



# SK CC

Straight Key Century Club  
KS1KCC



Volume 16 Issue 1

The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club

“The Rag Chew”

Editor: K8AQM/VE9AQM

March, 2023

## 2023 K3Y SKM Wrap-up



THANKS to everyone who participated in our 17th Anniversary Straight Key Month. More than 230 SKCC members signed up as Operators and logged well over 50,000 QSOs total - the most ever. All 50 US States were activated, plus 17 DX Entities and 6 Canadian Provinces.

I hope you had fun. Here at AF2Z the old Bunnell sideswiper got another workout this year and provided good service throughout the event. (Can't say the same for my computer keyboard...). The trusty endfed wire hung in

there for its 17th year, radiated by a new K4 rig.

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

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

Many thanks to all who volunteered as SKM Operators. These are some very dedicated Club members! The Operator Stats & Map are still being updated as late logs come in or corrections made. You can check them at these links:

[https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-statistics.php?](https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-statistics.php?show=stations)

[show=stations](#)

<https://www.easymapmaker.com/map/SKMOPS-2023>





Callers can check their Stats and Sweeps at these links:

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

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

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

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

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

Those who worked SKM Operators in all 50 US States can obtain a WAS QSL card

set-- three cards confirming 50 contacts. (FYI- at least seventeen people managed to get SKM WAS this year.)

Looking forward to next January! Hope we can all do it again...

73, Drew AF2Z



Being a K3Y operator is like experiencing being on a DXpedition. Why not join the fun and make plans now for being a K3Y operator in 2024.



Could this be the “future?” Will some brave soul try to operate mobile K3Y/# from all ten districts? Who will pickup the challenge and who will chase the mobile K3Y/#...let the challenge be answered!



## QSL Bureau



If you have worked either of these two stations and would like a QSL for your contacts there is only one way to get them. You must be “Good in the SKCC QSL Bureau!” Using the SKCC bureau is easy; information can be found on our web page along the left side under the heading “Member Services.” A brief summary of how to join the bureau is given here (it’s free!).

Why pay all that postage sending QSLs when you can send a batch to the SKCC QSL bureau to members who are “Good in the bureau?” Cards sent to the bureau for members who are “NOT good in the bureau are kept for a very limited time and then discarded. Check the list before sending cards!

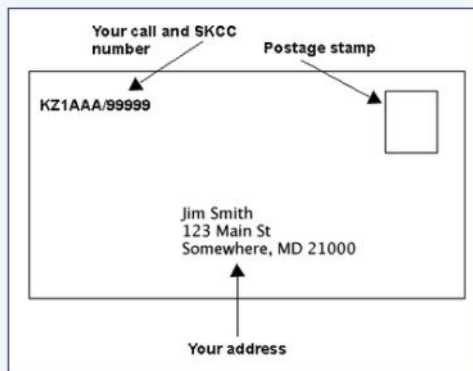
PS: If you’re “good in the bureau” and did not receive a VC3Y QSL and would like one, please email the bureau (K8AQM)

If you are an U.S. SKCC member, you can join the QSL Bureau by providing postage in the form of self-addressed stamped envelopes (SASE). If you are a non-US member, you may join by buying postage credits from the bureau via PayPal. See below for details.

### Using the bureau

Only send #10 business-sized envelopes (4-1/8" x 9-1/2") when sending SASEs to the bureau. This helps with organization; 99.9 percent of all cards fit into them without the need for folding.

For easier sorting, we require the following format for addressing your return envelopes:



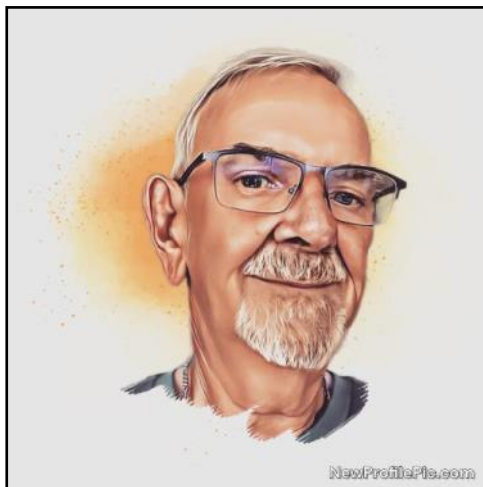
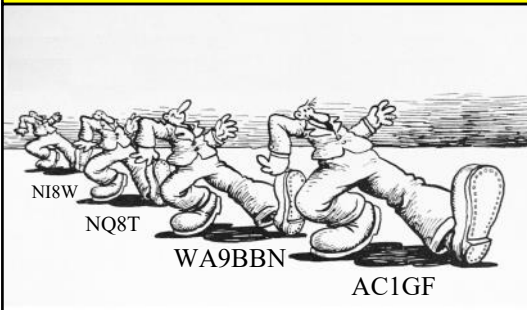
When enough cards arrive to fill an envelope, the bureau will send them out. This may be 6 to 10 cards depending on weight(1 Ounce). Please do not add extra postage beyond one forever stamp.

**Note:** The QSL Buro Manager recommends that you maintain no more than 4 Envelope credits at any one time.



## Slow Speed Saunter December, 2022

### Slow Speed Saunter



Today nice chats with ops in NM, OK, TX, MD, MS, and Ontario. I really enjoy operating in the SSS and meeting new friends. Today 2 of my QSO partners were not SKCC members. 73, Rich W4RQ



I was in & out all day so not much time for one of my fav SKCC events, but managed to get 7 contacts. Used my 14 year old IC-7000 at 50w to a vertical, using my 1943 Lionel J38. Thanks for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ

#### Results for Slow Speed Saunter: 1 Dec 2022

Overall | Soapbox

##### Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
N0IPA	Jim	23014	CO	5
W4RQ	Rich	8699S	FL	6
K04WFP	Ten	25974T	GA	7
N9DGL	Bruce C	20725S	IN	6
WA9BBN	Ed	17763S	IN	16
NM8GS	Crew	19777	MI	5
AC1GF	Bob	19399S	NH	16
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	7
KA8HFN	Larry	2046S	OH	4
NI8W	Steve	26659T	OH	13
NQ8T	Steve	5919S	OH	14
VE3KZ	Bob	22804S	ON	7
W5H	Mike	11770S	TX	2
KM4WIP	Steven	16752	VA	3
N2TNN	Dean	25132S	VA	11

##### Participants and QSOs by SPC

CO: 1 / 5	FL: 1 / 6	GA: 1 / 7	IN: 2 / 22	MI: 1 / 5
NH: 1 / 16	NJ: 1 / 7	OH: 3 / 31	ON: 1 / 7	TX: 1 / 2
VA: 2 / 14				



I was in & out all day so not much time for one of my fav SKCC events, but managed to get 7 contacts. Used my 14 year old IC-7000 at 50w to a vertical, using my 1943 Lionel J38. Thanks for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



I needed these five Qs to complete the quest for C. Had a great QSO with Gary K1YAN...we're a couple of real old timers...60+ years as hams. 73, Crew NM8GS (K8AQM at the key)



## Kudos

The following letter was sent to the LICW (Long Island CW Group) and complimenting on the relationship between LICW and SKCC

Howard:

I am ECSTATIC about the news of the SKCC class. This addresses several problems - the LICW chat page and getting/keeping new ops on the air.

I thought about sending you an email re: the LICW chat page yesterday. I did try posting on it when I was on the air; however, I stopped doing so because it was not convenient for me and no one was ever on when I did post to it. What did I use instead? The SKCC sked page which I really enjoy using. That site is so well designed. It is often my go-to for getting on the air (unless prohibited by the rules of the sprint of course).

I think SKCC will help LICW keep the new ops coming through the classes on the air. Glenn talked about this in the Comprehensive ICR class - new ops completing the CWA classes and then not transitioning to on the air. LICW offers the SST class which is a good way to put a new ops "toe in the waters". It is what I did. However, I quickly "outgrew" the short exchange of the SST and needed/wanted more. SKCC provided that - a longer exchange but still a scripted format for me as a newer op. What SKCC does though is open the door to UNSCRIPTED exchanges which the SST and QSO parties, etc. do not, and on-the-air protocols for those exchanges. As I began pursuing my "C" and "T", I called CQ outside of the sprints and it was there I encountered SKCC and other ops wanting to chat. Now one begins to use the code like one would a language, having to headsend and have a conversation. The more I did that, the more I realized I needed to work on unscripted exchanges and hence I started asking to help SKCC ops who are pursuing the marathon award. Having a marathon is a tall order for someone with my limited experience but you can't learn if you don't try. I just had my sixth marathon yesterday, have one scheduled for next Monday, and one more to schedule the following week. SKCC has made all this possible helping me take my CW training from LICW and put it to use. And their ops I have found to be kind and patient and some have become friends. SKCC is a great place for new ops to grow. What a win-win!! LICW has a place to direct the new ops and get/keep them on the air and SKCC gets new blood for its organization.

This class is sorely needed in the LICW. The only way I became involved with SKCC was Cathy's Reaching Your CW Goals class and her answering my questions. As a new op, I had no idea what a sked page was, how to use the SKCC logger, etc. Thankfully she patiently answered my questions and encouraged participation in SKCC events (as well as other events) by mentioning them in class each week and then following up the next week asking if anyone participated.

This year has been a wonderful year for LICW! So many positive changes. Change is not easy for many of us and I commend you Howard for being open to new ways of doing things, like the Comprehensive ICR class. LICW is better for it.

Teri Beard  
KO4WFP

P.S. If you want to share my email with Ron AC2C, please feel free to do so. It speaks kindly of SKCC and he might appreciate hearing those sentiments.

# Brag November, 2022



Fun Month. Always a pleasure working both old friends and making new ones. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. See you in December, hopefully with better/improved conditions. 73, Bud AA8CL



THANK YOU for these first "SKCC" QSOS ... thank you all and looking forward to contacting new SKCC members. 73,



Thanks to KA9ERV for operating the "BONUS" station and to all for the special contacts.. The Holidays are here...73, Rick K0KEX >>> Merry Christmas <<<



Lost the last week of the month as I'm away without a radio, but still managed a few Brag contacts earlier in the month. Thanks all for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Just got new rig up and running. Looking forward 5tro mwext WES.



Pretty good month here. Managed 10 on 15 mtrs, 6 on 12 mtrs and 16 on 10 mtrs. Upper bands are waking up some. Only a doublet antenna at 30ft. Used the 7610 and multiple keys this month. Mostly the Begali SS. Thanks for the contacts and CU next month. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Having lots of fun learning to use my cootie. Thanks to everyone with the patience to try copying me. :) 73, Tom KB3CVO



Slow going this month but still fun exchanges and QSO's. 73, Rick N8XI



It was a shortened month here due to Thanksgiving holiday travel to the great and damp Northwest (Tacoma, WA). Band conditions hit and miss of course. Since this month included Veteran's Day, I thought I might recognize one of my very first Elmers who taught me about how transmitters work and how to troubleshoot when I was 13 yrs old. His name may be familiar to many or most of you as the creator of the "Farnsworth Method" of learning Morse code. His name of course is Russ Farnsworth. He lived for a few years near my home in southern Colorado and was easily one of the most brilliant and refined people I have ever met. During WW2 and possibly after, Russ was a Morse instructor for various departments in the US government and military. While he may have had some level of security clearances, etc. Russ was never actually in the service as he was totally blind. In the years after government service he recorded and distributed a series of code practice 33 RPM records. Many reading this may have learned from or still possess this training course. It seemed appropriate to include him in our annual November recognition of past and current service members. 73, Chuck N0CW



A very nice month for Brag contacts with quite a few new numbers/members. Was nice to hear a few new bug and cootie users out there....keep up the great work! And very fine work to all those achieving new goals with the SKCC. It's great to hear those "new" dits and dahs" out there. See you next month! 73, Jack KK01



I said to myself, "Self, Why not!". I was chasing TKA and picked up many new numbers and had a few interesting chats along the way. 73, Steve NQ8T



## Brag November, 2022 II



I worked 36 November brag contacts including the KA9ERV bonus station. While they don't count toward Brag points, I had 12 contacts in the WES. In all, I got 27 new T&S this month and I earned Tx9 and Px8. I need just 80 more to earn my S. I'm thrilled that I worked 5 marathons this month, which now brings me to 7 claimed & confirmed. It was special to me that I got the YL Marathon hat trick (Teri, Cathy, and Ai). My most satisfying QSO this month was with an SKCC member with a 4 digit number, meaning he has had it for a long time. Wayne had posted on the SKCC Sked page that he was looking for someone to go very slow with him. I asked him to meet me on 10.124 and we went 27 mins. The thing that made it special was that he told me after our QSO that it was his 1st CW QSO in 26 yrs and only his 3rd CW QSO ever. How cool is that! 73, Ken N9KJU



