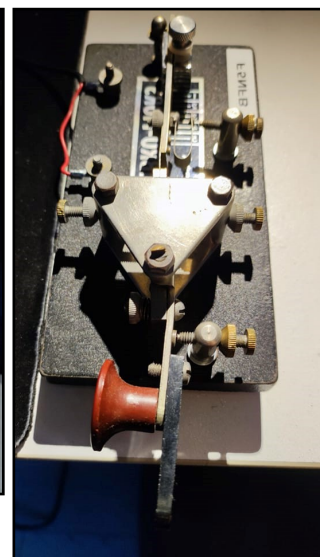
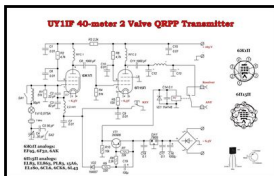
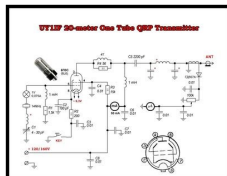


Another of the movers and shakers in the Fort Wayne, IN SKCC group is Josh, W9HT. Inside, Josh has an excellent station; K3, P3, and Alpha modified (pair of 3CX800A7) but as Josh says, "The antennas are nothing special." (I disagree!). Josh has a 2L wire beam for 10m (ZL Special), and wires for 80-12m.

When not in the SKCC events Josh is traveling to VP9, VY2 and Florida for his radio activities. Oh yes, Josh works too and "Dr" Josh teaches business/economics at a local university.



## De Facebook

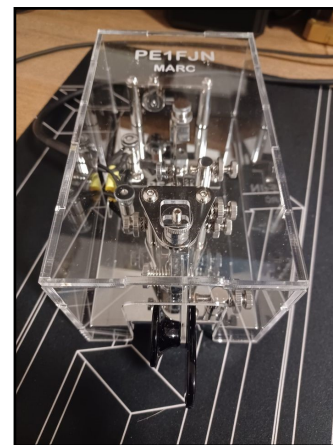
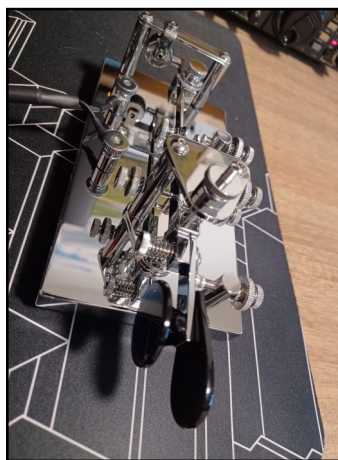


Just got my 300th confirmed park... enjoyed the run, thanks for the fad, but now back to what I really love, chasing new SKCC members with my 1943 Lionel J38! Curt K2CWM 3018S NJ

The only Vibro made in France. The move had completely changed all the settings. A treat once properly settled but it hassle to set-



Here is my station today after finally putting the cover back on the FT-101EE after installing the CW Filter. I raised everything a bit to give me more desk room. The pretty girl on the right is the Kent Straight Key I use on the 101. The Benchner paddle on the left is hiding a J-38 key, both hooked up to the IC-746 Pro. The keyboard is hiding the digs in the desktop I asked about last week. The D104 on the top is ready to go on the FT-101 should I actually need to speak to someone LOL. Have a great ham day folks! 73, Chuck NA1CN



Got today from Luigi [www.iz8vkwcraft.it](http://www.iz8vkwcraft.it) a beautiful cover personalized for my beautiful Left J36 BUG from IIQOD Alberto. It arrived very well packed. Happy as a small child with a new toy, hi. 73 Marc de PE1FJN , ps: have marked the monthly European sprint in my agenda, hpe to meet many skcc stations.

In 2017, I became the proud owner of two semi-automatic keys (BUG): Vibroplex Original Standard (1969) and Vibroplex Champion (1966). I fell in love with BUG from the very first touch. I learned how to transmit correctly on this type of keys and now this is my main key, which I constantly use on the air. My favorite BUG among my 2 ones is Vibroplex Champion. 73, Alexey UY1IF





## Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 3 Issue 3

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.....*

It's progressing – slowly at times.

The shack is actually set up, the new 5-band Yagi is on the roof at 10-11m, the radio sends and receives, the computer talks to the radio and all associated software (this morning there was a passel of gremlins that took an hour and multiple restarts to rout,) and I made my first couple of QSOs from the new QTH. I should be happier, but in the temperature drop from 21C at raising the antenna and rotator to the roof, and the -10C operating environment earlier this month, a couple of control wires have separated at the rotator end (of course.) So I'm currently canvassing the Club for someone who can go up and twiddle eight screws for me. Sigh.