It was a nice month, worked Craig in the last few hours! Also, got to use my TenTec Corsair I for the first time after some modifications. 73, Jo PG4I



Had a relatively good month as far as brags go. I have been working on getting my Sx5 and Cx20 and made good progress this month. Pictured is my main key used and my favorite, a GHD straight key model GT502MIL. 73, Bruce WB6IZG



A quiet SKCC month for me, mainly due to a wind damaged Yaesu G-2800 antenna rotator. The attached photo is the tilted tower for the 20m and 10m Yagi antennas. Now with a new rotator installed and the tower back up at 15m, I should be active again in December. 73, Allan VK2GR



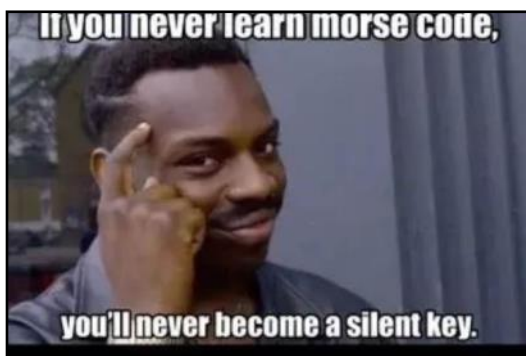
Another interesting month. Missed the WES and Sprints but did get quite a few non-club QSOs. Actually did some PO-TA hunting and BUG work so that was fun. Here's hoping Dec is better. Working on my 80 es 160 meter antennas and trying to get my 6 meter EFHW up higher. 73, Les WB5JWI



THX all that worked me QRP while in Puerto Rico. Pic of my setup.....73, Pat W5WTH



Had another fun month! Primarily used my W1SFR Titan cootie key. Thanks to everyone who has been helping me on my "S" Quest -Total worked towards S: 66, only need 134 more for S. 73, Chris WX7V



← True, but it  
knowing CW  
leads to →



not

## The Man Who Changed Everything: The Life of James Clerk Maxwell

By Basil Mahon  
John Wiley & Sons 2003

<https://www.amazon.com/Man-Who-Changed-Everything-Maxwell/dp/0470861711>

Albert Einstein was being interviewed by a British journalist, who said to him “Well, after all, you were standing on Newton’s shoulders.” To which Einstein replied “No, actually I was standing on Maxwell’s.”

A classic burn, given Maxwell’s Scottish upbringing.

I can’t pretend to easily wield Maxwell’s equations, but I know a bit about them, and admire them. I had always been struck that he seemed to have glued together 4 laws previously discovered by others. Yes, he placed them in a coherent structure that led to other discoveries, but what’s the big deal?

Only kidding; I know he was a groundbreaking figure. But I definitely wanted to know more about this fellow and his discoveries. It turns out there are many of them, especially in physics, but also in biology, psychology, and astronomy. If you were not already aware, you will be intrigued by his discoveries in the field of color vision.

So, this book. I would put this in the “easy read” category. You’ll polish it off in 2 or 3 hours, and learn a great deal about the man and his many accomplishments. Don’t expect to learn much about electromagnetism, although you will get an interesting overview of Maxwell’s mental analogy/model for charges and current. Likewise, don’t expect any negative reports or scandals; it’s a friendly bio.

I was thoroughly impressed with what I learned about Maxwell’s mind, his character, and his commitment to bettering his society. Having read the book, I immediately ordered his 2-volume masterpiece, A Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism. There’s no substitute for reading a man’s own words!

73 de NC4RT

PS: It’s pronounced “clark,” not “clerk.”

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \left( \mathbf{J} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \right)$$



# SKSE December, 2022

## Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 01-Dec-2022

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

### Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	18	13	7/2/2	369
2	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	15	9	4/1/3	220
3	F8EHJ	Herve	23251C	FRA	8	8	5/2/1	164
4	SM7BUA	Mats	122C	SWE	11	8	2/1/1	133
5	PG4I	Jo	11019S	NED	10	6	2/2/2	120
6	DL8FMA	Manuel	24047C	GER	6	6	1/1/2	71
7	YU7AE	Kare	5790T	SER	4	3	2/1/1	57
8	SP7OGP	Piotr	9749	POL	4	4	1/1/2	51
9	K2HT	Dick	5087S	MO	2	2	2/0/0	34
9	DJ1CT	Chris	12093	GER	3	3	1/0/2	34
9	PA2DXY	Peter	19003	NED	2	2	2/0/0	34
12	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	3	3	0/1/1	24
12	HB9CPS	Geo	20350	SUI	2	2	1/0/1	24
14	IZ5BBS	Renato	24509	ITA	4	3	0/0/0	12
15	G0RDO	John	2133S	ENG	1	1	0/0/0	1

### Participants and QSOs by SPC

BEL: 1 / 15	ENG: 1 / 1	FRA: 2 / 26	GER: 2 / 9	ITA: 1 / 4
MO: 1 / 2	NED: 2 / 12	POL: 1 / 4	SER: 1 / 4	SUI: 2 / 5
SWE: 1 / 11				

Editor.....We need more pictures with your submis-



Nothing heard on 20 m for the last SKS-E of 2022. Contacts were made only on 40 and 80 meters. Nice to find usual friends and three new SKCC operators for me, thanks to Steve OE3SPR, Chris HB9BJL and Dennis KD1JT being my 1440th SKCC member contacted, I hope to reach the DX-Q 1500 level soon ! 80 Watts into my multiband GP and a Junker Straight Key for QRS + my good old Lionel J36 Bug Key being



One precious QSO this evening. 20m no good so 40m tried with my 7m tall vertical antenna. Many thanks to Peter PA2DXY for a QSO on 40m. Rig Kenwood TS-440s, 100watts, ground mounted 7m tall vertical fishing pole antenna. Key = Marconi PS No213A pump key circa 1926. 73, John G0RDO



Only QRV in last minutes of SKSE, using my old Yaesu FT-101B 100W output, W3DZZ multiband trap dipole, Vibroplex Presentation bug. Thanks and 73, Kare YU7AE



Propagation is continuing to improve...joining the SKSE is both fun and now easy to work new friends and new countries.

Editor...The following appeared in *The ARRL Contest Update for December 7, 2022* which I subscribe to. It's no joke and quite interesting to hear some of the possibilities of the use of AI computers. It may be "contest related" but think what you would ask the AI machine!

## What Does an AI Know About Contesting?

By Brian Moran, N9ADG

*OpenAI, an AI research and deployment company, released a new version of a language model with an interface in the form of a chat session. It's intended to be used in machine-to-human dialog. Questions or commands can be posed, and the language model responds, drawing upon data that it has been trained on, mostly from information previously gathered from the internet. It's in a research preview where OpenAI encourages conversations with the AI model. Here is a conversation I had with the model -- all contest related!*

**BM:** I'm going to ask you some questions about amateur radio and amateur radio contesting.

**ChatGPT:** Sure, I'd be happy to answer any questions you have about amateur radio and amateur radio contesting. Please go ahead and ask your questions, and I'll do my best to provide helpful and accurate responses. If you have any specific questions or topics you'd like to discuss, I'm here to help.

**BM:** If you had an amateur radio station and participated in radiosport contests, what would a detailed description of your ideal station be?

**ChatGPT:** If I had an amateur radio station and participated in radiosport contests, my ideal station would be equipped with a high-performance transceiver that can operate on multiple bands and modes. The transceiver would be connected to a robust antenna system that is optimized for the bands and modes I typically operate on, and the station would be equipped with a reliable power supply and backup power options in case of power outages.

In terms of accessories and peripherals, my ideal station would be equipped with a high-quality headset and microphone for comfortable and clear communication, as well as a computer and software for logging and tracking contacts and managing the radio's settings. The station would also have a comfortable and ergonomic operating position, with easy access to all of the equipment and controls.

Overall, my ideal amateur radio station would be a versatile, high-performance setup that is optimized for radiosport contesting and allows me to operate efficiently and effectively. It would be a comfortable and enjoyable place to operate, and it would be equipped with the tools and accessories I need to be successful in radiosport contests.

**BM:** How can I earn a high score in ARRL Field Day?

**ChatGPT:** ARRL Field Day is a contest organized by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) in which amateur radio operators test their skills and equipment by making as many



contacts as possible with other operators over a 24-hour period. To earn a high score in this contest, you will need to make as many contacts as possible using the appropriate modes and bands, as well as submit a complete and accurate log of all of your contacts. You can earn additional points by using alternative power sources, making contacts with other operators in your area, and participating in special event stations. It may also be helpful to plan ahead and coordinate with other operators in your area to maximize your efforts and increase your chances of making a high number of contacts.

**BM:** What is the best way to solder a PL-259 connector to a coaxial cable?

**ChatGPT:** When soldering a PL-259 connector to a coaxial cable, it's important to first carefully strip the outer jacket of the cable to expose the appropriate length of the inner conductor and dielectric material. The next step is to attach the connector to the cable by sliding the braid of the cable over the outer sleeve of the connector and securing it in place with a clamp or crimp. Then, the inner conductor of the cable should be carefully inserted into the center pin of the connector and soldered in place. Finally, the connector should be covered with heat-shrink tubing to provide strain relief and protect the connection.

**BM:** I'm not sure I agree with your advice on the best way to solder a PL-259 connector.

**ChatGPT:** I apologize if my previous answer did not provide the information you were looking for. There are many different ways to solder a PL-259 connector to a coaxial cable, and the specific steps you should follow will depend on your equipment and experience level. In general, the most important thing is to carefully prepare the cable and connector, heat the parts evenly, and apply enough solder to create a strong and reliable connection. If you are unsure about the best way to proceed, it may be helpful to consult with an experienced ham radio operator or reference a guide or tutorial that provides step-by-step instructions.

**BM:** If I had to choose between buying an amplifier or improving my antennas for my amateur radio station, which one is the best strategy?

**ChatGPT:** It's difficult to say which option is the best for you without knowing more about your specific situation. In general, improving your antennas can be a good way to increase the range and effectiveness of your amateur radio station, as a well-designed and properly installed antenna system can greatly improve your signal strength and ability to make contacts. An amplifier, on the other hand, can also help to boost your signal and increase your range, but it may be less effective if your antennas are not designed or positioned optimally. If you are unsure about which option is best for you, it may be helpful to consult with other experienced amateur radio operators or do some research to learn more about the pros and cons of each approach.

**BM:** Which is better for a higher contest score, running a frequency or searching and pouncing?

**ChatGPT:** In a contest, the best strategy for achieving a high score will depend on a variety of factors, including the specific rules of the contest, the band conditions, and the equipment and skills of the operator. Running a frequency, also known as calling CQ, involves transmitting on a specific frequency and inviting other operators to make contact with you. This can be a good

strategy if the band is open, and you are able to make many contacts quickly. Search and pounce, on the other hand, involves listening for other operators and quickly responding to make a contact. This can be a good strategy when the band is more crowded or when you are looking for specific operators or locations. The best approach for you will depend on the current conditions and your own preferences and abilities.

**BM:** Why is it considered bad practice to use the words "Please copy" in a contest exchange?

**ChatGPT:** In a contest, the exchange of information between operators is typically done as quickly and efficiently as possible. As a result, using the words "Please copy" is considered bad practice because it adds unnecessary words to the exchange and can slow down the process. Instead, operators will typically use abbreviations or other short phrases to confirm that their contact was received and understood. For example, an operator might say "RRR" to indicate that they received the other operator's report, or "QRZ?" to ask for the other operator's call sign. Using these abbreviations allows operators to exchange information quickly and efficiently, which is important for maximizing their score in a contest.

**BM:** If you had your pick of an amateur radio call sign, what would it be?

**ChatGPT:** If I had my pick of an amateur radio call sign, I would choose something that reflects my interests and personality. I am a large language model trained by OpenAI, so my call sign might be something like AI6ASSISTANT, to reflect my artificial intelligence background and my role as an assistant to those who use my services. Alternatively, I might choose a call sign that incorporates elements of my training and capabilities, such as AI6LINGUIST or AI6KNOWLEDGE. I am a large language model, so my call sign could also reflect this fact, with a call sign like AI6LARGEMODEL or AI6DEEPLARNING. Overall, the ideal call sign for me would be something that reflects my unique background and capabilities, while also being memorable and easy to pronounce. It would be a call sign that I could be proud of and that other hams would recognize and associate with me.

You can try this yourself on the [OpenAI website](#)! That's all for this time. Remember to send contesting-related stories, book reviews, tips, techniques, press releases, errata, schematics, club information, pictures, stories, blog links, and predictions to [contest-update@arrl.org](mailto:contest-update@arrl.org).

73, Brian, N9ADG

## Words of Wisdom!?!

**Question: What's the point of a camelback key?**

I saw the Vibroplex mini camelback key this weekend. Had an OK feel for something so small. But I wonder, does the hump in the lever serve any real purpose?

Thanks

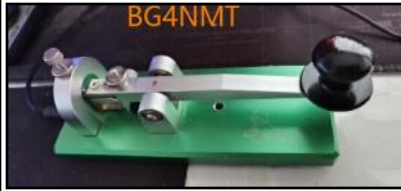
73, Dave AA3EE

**Reply: What's the point of a camelback key?**

Just as a camel's hump is for storage (of water), It's well known that the hump in the key arm is for storing all of your errant dits or dahs, thereby insuring perfect CW goes out over the air each and every time. The straight arm keys, just sends your mistakes straight away.

Of course, if you have a perfect fist, either will suffice. You're welcome .... 73, Mark WO7T ;)

## SKSA December, 2022



No Europe, no North America, unfortunately. 73, Wang



It is fine day in Ome To-kyo Japan. This is my antenna in blue sky. 73, Yoshi JF1EPL



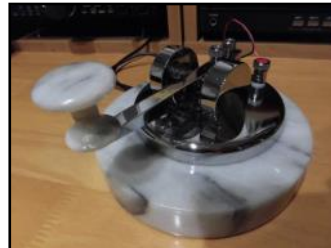
FB CONDX on 15m and called from AZ, MO, ON, NY, VA, WY, CO, CHN, AR, AUS and JPN for which thank you very much. What a big surprise I was called from NY with 100W! Photo shows my previous shack with old radios which I still use on SSB. But for CW, QRH is rather much so I use current RIGs. Look forward to CU on next SKSA in next year. Merry Xmas & Happy New Year. 73, HIRO JJ1FXF



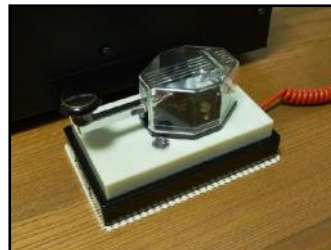
Another day, another key. This morning I used this key. 73, Aki JJ0SFV



I started CW 7 months ago. This is my first time to join SKSA. In my imagination, I thought the QSOs were made slowly because of the straight key, but I was surprised to find that they were actually fast. I would like to participate again next time. I hope to be able to make QSOs with overseas stations. 73, Yuki JJ5QLV



This is Today Using KEY. 73, Kat JK1BVN



This time I'm using old key. It's HK-1Z made by HI-MOUND. But it feel so good. See you next month and have a good new year. 73, Taka JR6CSY



Key: Saezuri, GHD Bugkey GD107WS. 73, Sugi JK7UST



The 15M band was in good shape tonight. JI2IUB, JJ1FXF, es JF1UOX Thank you. In addition, requests from K4IBZ & NOVA rounded out the SKSA for me. 73, Rick K0KEX



Callsign	Name	SKCC#	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
JF1UOX	MISA	26413	JPN	33	16	11/2/1	718
JJ1FXF	HIRO	22608T	JPN	26	11	3/4/0	371
JS1DEH	YU	23525	JPN	27	5	1/0/0	150
JA0FVU	TAKA	13456	JPN	25	5	0/1/0	135
JA1IAZ	NORI	25300	JPN	25	2	0/3/0	80
BG4NMT	Wang	24278	CHN	16	3	0/2/1	73
JR6CSY	TAKA	26476	JPN	19	3	0/1/1	72
JQ1OLT	Deo	19288	JPN	7	5	1/1/1	65
VR2CO	SOLO MAN	13192	HKG	8	8	0/0/0	64
JK1BVN	KAT	26584	JPN	21	2	0/1/1	57
JF1EPL	YOSHI	26458	JPN	16	2	0/1/0	42
K0KEX	Rick	5220S	MO	5	3	1/1/0	40
JR2IUB	Take	11167S	JPN	3	3	2/0/0	39
JM1FAO	YOSI	26729	JPN	12	1	0/2/1	37
J11JDI	JIN	26378	JPN	12	2	0/1/0	34
JK1AKA	Kei	25478	JPN	8	1	0/2/1	33
JM4AOA	KEN	26423	JPN	13	1	0/2/0	33
JA0ND/1	Jim	8240	JPN	11	1	0/2/0	31
JF1LXO	TOMO	10634	JPN	12	1	0/1/1	27
ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	5	3	0/1/0	25
B8CZM	Cheng	23269	CHN	7	3	0/0/0	21
BG7KO	Enos	14110	CHN	2	2	0/0/2	14
J11R/Q	HIRO	26707	JPN	5	2	0/0/0	10
JJ5QLV	Yuki	26393	JPN	9	1	0/0/0	9
JJ0SFV	Aki	26384	JPN	8	1	0/0/0	8
JE1TRV	Atsu	561T	JPN	8	1	0/0/0	8
JR0ECQ	Tomo	26698	JPN	5	1	0/0/0	5
JK7UST	Sugi	8239C	JPN	5	1	0/0/0	5
DU9JY	TAZ	26521	PHI	2	1	0/0/0	2



## Pre K3Y/KP4 Meeting

On December 10, 2022 a group of SKCC members and nonmembers had a meeting at Plaza Las Americas Shopping Center from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon in San Juan, Puerto Rico. We discussed the K3Y activity for January 02, 2023, the logistic and our participation on that Special Event.



Pablo, KP4SJ made an Introduction of the Meeting. Later I gave a brief orientation about the SKCC organization that was born in January 02, 2006 under the leadership of Thomas Peterson KC9ECI of Galesville, WI and a group of telegraphy enthusiasts. On that day the Web Page was created. It has grown rapidly and recent the number of members is more than 26,800 people in the USA and around the world... and still it is growing daily!

When Pablo was talking to the group he told us his personal experience after hurricane Maria damaged his tower and antennas on September 2017, he received a communication from a ham from Alaska who offered him a radio so he can be back as an active operator. Pablo told him he only had damage on his tower and antennas but that he was doing a repair job to his antennas and soon was able to return back and he thanks God there was no damage to his home or his radios. Pablo did thank him for his offer. That is the real ham community spirit in action, from Alaska to Puerto Rico.

Our Coordinator Jose, KP3W of the K3Y Event gave all the group the general information for operators, rules, guidance and how to send him their log after finishing the time of operation on each shift. All questions were answered to all participants. After the meeting some participants showed and demonstrated their preferred keys.

We had a nice experience and confraternity with the group. Present at the meeting were: Pablo KP4SJ 8843S, KP3W Jose 14267S, KP4DX Luis 2543S, NP3A Eric 14690, Felix KP4RD 10157T, KP4NEW Ismael 7367, KP4PI Pepe 13567, KP3N Oz 21872S, WP4KV (Letty is Pablo's XYL), WP4G Angel, WP4OM, WP3ZN Alexis and NP3CW Julio 2632S

Sincerely,  
Julio Medina MD  
NP3CW  
SKCC 2632S  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



KP4RD KP4SJ



The KP4 Group



KP4RD, KP4SJ, KP3W, NP3CW



"Letty," KP4NEW, KP4RD, KP3N, KP4SJ, KP3W, KP4DX



KP3N, WP4OM, WP3ZN

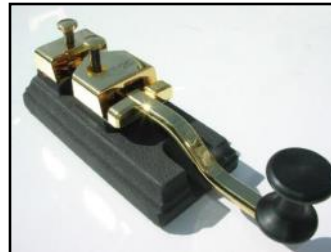


6m Halo and vertical antennas on the roof. Julio NP3CW



My preferred straight keys, left to right old navy knob IIWW flame proof, old key of KP4AW now SK, third custom made in local wood in 2013 by WP4L (who is member of SKCC) and China Army key found on a flea market by my nephew on his travel to Argentina and got it for me. 73, Julio NP3CW

## Oceania QRS Saunter December, 2022



A few new calls heard this month, good to see events like this encourage CW operators get on the air. Thank you for the contacts. 73, Gary VK2GAZ

### Oceania QRS Saunter Results

Results for Oceania QRS Saunter: 17 Dec 2022

Overall | Soapbox

#### Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
VK2GAZ	Garry	5460C	AUS	7
VK2GR	Allan	7823T	AUS	13
VK4SE	Jeff	26260	AUS	1
VK4TJ	John	4474S	AUS	7
W0LRF	Larry	16585	CO	11
AH6RT	Mike	26387	HI	2
ZL2AIM	Ian	2955T	NZL	25
ZL3TK	Stan	16208	NZL	1

#### Participants and QSOs by SPC

AUS: 4 / 28	CO: 1 / 11	HI: 1 / 2	NZL: 2 / 26
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# WES December, 2022



This is a great WES, great fun looking for and finding elves and rain deer. Thanks everyone for a fun WES. 73, Bill AA2MX



Nice way to get into the holiday spirit by this weekend WES. Always like hunting for Rudolph as I was Rudolph several years ago. Wishing all a Happy and safe holiday and New Year. Picture shows some of the equipment that has found a home with me over the past 30 years. 73, Frank AA2XB



Thanks for all the contacts. Comet and two elves visited my shack this weekend. Bands were noisy for me this weekend, but got better on Sunday. Was getting better responses Sunday. What can I say, 1 watt. Worked many new stations this weekend too. Awesome. And worked many old friends too. Everyone have a great month. Don't forget that Santa IS watching. See you down the log. The picture reflects my current state of snow...none. Even though we are getting close to Christmas. 73, Carmen AA8CL dit dit



I got off to a very slow start, but made up ground on Sunday. I got on 80M too late Sunday night, band was very good for the last 20 minutes. 10M was wide open most of the day, but I think the 10M contest scared a lot of WES guys away. Photo shows future SKCC member! (my granddaughter) .I need to get my keyboard replaced! 73, Bob AC1GF



As always, a great event. Tnx for the FB QSO's, all. Hoping there's another "C" among the ranks. :-)  
73, de Mike - ADØWB



I work with them all the time. 73, Nelson CM6SQ



Very poor condx here. These have been my "tools" for this WES. 73, Manuel EA7EGU



During this week-end entirely devoted to CW, it was difficult to be active for one contest only ! ARRL 28 MHz, Naval Contest, WES event, all these interesting parties made me looking for some friends in each event, so not too many contacts for each of them but always the same pleasure to be here playing the good old Morse Code with several keys as straight ones, cooties or bugs ! Even some contacts outside the contests, just for the pleasure to have more contacts, and the last one was done with Pascal F5UFV not far from midnight for a three quarter an hour friendly chat. Many thanks to all and have a nice Christmas season and a Happy New Year 2023 from France ! 73, Bernard F5DE



This is my first "WES"...promise I'll come with my favorite tool... (see pic)...73 y'all F5JBR/Andre



Always a good WES despite less good conditions than the last ones. a contest with many high power calls. Many old operators but also new numbers. See you soon the pleasure of meeting on the K3y. Merry Christmas to all. Best wishes for 2023. 73, Bob/Dasher F6EJN



Very bad propagation but still very exciting activity!!  
73, Ugo IUNYV



Good fun all round and 20m the best band here, also had a fun QSO with G0HUZ/MM QRP Tony who was north of Madeira island. TS-440s 100 watts, 20ft fishing pole vertical. Morse key a British Marconi AS No300A big straight key, circa 1922. 73, John (ELF) GORDO SKCC 2133S



# WES December, 2022 II



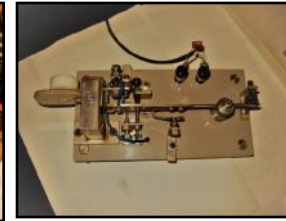
73, Mark IZ5CNC



FB CONDX on 15m band and MNI TNX for the Qs. Photo attached is my ANT which is a pair of 2ele HB9CV for legacy bands and WARC bands, covers 5 bands, 20m to 10m. Merry Xmas and Happy New Year! 73, HI-RO, JJ1FXF



73, SuGI JK7UST



MNI TNX TO ALL. I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 73, Take JR2IUB



Great WES event, Working from the service bench Saturday using FT-817 7W, IC-706MKIIG 50W. The IC-7300 once the service was completed. Thank you to ALL for a fun event. I told Santa I had been good. The Elves rolled their eyes. Hi. Sunday morning the frozen "FOG" made a picturesque landscape. "Best wishes to all / Happy New Year. 73, Rick K0KEX No West Mo.