At the moment, the antenna is parked facing N (should have set it up to park facing S.) There hasn't been a wind strong enough, from the right direction, to just release the brake (this works) and let it weather-vane to a more interesting direction. For me, Europe is NE, Africa is E, South America is SE and Alaska/Asia is NW. All I see on the current bearing is Siberia and the Central Arctic. I'm hearing Greenland, and they hear me, but very faint at the edge of my antenna pattern. Estonia was loud. VY1CO is loud, and VY1AAA is inaudible. Might raise Alert if they're on the air.

Christmas is approaching, winter is settling in for a long stay, and a few of my favourite contests are on the horizon. We'll see what can be done with what I have now, and maybe Santa will send me a roof-climbing elf to empty the coal from my stocking. I'll see my fellow Club members at our Christmas Dinner in a couple of weeks' time and spend lots of quiet, restful retired time with my family over the holidays. Peace on Earth, goodwill towards all.

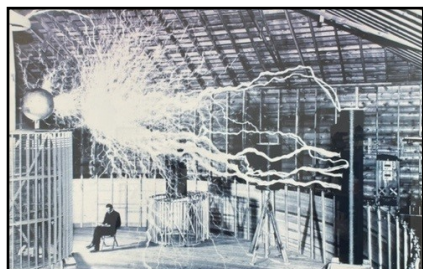
*But it isn't contesting. Nope. Not at all. Well, maybe....*



## I Wonder....

I wonder what 160m would sound like in the area if these experiments were done today...40 over S9 noise?

Many years ago a ham buddy (SK) friend made a three foot circular tesla coil like the one shown on the right. One night (so he could really see the arc) before cable TV, he fired it off. He said it was spectacular...but...it took out several TVs in his immediate neighborhood! Yes, he quickly dismantled his coil and never admitted what he had done except to his close ham radio buddies. Toledo Edison never did figure how those neighbors has such a power surge...true story!



## SKM and Working K3Y Stations

*If you are new to SKCC in this last year and don't know about SKM (Straight Key Month), the following information is very useful. This information is only part of the information available from the SKCC web page under "Activities...K3Y"*

The Straight Key Month special event (aka SKM) celebrates manual Morse radiotelegraphy using straight keys, bugs and cootie keys. It runs from Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> through 31st. This guide is offered as an aid in finding and contacting our SKM special event stations. Hopefully, readers will be inspired to hunt for them in all call regions and contact as many of our operators as possible.

This guide is intended for new CW operators, as well as those who are new to SKM. There are a number of practical tips included that are useful for HF CW operation in general. New users can improve their CW skills by hunting for SKM event stations around the bands. SKM stations in the US will operate with the K3Y special event call sign; members in other countries will use their own individual call signs. All are listed on the event calendar & schedules (below). The helpful resources mentioned in this guide can be found on the SKCC Straight Key Month web page located at [www.skccgroup.com/k3y/](http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/)

### SKM Stations

Event stations in the US will be operating as K3Y/1, K3Y/2, etc., according to their geographic location. In addition to these ten mainland call regions there will also be operators in Hawaii (K3Y/KH6), Alaska (K3Y/KL7) and Puerto Rico (K3Y/KP4). In any given US call region only one operator will be on the air at a time. Each call region has Coordinators who are responsible for scheduling operators and processing logs.

SKCC members outside of US jurisdiction will operate as event stations using their own call signs (not K3Y). They typically call "CQ SKM", to indicate their special status as SKM event operators. Multiple event stations in the same country may be on the air at the same time. They are listed on the event schedule but may often operate at other than scheduled times. So, you will need to keep watch for them. Event operators choose their own frequencies on 160m through 6m, depending on conditions and station capability. The only exception is 60m where SKM operation is not permitted. Operators are typically found near the published SKCC "watering hole" frequencies but may be anywhere in the CW portion of the band.

### Contacting the SKM Stations

It is often quite easy to make contact with SKM operators. But sometimes more effort is required, depending on propagation conditions and the number of other callers responding. By following the tips below you will make things easier for yourself, the SKM operator, and other callers.

Answer the event station's CQ by simply transmitting your callsign once or twice. A longer response such as "K3Y/KH6 K3Y/KH6 DE AF2Z AF2Z K" will interfere with other callers and decrease the number of contacts the operator can get to during his shift. There is no need for you to transmit the SKM station's call sign: he knows you are calling him when you simply send your call sign in response to his CQ.

If there are several other stations calling try moving your transmitter a little off-frequency, up to 150 Hz higher or lower than the SKM op. This makes it easier for him to distinguish your signal among multiple callers and will increase your chance of getting through. If you do achieve contact with an operator who is getting lots of calls please keep your exchanges short. Other callers who are still waiting for their chance to get through will appreciate it. On the other hand, if an operator is "lonely" (i.e., not getting any responses to repeated CQ's), you can feel free to chat a little.