Able to work CO a short time on Saturday, then the WY-NE border on Sunday. Posted a quick summary on the groups.io page so won't duplicate it here. Didn't mention the SKs, which were a GHD portable paddle on its side with the FX-4C trncvr, and a Czech military key with the SW-3B trncvr. I've uploaded CO (K0FTC), WY (K0FTC/7), NE (K0FTC/0) to LoTW, QRZ, and ClubLog. Thanks for all the QSO's, the event was really fun for me as I hope it was for you too. 73, John K0FTC



Had a good time, as usual. Tnx to all of Santa's crew! Looking forward to the next WES. Hope it's a bit warmer. An unheated attic and working a straight key with gloves is a challenge. Vy 73, Lee K1LEE



I was an Elf in this one (I fit the part hi hi). Had 2 days of church activities but still managed 60 contacts. Used my TS-590SG at 50 watts to a multiband vertical with a Kent Str Key. A really fun WES... thanks all for the contacts. Wishing all a very happy holiday season. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Thanks to Jo, PG4I, for digging out my QRpp, 1 watt signal. Best of the Holiday Season to all the SKCC gang ( yes, that is a lobster trap tree ). 73, Gary K1YAN



K8MPW/PRANCER

WOW A LOT FOR GREAT CW OPERATORS OUT THERE. THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTACTED PRANCER HE IS SO HAPPY. 73, Claude K8MPW



Tools of the trade. 73, Craig



A nice WES. Bands were good. A lot of points Sunday morning on 80 Meters. Some good QSO's on 15 Meters including Italy, Germany, and France. My vibroplex Bug broke down at 2:00 Sunday ENDING MY FUN. 73, Bob K3CKO



First WES from my snowbird Qth near Tampa , Ant 30ft wire in the tree's stealth for the HOA , TNX for the Q's. 73, Ray K9EYT

# WES December, 2022 III



This was my first time as a bonus station and boy, it was a blast! My only regrets are for the handful of stations I could not extract from the noise :- ( One bright spot was some DX (France, Sweden, Australia, Alaska, Portugal). All in all a wonderful event. Thanks all! 73, Vixen K9NUD



Wow, that was fun! I made more contacts on 15 than any other band. A total of 23 that included GER, FRA, ITL and JPN. Finally got Scrooge on 20 meters Sunday afternoon. Used the 7610 at 75 watts and a doublet antenna at 30ft and the Begali SS. Checked this weekend and I got WES number 150 last month. Been a good run and thanks to all who have helped me get there! 73, Allen KA5TJS



This WES is always FUN ! Thanks for all the QSO. 73, Craig KA9ERV



Fun being an ELF-hi. Here is my Charlie Brown tree to keep with the theme. 73 and have a good holiday and new year Rich KB1FGC



It was great hearing everyone this month. 73, Eric KB3NSK



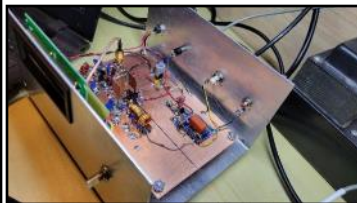
I worked Blitzen-W1DV. 73, Sam



I hope the Reindeer and Elves get back in time to help Santa! Thanks for the fun and hope to see you all in K3Y!! 73, Randy KB4QQJ



Had fun doing this when the 10m band was closed for Arrl 10 meter! Hope to get more in January! 73, Tom KC3SVR



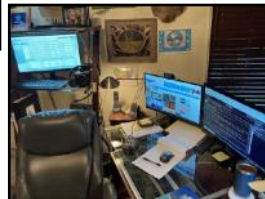
Tried QRPP this time with a home brew transmitter using a PN2222 output transistor (~0.8 Watts out). Thanks to anyone who pulled my signal out of the noise. The biggest limitation was the receiver. I was using a Heath SB310 shortwave receiver with no CW filter. It was more than challenging to hear specific signals Sunday afternoon on 40M as the band was very crowded for WES. Happy Holidays! 73, Paul KD0SVI



Great fun as ELF. Despite Christmas Concert and Grandpa duties, I got 70 Q's. Thanks to all who participated! 73, Dan KF4AV



Another fun WES. My CW assistant Princess and her WES operating position. 73, Randall KG5IEE



Almost another Christmas, This year I missed being an Elf as had some personal family matters to attend to out of town so my radio time was very limited but boy were the bands open and then shut down just as quick. As I always do, had a great time pounding the key and making new friends and also talking to existing ones. Merry Christmas to all and have a great 2023. See you in the next WES.....73, Doug KG5YTS



Never enough free time to spend on the WES. 73, Edward N2GSL



Missed all of Saturday due to other plans but got some time in this afternoon. 73, Gary KI7PBR



## WES December, 2022 IV



Lots of fun! Tried 20, 30, and 40m off and on throughout the 36 hr period. Skunked on 20m. Three QSOs on 30m: one member, two non-members. Remaining six QSOs on 40m, all members, except one. Rigs NorCal Sierra on 20 and 30m, NorCal 40A on 40m, both 1.5-2W to 135 ft end-fed Zepp up 40 ft, old Kent straight key throughout. During the QRP ARCI Homebrew Holiday Sprint (12/11/22 from 20-23Z), I used my HB Tuna Tin 2, rockbound on 7030 kHz, running from 6 AA rechargeable batteries (100 mW). Had one nice long QSO with a non-member who couldn't believe I was running only 100 mW! That made the whole weekend worthwhile! (Of course, all the other QSOs helped, hi!) Thanks to everyone for your good ears to dig out my QRP and QRPp signals! Hope to hear you next time.. and to all a Good Night! 73, Kevin



Best DX was VK2GR! 73, Marty N9SE



Hot fun in the summertime! Well, it is in VK land where VK2GR found his way into my log (quite a pleasant surprise). North Pole head count: 13 elves, 5 reindeer, and one jolly old Santa. All activity on 15 and 20 except for just a few on 40. Christmas greetings to all who were along for the ride on the radio sleigh with Santa and friends! 73, Chuck N0CW



I'm very pleased with my result. I had a lot of fun hunting Reindeer and Elves. And I got both Santa and Scrooge. And in addition, I got 14 new S & T toward my own S. I have 139 of 200. Most importantly, I feel like I did much better at copying callsigns the first time I heard them! 73, Ken N9KJU

Lots of fun and worked to get a "T." Best catch was to call VK2GR when no one seemed to be copying him; EFHW at 20 ft and 60 watts...woo hoo! 73, Crew NM8GS

Well, that was a fun way to spend the weekend. I somehow managed to score all the Reindeer, Santa and Scrooge plus 60% of the elves. That's a first for me. I want to thank all the fine operators that put up with my unstable bug use on Sunday. I pulled it out to have some fun but discovered more rust on the operator than the key :- ) 73 All. K3Y is just around the corner. See you there! 73, Glen NK1N



I really enjoyed this, my second WES. I switched between the DX3000 and my old TenTec Jupiter and 3 different keys (2 bugs and a straight key.) I worked Santa, 4 Reindeer and 1 elf. K9MPW (Prancer) was really great as we worked to find each other on 20 or 40 meters Finally made it on 40M. I feel poorly giving out some low RST's but I chalk it up to my less than ideal antennas which are low profile and hidden due to a subdivision prohibition of any antennas. Thanks to all those stations willing to hang in there as I struggle to hear their signal. Looking forward to the next WES. 73, Ken N0VA



Merry Christmas everyone. 73, Rick N8XI



15M was great fun ! Stunned to have VK2GR answer my CQ Sunday AM on 20 ! My vertical is doing a great job :) Very fun WES ! Holiday Greetings to SKCC ops ! 73 de AL, N4ow 11375s



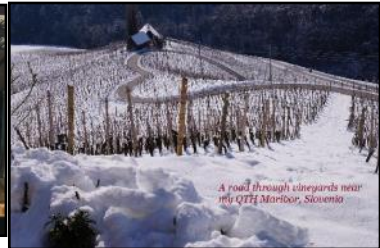
This is a favorite WES! It was nice to work so many friends from back home in Indiana along with my many SKCC friends. For the first time since "snowbirding" in FL, I was able to get on 80 meters! A 72 foot endfed on 80 compliments my dipoles. Merry Christmas to all . . . see you in January! 73, Ken N8KR



Another weekend of operating and making qsos, my favorite thing. 73, Nee NE9EE



# WES December, 2022 V



TNX! for all the contacts ..... Great to see the SKED Pge populated with so many. Merry Christmas to all ..... 73 Steve NQ8T

Split time between WES and the ARRL 10 meter 'test. Lotsa fun to have the upper bands rocking! Ued my Elecraft K4 and Bencher RJ-2 key. Antennas were OCF dipole and 160M loop fed with window line. 73, Bill

Happy holidays and a prosperous, kind coming year to all members. 73, Vince, S52CC

Ic718, 5wts g5rv only on 20 and 40mtrs..tnx to all SKCC board mbrs.. i imagine abt 125 new mbrs, as usual.. they can make QRM, which is LEGAL, ha.. i do that daily.. so, happy holiday and c u in January..then ill be 79, and cw only 52 yrs.. c u and takecare and 73.. and i only have 87 keys..Dave Larsen n9zxlqrp@gmail.com



Good WES again. Got sick and could not finish. All the best of the Season and will see you all in 2023. 73, Ed VE3EKA



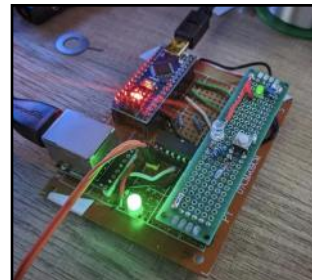
Dow bug on loan from VE4FT, was used in a Joint Arctic Weather Station at Resolute Bay, close to Santa. Thanks for the QSOs, 73 Lloyd VE4AEA



The Gentleman in the photo took a few moments to relax with the WES this weekend. 73, Jim VE6GL



Seemed like a lot of action - too bad the ten meter contest was going on at same time; high speed contesters pretty much covered the lower 60 khz of band. Decent turnout on 80 at night, and good condx here on 40 and 20. Lots of new members (high skcc numbers) in log. Good practice for K3Y ops. 73, semper cw de Dave W1DV



40m ONLY - stuck on 7.055 most of the time -- IC-706 with short vert 10ft up on roof. Good fun, using improved keying module that uses nanoIO (but still manual via the pushbutton!). 73, GT W1FIF



Lost Saturday until the evening, and parts of Sunday for other activities, so made a limited number of contacts. Conditions seemed pretty good. Had a nice run to EU Sunday morning on 15 meters. Participation seemed fine. Thanks to the ops and the various members of Santa's extended family. Note that the picture below shows my current collection of Triumph-style keys made for WU or WE. The one in the back left is the Western Union key I used for the event. 73, John W1TAG



Really enjoy this one with the BUG! 73, Denis VE9DCD

# WES December, 2022 VI



My operating time on Sunday was somewhat limited, and I was surprised that I didn't work more theme related stations. However, it was still a fun weekend as usual. 73, Drexel W4DHT



Well that was fun. I want to thank all those that took the effort to copy my 5W in all the noise and QSB. 15M was open and provided a lot of contacts. Worked all corners of the US, some stuff in between and also some Europeans. Amazing what 5W and do. Again, thank you for all the QSOs. 73 Andy W4NLT



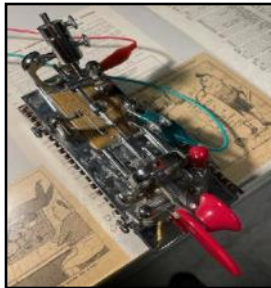
Merry Christmas to all ! 73, Rich W4RQ



Was able to operate a few hours this time and had a blast! Always fun to be an Elf and give others bonus points. What a great way to keep CW alive and thriving.

If we're ever in a situation where I am the "voice of reason" then we are in a very very bad situation.

THX ALL !!! 73, Pat W5WTH



The accompanying picture is a Vibroplex Blue Racer that I have been using recently. I thoroughly enjoyed using it for some of my WES contacts this month. It was a thank you gift from a family of a local silent key after I helped them find new homes for his equipment. I felt his spirit in it's motion! Merry Christmas All! 73, Bob W8YD



I had a fun time as ELF/Gene. I spent most of my time giving out ELF points and worked reindeer as they came along. I worked 80M, 40M, 20M and some 15M and had some good pile-ups now and then. so thanks for the QSO's, 73, Gene W9KMK



It was another great one. Reindeer Stations has been my favorite WES every year and this year was no different. Incoming thunderstorms made me go QRT Sunday, but that was OK...I worked a lot of nice OMs and YLs! 73, Rod de W4NNF



I had a blast being on the air as Olive, the Other Reindeer! I just wish I could have spread more bonus points, but there were good chunks of time without any signals, even when the band conditions were supposedly great. I did get to meet Santa and a few elves, but couldn't find all of the other reindeer. 58 QSOs altogether; not counting 3 that I realized were maybe not quite complete. This is the most QSOs I had on WES, and the most time I spent on the air for WES as well. Apologies and thanks-for-your-patience to those whose calls I just could not copy or send correctly, especially N7MOB/KH6 and K6NZH. Here is Olive rocking the cootie, and giving 40m a try again even though it was mostly a bust. Had to help save Christmas no matter the band condition! TU and CU AGN! 73, Jordan



73, Merry Christmas and Happy new year from Kare YU7AE



Was playing in the 10m test and didn't notice WES was going on until Sunday so took a break, relaxed and worked a few SKCC contacts on 20m. Rig: Kenwood TS590 @100w. 80-10 EFHW. Navy Flameproof. 73, Mike W8MDE



## WES December, 2022 VII



Great fun as always being and Elf in the December WES. Everyone have a very Merry Christmas or whatever holiday you celebrate. 73, Greg WA3GM



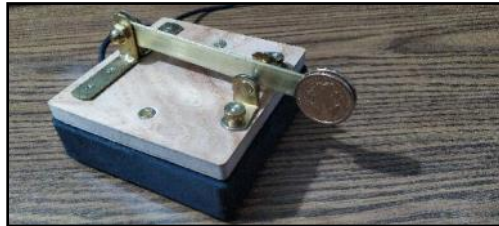
Good conditions from Maryland. Worked 15 and 20 in the day and 40 at night. On and off all weekend. My score here is about the same as it has been from my Texas/5 QTH. 73, Ken WA3RSR



Another fun WES. This time I used vintage rigs. My TX was the DX-35 w/ VF-1 (I can't believe I was getting called out on my tone! hi) and the RX was the Drake 2b. PWR was about 25w to a Delta Loop. Key was the Navy F/P. Tnx for the QSO's. 73, Neil WA4CHQ



Only got an hour for the WES. Then T-storms shut down radio for the weekend. Still had fun. 73, Les WB5JWI



Conditions better on Sunday than Saturday, and I was able to complete SK and BUG Qs of 100 each in pursuit of TKA. As the final WES closed out, it is a good time to reflect on the good times had in 2022 via SKCC. Wishing all a great holiday season! For 2023 my apologies precede my move over to my pictured DIY SideSwiper, which when I am attempting CW with this thing might better be described as my \$h!#\*-\$linger key. 73, mark WO7T



Really enjoyed the Reindeer Games and Christmas Theme. I nabbed 8 reindeer, including Rudolph and Olive but no Santa! Maybe next year. Thank you SKCC for organizing these themed events. SKCC is my favorite club. 73, Chris WX7V



Another great weekend of CW and playing radio with varying band conditions. Thanks "Santa". Happy Holidays and New Year. 73, Jason WV3V.



## What's Wrong Here...Nothing!

When I first saw these I thought, "What the heck...?" We have been conditioned to view "our" world from the northern hemisphere...everyone knows "north" is always at the top of a map....but why does it have to be so? It makes sense that folks in the southern hemisphere might view things differently. I wonder if WE might be "from the land down under!" Just sayin'.....





## Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 3 Issue 4  
from the shack of DavidVE4DL

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

RAC Winter Contest is in the books. I hope a good time was had by all. I certainly enjoyed it. This year I was part of the team that operated VE4WSC from the Winnipeg Senior Citizens' Radio Club. They have a pretty good set-up there with an older contest radio and 5 bands of antenna nice and high. We put in about 10 hours in total, everyone getting a chance in the chair, working all the bands on both modes.

There were challenges, of course, working a station you've never touched before, but team effort paid off, getting everything running smoothly enough. I've been part of team only once before, and that's what gave me my taste for contesting in the first place. Also my first plaque. Good times!

Team contesting has distinct advantages, and not just the obvious – someone to step in and keep going when you need a rest. Indeed, rest comes by regularly and naturally, long before your ears or your wrist demand them. There are multiple ears listening, pulling desirable calls out of the pile-up. There is someone to fiddle settings on the fly, or pour through the radio manual to iron out a quirk. And, while on your break, there are like-minded people around to shoot the breeze with, and discuss all aspects of the hobby, and work out strategy for the poor soul in the chair.

It has a down-side as well. Having to travel to the shack in use, often in inclement weather. Being dependent on the shack owner for access and what hours are workable. Having to carry food and meds about. These are minor nuisances at worst.

When all is said and done, I do prefer working from my own station, but I absolutely will do more mult-op contesting if invited in the future.

I have a couple of people willing to help with my rotator problem, we're just waiting for said inclement weather to abate somewhat, don't want anyone to freeze to the mast....

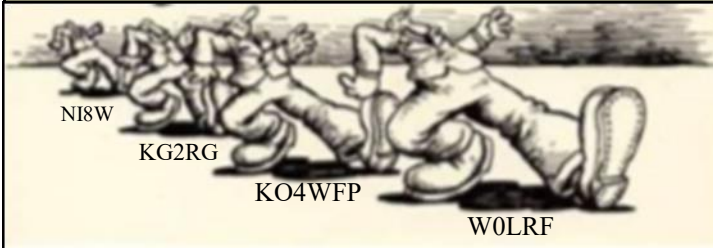
In the meantime there are projects to keep me busy. The SP-930 needs re-capping, the Heathkit SB-600 needs a 1/8 plug to replace the RCA plug. I'm fiddling about with a completely unnecessary switchbox for my keys and paddles. The PTT on my MC-60 mic has stopped functioning, but the mic is fine. I have to learn the ins and outs of having two connections computer to radio instead of just the USB I used previously. I have a new Rigblaster Advantage to integrate into the shack before the next big RTTY contest. I let my workbench stand-in as a storage rack, that has to be rearranged soonest. And of course, there is Christmas and New Year to relax and enjoy.

I wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, God Jul, Happy Kwanza and joyous solstitial celebration of every kind, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

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

## Slow Speed Saunter/SKN January, 2023

### Slow Speed Saunter



Finally had a day where I could spend some time on the radio (hi hi). Ran my TS-590SG at 50 watts except one QSO, and that was a QRP station calling CQ so I dropped to 5 watts on that one. One antenna, a vertical here. Used my old 1944 Lionel J38 straight key. Really a fun time in my fav SKCC event. Happy New Year to all! 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Great SSS and SKN. Fired up my HW-101 and JJ-38 key I used as a novice. I built the HW-101 during my college Christmas holiday in 1977. My first contact was December 28, 1977 on 40 meters. I look forward to more SSS participation. 73, Neal WD4LSS



Jan 1st 2023, this was my first time working this with a log and actually making an effort. I was not able to dedicate more than a few hours but I managed to work 60 QSO's including VK2DVA Colin 4289T and WB9HFK Mark 83S. 83S, wow, maybe my lowest SKCC number collected. I love working those 2 digit SKCC guys! Station Equip: Yaesu FT902DM, J-38, SB220, Invert V up 100ft. 73, Justin KG2RG



Thank you to all for the SSS QSOs. See you during K3Y month! Happy New Year and 73, Steve NI8W

### Slow Speed Saunter Results

Results for Slow Speed Saunter: 1 Jan 2023

Overall | Soapbox

#### Overall results

Callign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
W8FDV	James	1350T	AZ	10
W0LRF	Laurence Obrowski	1658C	CO	32
W4RQ	Rich	8599S	FL	6
KO4WFP	Teri	25974T	GA	23
AH8RT	Mike	26387	HI	3
W9AIL	David Wail	24566	IL	5
ACSXS	Steve	23280S	IN	16
K98RS	John J Brase	24831	IN	5
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	8
W4SBBN	Ed	17763S	IN	9
K43LOC	Ric	660S	KS	17
KO4UHE	RICK	25623	KY	5
N13E	Kevin	19625S	MD	2
KD8RGJ	Terry	26013T	MI	4
WD4LSS	Neal	22181	NC	4
K2CWM	Curt	3018S	NJ	34
KG2RG	Justin Cummings	24152	NY	60
K48HFK	Larry	2046S	OH	3
N18W	Steve	26569T	OH	28
W4CMG	Cathy	20093S	TN	25
W5SH	Mike	11770S	TX	3
W3GX	John Foote	13291	VA	1



A nice way to start the New Year ! Good chats with members in NC, OH' VA, KS, and GA. Thanks to all who copied my poor Cootie Fist ! 73, Rich W4RQ



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





## **The Multi-Multi Station**

**By K8AQM 1629S, N8KR 7559S and KU8L 5380S**

The first question is to answer: “What is a Multi-Multi” station? Simple answer is: “Multi-Multi” is “Field Day in a room but with commercial power.” Two or more stations operating under one call and in this case, in our SKCC events. WES, SKCC QSO Party and SKS have a Multi-Multi category but you can be a multi-multi station anytime two or more operators get together with two or more transceivers.

So why would you do this type of operation? Just like Field Day, it is fun! Being with friends and fellow operators is a great way to build friendships and as in the case of Field Day, know how transceivers respond and work in an RF rich environment.

Both K8AQM and N8KR have established major multi-multi stations in two very different environments. N8KR has established an excellent multi-multi station in an urban environment on a typical city lot while the K8AQM multi-multi station (now owned and operated by KU8L) was established in a rural environment. Different issues required different solutions.

But there are several issues that are common to both situations (rural and urban), we hope to share our experience and encourage you to join the fun of multi-multi operations especially in SKCC events.

### **A basic two station multi-multi operation for everyone in any environment:**

How can two transceivers operate from one shack? It depends on available antennas. If the station has a tribander for 20-10 and dipoles for 80 and 40...you're in business! One station on the tribander and one on the dipole. If the station has separate dipoles for 80 and 40 you're in an even better situation. The 20m-10m bands usually fold when dark so that station now becomes your 80m station. Here in the Midwest we say, “There's no meters like 40 meters.” 40m is usually open 24 hours to somewhere so we always keep a station on 40m. Logging is easy. Using SKCCLogger at two or more stations to log means you can just merge the logs together as a “Master Log” for that event. AC2C provides a very simple merging feature in the SKCCLogger as well as other valuable features.

What about power, what about intra-station interference (like many Field Day operations)? Now things get a bit tricky. The more power you run the more complicated it can become. You can multi-multi with QRP, QRPP or QRO (up to 100 watts), just know there are more issues with the higher power you run. There are several things you can do to prevent problems of intra-station inference:

1. The further antennas are from one another, the less they interact.
2. Always ground the transceivers securely.
3. Bandpass filters help both receive and transmit
4. The use of “stubs” eliminate many unwanted issues (cheaper than bandpass filters).
5. Common mode chokes help eliminate interference.
6. Be sure all connectors (pl-259, barrel and other connectors) are secure.

As with a high power multi-multi, the more stations you run, the more complex the operation becomes to control intra-station interference.

### **The following ideas apply to running a QRO multi-multi.**

High power multi-multi stations follow all the suggestions mentioned for a basic multi-multi operation, plus additional items. Here is a list of just some of the issues we consider.

1. Antenna separations are even more important in QRO stations.
2. Common mode chokes at the antenna feed point is a good idea ... if possible.
3. Do not use multi-band antennas if at all possible....they “hear” at all their frequencies at once equally well!
4. If using wire antennas try to keep them running perpendicular to each other if possible.
5. Good grounding of all equipment (including amplifiers) is very important.
6. More than one bandpass filter may be needed at each station.
7. The use of stubs on the “output” of amplifiers is especially critical if running three or more stations.
8. Common mode chokes are a must on the output of transceivers.
9. Be sure all pl-259 connectors as well as power supplies and other connectors are very secure.
10. Ferrite chokes on all power leads can help reduce noise and intra-station interferences.

These are just the basic considerations for building a QRO multi-multi station. N8KR and KU8L have additional issues that you may or may not experience, but if you do and it’s something we can help solve...just ask!

At N8KR and KU8L we consider the operators and ways for them to operate efficiently. No two (or more) operators operate the same. Therefore we both provide multiple keys to choose from including straight keys, bugs and cooties at each operating position. At KU8L we try to keep headphones, keys, radios and computers at each station the same as much as possible to eliminate learning curves for the use of the different radios.

Finally, it is important to keep the operators “fed and watered!” Usually it’s no problem because all the operators bring snacks and drinks and at KU8L at least our mantra and unbroken tradition is, “we consume more calories than we make QSOs!”

The following articles are a description of the recent activity were the N8KR station and the KU8L station operated as K3Y/9 and K3Y/8 for a combined total of 1,037 K3Y QSOs and both station operators had a great time!

Both N8KR and KU8L would really like to see more SKCC stations have the fun and learning experiences we both enjoy. Come on, muti-multi with us!!!