There is no penalty for or prohibition against “dup” contacts (i.e., contacting the same operator multiple times on the same band) but in general this should be avoided. However, you can certainly call an operator again for “insurance” if you are not certain a previous contact has been logged.

### The QSO Exchange

When you make contact with SKM stations they will typically respond with the following information: RST; QTH; NAME; CALL; SKCC# (where CALL is the operator's own licensed callsign). In response, you should send your info: RST; QTH; NAME, and SKCC#. If you are not an SKCC member just send RST, and your QTH and name. Non-members are always welcomed! Other common CW greetings are often included: GM, GE, FB, GL, TKS, 73, etc. The following is an example of a typical exchange between a US SKM operator and caller:

**CQ CQ DE K3Y/5 K**

AF2Z

**AF2Z DE K3Y/5 GM UR 579 LA DANA AD5VC SKCC NR 1555S K**

R GM DANA RST 599 NJ DREW SKCC 2082S DE AF2Z K

**R TKS DREW GL 73 SK**

TU 73

**CQ DE K3Y/5 ...**

Notice that the K3Y/5 station has included his own callsign “AD5VC” in the initial info exchange. Non-US SKM operators would not need to do this since they're already operating under their own call sign rather than a K3Y/x call. If you need the operator to repeat something you can simply send that item followed by a question mark, for example: “RST?” or “NAME?”, “NR?”, etc. If you want to have the entire exchange repeated just send “PLS AGN? K” Don't be afraid to send “QRS” if you want the operator to send more slowly.

### QSL Cards

An official K3Y QSL card will be available to anyone who contacts at least one SKM station. The card lists one QSO per each US call district worked (including KH6, KL7 and KP4), plus each continental DX area (AF, AS, EU, NA, OC, SA): up to a maximum of nineteen QSOs for a complete worldwide “sweep” card (see below).

WAS cards are also available for those who have contacted SKM operators in all 50 US states: fifty contacts on three cards, alphabetically sorted by State.

Cards will be distributed automatically to anyone who is a member of the SKCC QSL Bureau. Those who are not bureau members may request a K3Y QSL card by submitting a SA-SE, (or PayPal payment for non-US) to the bureau.

More info on the SKM QSL card can be found at [skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-qsl-info](http://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-qsl-info)

## Being a K3Y Operator, 2023!



## SKCC Straight Key Month – 2023 US K3Y Station Operator's Guide

### INTRODUCTION

The Straight Key Month event is held each January to celebrate the use of hand keyed Morse radiotelegraphy. It commences on Jan. 2nd, immediately following ARRL's Straight Key Night event. January 2023 marks the 17th Anniversary of the Straight Key Century Club and Straight Key Month (aka SKM).

SKM provides a unique opportunity for US-based SKCC members to operate using the special event callsign K3Y. Members outside of the US may also participate as official event stations using their own callsigns. Please see additional info for non-US operators in:

*K3Y\_2023\_Non\_US\_Operator\_Guide.pdf.*

The SKCC Straight Key Month web page is located at [www.skccgroup.com/k3y/](http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/)

### OPERATOR RESERVATIONS

SKCC Members in the US who wish to operate using the K3Y call sign should contact their Regional Coordinators in order to reserve operating time. Only one operator per each US call area can use the special event call sign at a time. K3Y Area/Regional Coordinators are assigned to each US call-sign district and are responsible for reserving your operating times and processing operator log files. Please contact the Coordinators in the region where you will be operating. The Coordinator email address for each region is shown below:

[K3Y0@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3Y0@skccgroup.com) [K3Y5@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3Y5@skccgroup.com)  
[K3YKH6@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3YKH6@skccgroup.com)  
[K3Y1@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3Y1@skccgroup.com) [K3Y6@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3Y6@skccgroup.com)  
[K3YKL7@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3YKL7@skccgroup.com)  
[K3Y2@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3Y2@skccgroup.com) [K3Y7@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3Y7@skccgroup.com)  
[K3YKP4@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3YKP4@skccgroup.com)  
[K3Y3@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3Y3@skccgroup.com) [K3Y8@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3Y8@skccgroup.com)  
[K3Y4@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3Y4@skccgroup.com) [K3Y9@skccgroup.com](mailto:K3Y9@skccgroup.com)

Reserved times are displayed on the SKCC Event Calendar at:

[www.skccgroup.com/cgi-bin/calendar.pl?  
year=2022&month=1](http://www.skccgroup.com/cgi-bin/calendar.pl?year=2022&month=1)