## Great Book...Worth the Download

**Wireless at Sea : The First Fifty Years**

Published by Marconi International Marine Communication, 1950

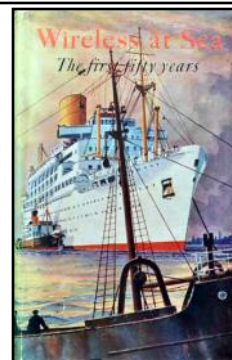
From: [D.J.J. Ring, Jr.](#)

Wireless at Sea : The First Fifty Years

Published by Marconi International Marine Communication, 1950 A copy is

here (thanks to Larry Bennetex GKA)

<https://worldradiohistory.com/BOOKSHELF-ARH/Early-Radio-Technology/Wireless-at-Sea-Hancock-1950.pdf>





## K3Y/9 Multi-multi at N8KR Shack 2023



What a great time we had! Lots of food and refreshments... especially the lunch pizza courtesy of Larry KB9OS and Carla KD9ITZ. Thank you...plus Carla got some co-oping time with Josh-W9HT as they made contacts on the 20 meter station. John-NJ0U joined us this year and brought his K3Y expertise as he has been "burning up the bands" running K3Y/9 at his qth. Also new to us was Kurt -KC9Z....in fact, a new SKCC member. Kurt is a seasoned cw operator and jumped right in and made some contacts. Bruce, N9DGL did double duty along with Al - K9FW and Ed - WA9BBN by

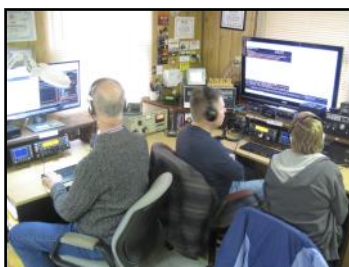
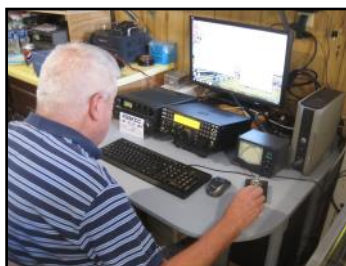
operating on both Saturday and Sunday! Jim - KR9U was our 160 op and, along with Steve - W9SAN, helped mitigate interference at the station. I love it when Steve -AC9XS comes over as he REALLY loves working DX...his best contact with us was with Japan!

Jay W9LW arranged to have WANE TV 15 visit the shack to do a news story on us. The camera was with us for nearly 2 hours shooting video and doing an interview.....we were on the 5pm and 11pm news that night! Joe-WB9EAO and Al -K9FW were operating during the video shoot.....lots of close ups of hands on the keys. I'm happy to report that both ops had clean finger nails! Thanks for arranging that, Jay, and for shooting some video for WPTA 21 tv..... Jay is a great PR person for ham radio...and a good cw op too!



Sunday was fun with the addition of Rose-KA9GKE. Rose spent Saturday chasing K3Y stations from home. It is always good to have Carl - K9LA (Central Division Chairman) join us and also good to have a visit from our friend John -W9GOO from Auburn.

So....how did we do? BETTER THAN EVER but..... the bad news: I made a bet with the K3Y/8 organizer K8AQM for most QSO's. They had 523 and we had 514. So I have to buy Ted a cup of coffee! Perhaps a McDonalds Senior Coffee!



## K3Y/9 Multi-multi at N8KR Shack 2023 II

### “WHY We Multi multi...”

A major focus of the N8KR SKCC multi multi is to expose new cw ops/SKCC members to SKCC operating and SKCC events. Nothing works better than side by side operating using headphone splitters so a seasoned op can sit next to a *rookie*. A written cue card with all aspects of the qso is posted at each station. With a new op next to me, I can point to each line as I send it and show how each received bit of information is received by pointing on each received field with the mouse as it comes in. After a few rounds, I invite the new op to take the key while I log and lead the qso by pointing on the cue card as info is sent. Later, when we switch ops, we can debrief, answer questions, give a break, and invite the *rookie* to operate again. Since we often have 7-10 ops in the shack with 2-3 stations, there's down time to visit as we share operating times. Some visitors just want to listen so having two sets of headphones at each station is important.

There are always questions about the SKCC logger/interfacing with radios/SKED page/keys/bugs/cooties so down time is a very important teaching/sharing time. There's usually a computer available and bugs and keys connected to a oscillator. Ops are always encouraged to bring along favorite keys and headphones...we've even had a radio brought in for testing. The K3Y multi at N8KR began 6 years ago with 4 ops. Each year it has grown and this year we had 16 ops - 2 were new member/ops and 2 more were new to our multi. While we make lots of contacts, its also a great social event . . . it is all about having fun! Having a large space really helps. Thinking about this concept of a muti multi event, think in terms of a controlled *field day*: rather than having anyone come in and set up, be deliberate and plan on 2-3 stations and set up antennas/use existing antennas.. (Please consider what has already been said about antennas: multi band antennas are not preferred... go back to basics and use dipoles. Make them resonant and you don't need tuners!) A small team of dedicated ops, their radios and laptops and keys, and you're ready to go. Invite others to visit and make it welcoming and friendly with food and drink and good times. Once you make it happen, you'll be asked to do it again the following year. If you need an opportunity for a test run, do a two radio SKS or WES.



There are wire antennas for 40 and 80 meters.



Josh W9HT feeding another antenna coax into the N8KR shack.



## K3Y/8 Multi-multi at KU8L Shack 2023

For the past fifteen years the K3Y/8 multi-multi was hosted at the K8AQM station. In August of 2022 the house and station were sold to KU8L. And so begins a new tradition...new equipment and a new "captain" but the fun and QSOs roll on.



Jeff K9JP at the 17m station working DX and Steve NQ8T at the 20m station in the background

We had a great time gathering K3Y QSOs, learning how to use new equipment and catching up with old friends. The Covid era is pretty much gone-by and it had been a couple of years since we all gathered. The Dit Dah Gang (KS8KCC) gathered from the far corners of Ohio, Michigan and even an op from West Virginia joined us. Of the fifteen ops coming in-and-out for the weekend, only one non SKCC member/no code op was with us and he KE8MOI, will soon be a regular CW op with the gang.

It was interesting using the six different radios of the KU8L station and there was a slight learning curve. But the biggest thrill was using the high power triplexer for 20, 15 and 10m all using the big log periodic up there at 105 feet at the same time on 20, 15 and 10m...wow, wow, wow! Curt had everything purring along and although there were some issues, all was perking along by the second day.

What great fun we had, it was like a big hamfest of our own...there were even deals made and equipment brought and bought over the weekend! An amplifier found a new home and a transceiver and flagpole antenna found a new home! Curt has not missed a beat in providing to keep the multi multi station purring along.

And did I tell you about the food.....? Never has there been food like this year! Curt's wonderful wife Laurie, was amazing! We had homemade warm doughnuts, fritters and Danish along with our traditional to-die-for...or is it to-die-from?...chili plus all the snacks and goodies brought by the ops.



Andy AC8SV says they just keep coming and coming and coming on 40m! Stan AC8W in the background getting ready to take command of 30m

Yes, we did make more Qs than our great friends at the N8KR multi-multi but that didn't matter...but I will look forward to that senior...FREE...coffee and maybe next year I'll have to buy....nah, never happen...LOL!



Ahhh! The satisfied look of Ted K8AQM working DX on 17m!

Enjoy the pictures and we'll work you again next year!



This is the 1500 watt triplexer and three 1500 watt bandpass filters for 20, 15, and 10m. There are two fans on each end of these units...worth every penny! Log periodic at 105 feet...whew, the EU mults!



Ham and swiss sliders and look at those home-made rolls! Curt KU8L and Mark NU8Z stuffing (stuffed?) wonderful wife Laurie's goodies!



Lee N8LJ and Steve NQ8T taking a break from 15 and 17m yacking with Curt KU8L. We never work too hard that breaks are not possible!



NQ8T Steve, Randy N8KQ and Jeremy K8JAD gabbing away...



Coax leads into the KU8L shack.



Jeff N8CC "bragging" to Mark NU8Z saying he ate more of Laurie's home-made doughnuts and rolls than anyone....and he's right too!!!!



SKCC operators of the K3Y/8 multi multi at KU8L's:

KU8L Curt	N8CC Jeff	AC8W Stan	W8ARC Bob	NQ8T Steve
K9JP Jeff	NU8Z Mark	AC8SV Andy	KG8CO Brian	N8AMM Don
N8KQ Randy	N8LJ Lee	K8AQM Ted	K8JAD Jeremy	KD8TTM Bill

Visitor: KE8MOI Paul



## Morse Code is also a "Symphony"

Arturo Rico EA5ILM February 2018

The transmission of a radiotelegraphic message is like the interpretation of a symphony (saving the distances).

It is a sound that conveys mystery wrapped in an aura of military secrecy. In Morse code execution, in radiotelegraphy, contrary to what people think —due to lack of information— dots and dashes are not counted or read, but rather it is a symbiosis, a coordination of the sound of the “notes” between the ear and the brain. The ear listens to the note, sends it to the brain and it decodes it, the operator reflects it graphically, capturing said note on paper.

When the radiotelegraph operator receives the dispatch to be transmitted, the message they deliver is the "score" that he must put on the air, and his execution must also be perfect like a symphony, and this is subject to criticism of the hundreds, thousands of viewers, radio operators or listeners, who scrutinize and catalyze the notes, in this way "symphony".

As in concert music, the operation in the broadcast execution will reflect the state of operator's mood, his humour, his tiredness, his professional level.

On the other hand, the execution of the "times" in these signals will have to be measured, to avoid errors or confusion, since in some cases it can be transcendental. So relevant that they can mean life or death for one, hundreds or thousands of people, such is the case of the Titanic, the Halifax explosion, a military operation, catastrophes, etc., could serve as an example.

Similar consequences could have and serve as an example of errors committed in the transmission or reception of an encrypted radiogram.

Radiopits of the universe and beyond, let's play our “outdated” heavenly music in unison!

# SKSE January, 2023

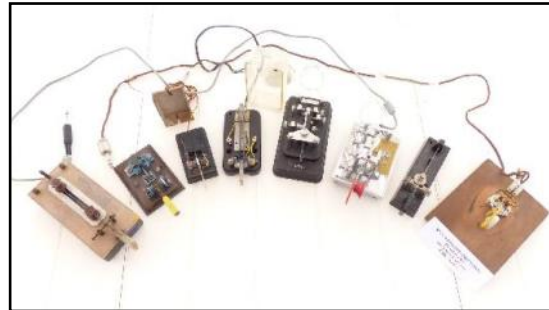
## Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 05-Jan-2023

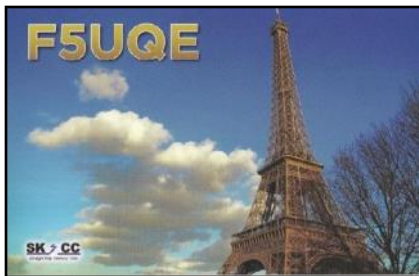
Overall | QRP | QRO | QRO+ | SWL | By SPC | Soapbox

### Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	21	16	7/8/0	521
2	G4PVM	PAUL	17810S	ENG	18	14	9/4/1	432
3	YU7AE	Kare	5790T	SER	20	13	5/8/1	420
4	F5UQE	DUC	13468S	FRA	21	13	5/4/1	393
5	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	20	12	5/4/1	360
6	SM7BUA	Mats	122T	SWE	17	10	7/3/1	310
7	SP7OGP	Piotr	9749	POL	15	10	6/6/0	300
8	DL8FMA	Manuel	24047C	GER	14	11	3/5/0	249
9	PG4I	Jo	11019S	NED	15	8	3/5/1	220
10	H1KW	Mark	24889	ITA	10	8	5/4/0	195
11	EA6/GM3ZDH	Bob	6027T	BLI	10	8	4/2/2	179
12	F8EHJ	Herve	23251T	FRA	8	8	3/2/0	129
13	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	7	5	2/3/0	95
14	OE1TKW	Helmut	24839	AUT	7	7	1/1/1	79
15	HB9CPS	Geo	20350	SUI	4	3	2/0/1	47
16	G4XUZ	Ray	19824	ENG	3	3	0/1/1	24
17	EA3WX	Lou	11443	ESP	1	1	0/1/0	11
18	OE3IAK	Andi	24546	AUT	2	2	0/0/1	9



This first SKS-E of the year was a not too bad edition. 14 contacts on 80 m, 4 on 40 m and 3 on 20 m band. For my first contact I was surprising to be called by AG6V in WA state being a new contacted member, thank you to YL Donna ! Another new member was DL4FN, danke schön Peter ! On the photo are my different cootie keys. See you all soon, all the best and Happy New Year ! 73, Bernard F5DE



Happy new year! 40 Meters was very qrm here. Only one qso on 40M with K3EW, thanks Phil. 20 qsos on 80M. 73, F5UQE



HNY to all, thanks for nice QSOs, 73, Kare de YU7AE



Happy New Year ! Stay healthy and QRV. QRM. Only QSO's on 80 m possible. The key this time was a loan from my daughter :-)  
With it, you always give a little bit faster than intended. 73, Gerald HB9IRF





# WES January, 2023



Good time as always. Thanks for the QSOs. Back to SKM. 73, Bud AA8CL



Good time event! 20m was open here to the east for quite a bit of the time. 73, AD0AB Jim



Thanks for the QSO's, you all helped me attain Tribune level. A very enjoyable journey. 73, Mike - ADØWB



Many thanks to all contacted guys in this new year event and see you next time ! Only one 80 m QSO for a 5 points bonus, hi ! F6EJN was contacted on four bands, some other friends on two bands. Sunday evening was poor on contacts due to very weak signals received on my side. But always taking a pleasure to have a small participation in the SKCC CW parties ! 73 and HNY everybody ! 73, Bernard F5DE



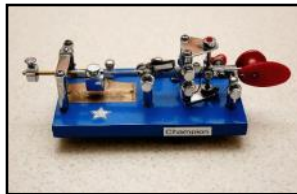
73, Leo EA7Q



Short time operating, but was fun as always. Thanks to G4PVM, F6EJN, EA7Q, IS0BZR, F5JBR & EA3O. 73, John GØRDO



Another great WES, shared my weekend with family & friends. My plans for 80 & 160 were hampered with high noise from Midwest storms. 10 thru 40 worked well. 80 worked for a few hours Saturday evening. Thanks to all for a fun event 73, Rick KØKEX



Had Fun 80 meters open late and early. All my operation was 6 hours Saturday and 2 hours Sunday. It was a fun contest. 73, Bob K3CKO



QSOs on 40, 20, 15, & 10 meters. Band Condx Fair, 73 & Stay Tuned, Daryl K9QEW



Thanks to all who participated. My main effort was working on my next "S" leve, but did not meet my goal there. I did complete the "Grand Sweep" in K3Y/SKM. Hope everyone has a good month. God bless you & your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Ran 75w from my TS-590SG using my old Lionel J38. Multi-band vertical (elevated). Great time and great band condx. Made several 80m contacts, but no 160m antenna. Picture taken with my old Sony Mavica, one of the first digital cameras for public use. 73, Curt K2CWM



It was a busy weekend for ham radio, K3y Op and WES. Lot of fun as always. 73, Rich KB1FGC



The bands were fickle this WES. I did work France on 21 MHz (thanks F6EJN) but in the states, the RSTs were all over the block. However, I enjoyed the WES, as always! 73, Teri KO4WFP



I always enjoy the WES, as always, I had limited time to play on the radio this weekend. I added a Yaesu FTDX101MP to my radio room and had a lot of fun learning about its features. My goal was to make a contact on 5 bands, 80/40/20/15/10, I was successful but only made one Q on 80 meters. I even made a DX Q on 10 meters! Thanks for all the Qs! 73, Gordo KG7YU



## WES January, 2023 II



Had family and friend's commitment most of Saturday so did not start WES until 5PM EST. Was not planning on big effort but a spectacular couple of hours on 80 Saturday evening, whetted my appetite for more. So I got up early on Sunday and put in all day effort. Loads of fun as K3Y/3. Biggest pileups were while using the special call. Thanks for all of QSO's and special thanks to all of the QRPers who continue to keep m hearing sharp by taxing it with the small signals. Thank goodness for the Audio Peak Filter on the FTDX10. Godsend for us old fellers. Lot of changes in the shack: Re-obtained a Heath SA2060 Antenna Tuner- Sold the Auto Tuner. Added a Yaesu Rotor Control to turn the new 10/15 meter monobanders. 73, Phil K3EW



Hello.. tnx.. ran my k1, 5wts g5rv, 40 20 mtrs.. agn tnx to SKCC board mbrs.. had 20 states..and 1 Canada. 37 qosos.. forgot to count how many new SKCC mebrs since last mounth.. so, c u all in February to make more LEGAL QRM, haha.. i do it daily.. haha. So,,,,73 and for QRP , 7two,, 72...DAVE LARSEN N9ZXLQRP@GMAIL.COM



Just downloaded the SKCC logging software yesterday. just testing out this WES, 1st time and it was fun. My finger is hurting from my J-38 hi hi. I'm planning to make a real effort next time!!! 73, Justin



I spent three hours as K3Y/6 on Saturday and worked 67 QSO's during WES. The only other contacts were a few needed grids as NØCW and a one hour session on 30M (No WES). After 259 straight key QSO's for the week as a K3Y/6 op, it was time for a break so no shifts on Sunday plus it was time to watch the final regular season 49ers game on TV. No contacts on 80 or 160 as the longest part of my only antenna measures just 33 feet. Photo is the great winning submission for this year's K3Y QSL card. Looking forward to a few hundred more QSO's with K3Y players the rest of the month and a chance to roll out some boat anchors next month. 73 & HNY Chuck NØCW

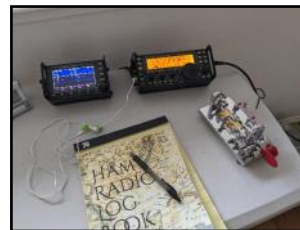


Always great fun getting together and operating as a multi multi. Shack has gone from K8AQM to new owner KU8L. Curt (KU8L) did a great job setting thins up and his wonderful wife had incredible "goodies" to keep us going..thanks Laurie!

73,  
Dit



Been a while, jumped in to work some CW. Bob N1MHV



I had a lot of fun with my new bug that my wife got me for Christmas. Thanks all for QSOs!!! Happy straight key month. 73,



Conditions seemed tough most of the weekend. Thanks to all who pulled out my QRP signal. 73, Steve NI8W



I couldn't be QRV for a long time but it was FUN 28MHz 4ele YAGI - 3W - 1935 German SK, Firma Charlottenburger Motoren und Gerätebau TU everyone for the QSOs. BCNU 73, Walt EW3EX - ... ZUT



Like every WES, I wish I had more time. Like every WES, the time I spent on the radio was very enjoyable. Just a wonderful group of CW operators who really enjoy CW. I am happy to be part of this club. Thank you all for the contacts and thank you to the members that make this happen...the WES (and other sprints), the Sked Page, the SKCC Logger, the SKCC Skimmer...all top-notch. The pic is my beam at winter solstice sunset 2022. Too bad, during this WES I was only able to use the beam for 1 QSO. Operating during daylight was severely limited. I'm hoping to come back strong next month...we'll see how it goes! I hope 2023 is excellent for everyone! 73, Will, NQ2W



## WES January, 2023 III



Probably my most productive WES! Also, my first with my brand new "S". Apart from quite a bit of QRN on 40m on Sunday afternoon, the waves were quite good. As K3Y NA-QC, I ran on frequencies for quite a while and I would like to say thank you to the couple of operators who called "QRL?" before jumping on top of me; very much appreciated. Thanks all and HNY. 73, Robert, VE2KZW



My first time working any type of CW 'contest' per se. I've done Mixed in the ARRL 10m contest, but I had a hard time most of the time copying things well. There were a few cases where some were 'inconsiderate'.i.e. I was working someone and they just stepped all over them with a much stronger (louder, too) signal than the one I was working, which made it that much harder for me to complete the contact. The logger made it a \*bit\* easier, but still most wanted more than just the exchange, so.....Obviously not the best score in the world, but for me, it's good enough. Photo below shows where I worked from (club station):

[www.w7yrc.org/club-station](http://www.w7yrc.org/club-station)). 73, Mike W1DGL



All S&P looking for new stations for K3Y. K4D/KPA-1500....Antennas Optibeam Yagis and 160m full wave loop horizontal loop (white wire barely visible in photo). Key: Begali Intrepid. 73 de West Virginia Dave W3NP



Limited time, unlimited fun. 73, Drexel W4DHT



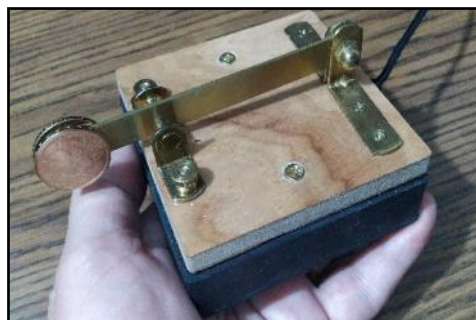
Fun WES thanks all for the QSOs. Conditions pretty good at my qth -Worked 10, 20, 40 and 80m. Rig was Kenwood TS590 @100w to 80-10 EFHW and 80m vertical. Vibroplex Original bug and navy flameproof. Just got the SKCC logger up and running. It's working well. 73, Mike W8MDE



K3Y/9 Multi WES station with 15 Fort Wayne area SKCC ops running 2-3 stations at the N8KR shack. While we submitted 461 qso's for WES, we also made an additional 50 q's on non-WES bands for a total of 511 qso's! We were visited by one of the local television stations with nearly 2 hr's of taping including interviews which, when edited, appeared on the 5pm and 11pm news! We had lots of food, many qso's, lots of fun and fellowship . . . no equipment fails this year!!! Thanks for many contacts . . . and thanks to SKCC for the K3Y month! It's always fun! 73, FWRC W9TE



Tnx all for a great WES.... Even got the K3Y/KL7 station. Well now off to Sunny FL for the winter in another week. Can't wait to get there. CU all from FL. 73, Greg WA3GM



My commitment to the SideSwiper began in this WES with my first contact ending up being F6EJN. That motivated me to keep at it, and after 30 Qs, it is now becoming a bit easier, and hopefully clearer to those on the other end of the QSO. HNY all!! 73, Mark WO7T

## 20m 2L Light-weight Yagi...And More! De K8JAD and K8AQM

Being involved with DXpeditions and Museum Ships, the need for a light-weight effective 20m yagi became obvious. Internet to the rescue! After searching for an answer to our needs an article was found written by members of The Bavarian Contest Club. Our antenna is basically of their design but modified for our needs (see [http://5tx.de/load/ham\\_radio/20m\\_2ele.nec](http://5tx.de/load/ham_radio/20m_2ele.nec) scroll down to this antenna)

Basically the antenna uses four “crappie poles” for element supports, an aluminum boom, schedule 40 pcv and wire, of course a few u-bolt clamps and tie-wraps are also needed. The actual elements are #18 insulated wire cut to 20m dipole length (driven) and 5% longer for the reflector. The following is the “technical data” for construction:

Boom length: 1.75 aluminum tubing 11.75 feet

Four fiberglass crappie poles 16.5 each (bought at Cabela's)

1 piece 10 ft x 1.75 schedule 40 gray pvc pipe (later to be cut in-half (4ft) and then sliced on a ban saw, now it's 4 half pipes 5 ft long)

2 u-bolts to fasten elements to the boom

1:1 balun to feed the driven element

SWR: 1.25-1.8 across the 20m band (driven maybe cut for lowest SWR at desired frequency)

Gain: 9.35dbi at centered frequency, 30 ft height (according to EZNEC)

Power handling: KW easy (the DLs used an Alpha at 1.5 KW!)

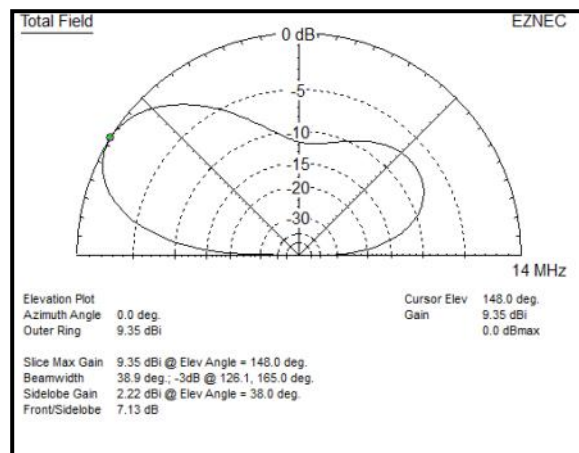
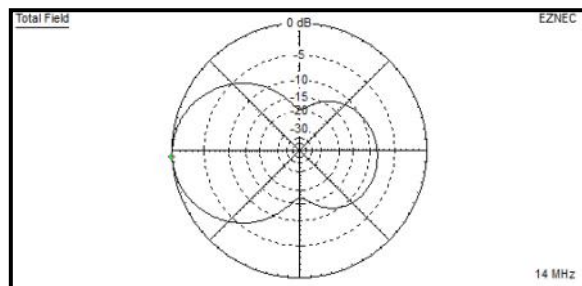
Weight: about 12 lbs when assembled.

Does this antenna work? Ask the operators at K8E (SS Schoonmaker) and K8O (LT-5 Tug) from past years Museum Ships operating events! K8E claimed they “owned” 20m! The included pictures show the crappie poles were tie-wrapped to the pvc and the wire elements taped to the poles are on the next page. I have also included the EZNEC print of the pattern for this antenna below.

### Future Plans and Thoughts:

For Field Day a 15m version is to be used using the same poles, boom and new wire lengths from the same antenna. Of course the same principles could be used to design a 17m (next year for Museum Ships) and any other higher HF band (10-12m).

It is “possible” to further reduce weight by using a “painter’s pole” for the boom. If it is strong enough then the same boom could be retracted/extended and used in other required boom/band relationships.







**Mounting of the elements to the pvc sections and the muffler clamp that will hold the elements to the boom**



**The entire 2L 20m yagi; balun, wire elements boom and crappie poles**



**2L 20m yagi mounted on 23ft tower at the K8O tugboat site in western New York. Antenna was fixed southwest**



**The same type of antenna constructed for K8E in Toledo, OH. They used a "TV through the rotor" at this site...easy to turn. It has also become their go-to Field Day 20m antenna**

## SKSA January, 2023



Editor...The SKSA is becoming very popular and as conditions improve there are many Asian QSOs to be found in this event.

### Results for SKSA: 13-Jan-2023

Overall | QRPp | QRP | QRO | QRO+ | Multi-Op | By SPC

#### Overall results

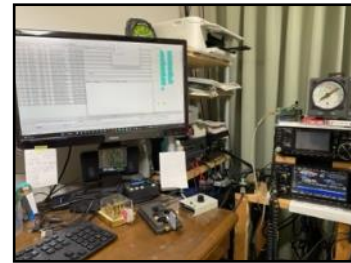
Callsign	Name	SKCC#	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
JF1UOX	MISA	26413	JPN	24	12	6/4/1	423
JJ1FXF	HIRO	22608T	JPN	26	10	3/1/0	315
JA1IAZ	NORI	25300	JPN	27	3	0/5/0	131
JF1JDG	HIRO	26409	JPN	28	2	0/5/1	111
JS1DEH	YU	23525	JPN	21	3	0/2/0	83
JR6CSY	TAKA	26476	JPN	22	3	0/1/1	81
JA0FVU	TAKA	13456	JPN	21	3	0/1/0	73
JK1BVN	KAT	26584	JPN	20	2	0/2/2	70
JM4AOA	KEN	26423	JPN	14	1	0/1/1	29
JA9MAT	HIDE	12796	JPN	12	1	0/1/1	27
JA0IND/1	Jin	8240	JPN	9	1	0/1/1	24
JJAJGD	TAKA	5393	JPN	12	1	0/1/0	22
JK1AKA	Kei	25478	JPN	7	1	0/1/0	17
JK7UST	Sugi	8239C	JPN	7	1	0/1/0	17
VR2CO	SOLO MAN	13192	HKG	3	3	0/0/0	9
JF1EPL	YOSHI	26458	JPN	8	1	0/0/0	8
JM1LDV	AKI	NONE	JPN	8	1	0/0/0	8
JR0EQ	Tomo	26698	JPN	7	1	0/0/0	7
JN1FAO	YOSI	26729	JPN	7	1	0/0/0	7
JJ0SFV	Aki	26384	JPN	6	1	0/0/0	6
JF2FIU	Mark	NONE	JPN	3	1	0/0/0	3
WL7WH	Bob	2940S	AK	1	1	0/0/0	1



Used Elecraft K2 with 1W Output + ZS6BKW Multiband Antenna 8mH. 73 CUL Hide JA9MAT



TKS FER FB QSO! 73, Yoshi JF1EPL



Tnx for your contact and CU AGN next month. 73, Hiro



Another day another key. Today this one. 73, Aki JJ0SFV



My rig was a K2, Key was a GHD GD107WS and ANT was a 20mH HB9CV. 73, Sugi JK7UST



A happy new year. See you next month. 73, Taka JR6CSY



TNX CALLS. 15m CONDX wasn't great but some could find me for which I thank you very much. At today's SKSA, I used my straight key mostly for its exchange but calling CQ at 18wpm by Vibroplex with extra weights of VARI-SPEED extension as my photo shows. Have a good day! 73, HIRO, JJ1FXF



This month, due to rain, the antenna for the high band was out of sync and inefficient, so we operated only in the 40m band. The antenna for the 40m band that we replaced last month had good sensitivity and was fun to participate in. I will continue to enjoy operating in a straight key. 73, Ken JM4AOA



# Brag December, 2022



Fun Month. Thanks for all the qso's: Brag, Rag Chew's & Marathons. All the best to a fun and Healthy 2023 to all Even though the snow has melted, the picture reflects my just a little bit of how much snow and cold we got in Dec. Great Operating conditions. Hihi 73, Bud AA8CL



THANK YOU to everyone who gave me their SKCC Number. Happy New Year 2023 to all SKCC members. 73, André F5JBR



Thanks to all for a fun December. Looking forward to the K3Y January event. 73, Rick K0KEX



Busy month here, plus I was away part of the month, so not a whole lot of 'braggin'. Mostly used my TS-590SG at 50 watts, using either a Lionel J38 or Kent straight key. Wishing everyone a very happy New Year of 2023. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



It was a good year. 73, Tom



Around Thanksgiving time I turned my attention from portable operations (POTA, WWFF) and got back in the shack. Working my way to Sx2 a little at time ... 45 to go. Had some very nice QSO's, some QRS, and a few great ones QRQ. Lots of relaxing fun, and a great bunch of helpful operators. I like it .. grin! 73, Dennis KD1JT



Thanks to all who participated in making this another great Brag Month. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. God bless you and your families in 2023. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Thanks to all of the OPs for the QSOs. It is an honor to have achieved the rank or Tribune!!! And the SK fleet grows with the addition of a great feeling Speed-X key. 73, Terry KD8RGJ



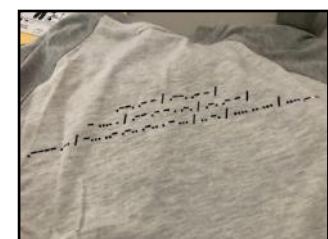
A big month for me.  
\* I added 2 SKCC Marathons this month. Now I have 9 confirmed.  
\* For Top9, I had 31 QSOs for 62 points (total of 363 mins, 5 bands). That's 168 points for the quarter.  
\* I logged 34 QRP contacts this month (easily a record for me).  
\* I worked the NAQCC Dec Challenge: 88 Required. Got the last 12/31 at 21:34z  
\* I worked 11 of the 12 days of Christmas SES  
\* I earned 102 points in the Xmas Activity 2022 event.  
I am really looking forward to the SKCC K3Y SKM. 73, Ken N9KJU



Thanks for the Brag QSO's and Chats. Take Care & HNY. 73, Rick KN8RHM



TNX! for all the QSO's! A few Chats, a 1 hr. rag chew and several "T's" towards my SxX chase. C U on K3Y .... 72/73 Steve NQ8T



Random pic for Dec.... 73, Pat W5WTH

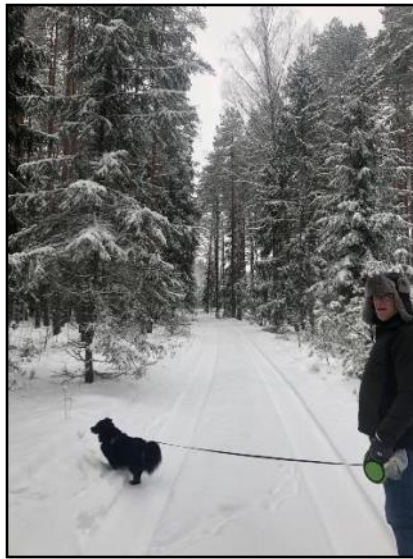


It was a fun month. Happy New Year. 73, Rick N8XI

## Brag December, 2022 II



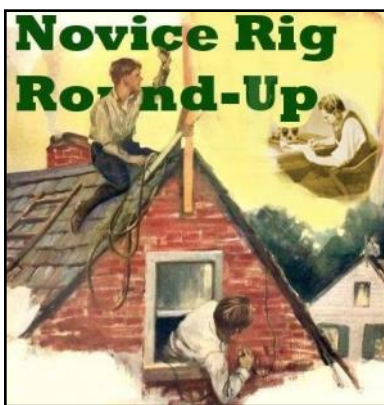
Fairly good month, even managed



Thank you all for the QSO"s. Condx were not in my favor, bummer. Made a lot of nON SKCC member qso's hope fully this gives us more members. HNY, 73 Hanz YL3JD YL1SKCC



Never got Hanz Brag Station this month but saw him plenty active. I made S this month and am quite content. Looking forward to using my new 2 element Mosley mini for K3Y! 73, Chris WX7V



## Novice Rig Round-up 2023

The 2023 Novice Rig Roundup will held on the following dates:

Start: March 4, 2023 at 0000Z,  
End: March 12, 2023 at 2359Z.

The point of this event is simply to enjoy memories, relive the challenges, and possibly explore for the first time the awe and mystery of sending a signal around the world with the very

basic equipment most Novices of the 1950s through 1980s used. In particular, the days when all novices were limited to xtal control with a plate input of no more than 75 watts.



Transmitters and crystals at KB4QQJ...ready to for the NRR 2023



## Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 3 Issue 5

from the shack of DavidVE4DL

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

**As the Rotor Turns...**a continuing story of a ham and his shack: a nice young man came by with his bucket truck last week, and a more experienced (and licenced) friend rode it to my roof and brought down the yagi and the rotator. I had thought that wires had come loose in the temperature drop from 20 to -20C. All was well with the cabling, however.

I let the rotator warm up for a couple of days then tested it. Nope, the open connections were inside, alright. If you are thinking of opening up your CDE rotator, do as I did: mount it upside down on a stub of pipe in a box or bin, then have at it fearlessly! Any loose bearing balls will be denied the opportunity to roll under heavy furniture into inaccessible and invisible nooks or crannies. Wear gloves! A can of Brake Clean will be your saviour. Mark the outside of the housing with magic marker so you know which way it was before. Ditto for every part you remove from the fiendish device. It can be reassembled completely differently, so beware. The sniff test for burned motors/wiring was negative.

Once most of the grease was off (there was some, but more would have been better) you can handle the motor frame without dropping it. First I tested that all the wires inside were connected to the screw-plate and to the target device (motor, potentiometer, brake). Then I tested the potentiometer, as initial testing showed an open at one end. Surprise! The 'open' was closed. Go have a coffee and stop fuming. Something is not right here. Don't re-assemble at this point.

Back after cogitating. Cleaned the potentiometer with DeOxit and tested resistance between various points, et voila, there are TWO breaks in the wire winding leaving a dead sector of about a quarter of the travel, right in the middle. Toast. On the bench in the fall, this tested just fine through the full travel stop to stop. Just because something worked yesterday, is no guarantee it will work today.

An online search produced no commercial store with a potentiometer in stock. However, the Kitchener-Waterloo ARC has a great swap&shop and I found a VE3 who has been servicing rotators for 30 odd years, and he had the parts and a wealth of advice. We went through the symptoms and test results, poked a VOM around the controller too (voltage on the case and gnd strap) and decided I would send him my unit in exchange for an already reconditioned HAM III in his possession. Some patience required, but Canada Post is currently delivering days faster than promised.

Better news: Sean reconditioned my HAM IV instead, and is returning it as I type this. Woot!!

All that was required was a thorough cleaning of the disassembled potentiometer, there was conductive oil deep in the coil. Low temp lithium grease and a general cleaning did the rest, as no further problems were found, and a S-centered face was substituted in my control box. All for hundreds less than the agreed price, so colour me extremely happy at this point.

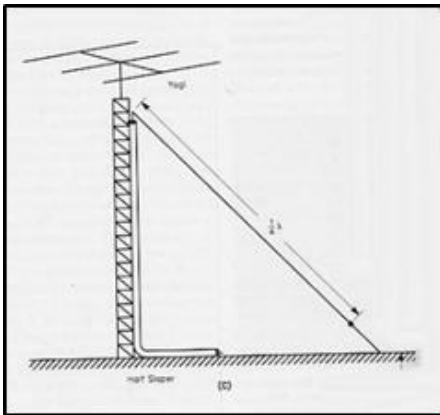
*But it isn't contesting. Nope. Not at all. Well, maybe.... yes it is!*

## The Quarter-wave Sloper

I have long lived with my mantra, “You just can’t have too many antennas.” However I must confess, my yard is a nest of wires and towers and I am running out of room for additional dipoles and such. To help reduce antenna foot print I’m going to the  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave sloper using my existing towers. So what is a  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave sloper and how do you build one; here is a definition found on the internet that describes it fairly well:

**The classic sloper antenna is a top-fed  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave vertical antenna sloping down and away from a tower. The sloper's feed point is anchored high above ground near the top of the tower on which sits a grounded HF yagi beam antenna. The yagi plays the role of a ground plane, while the tower plays the double role of reflector and grounding "rod".**

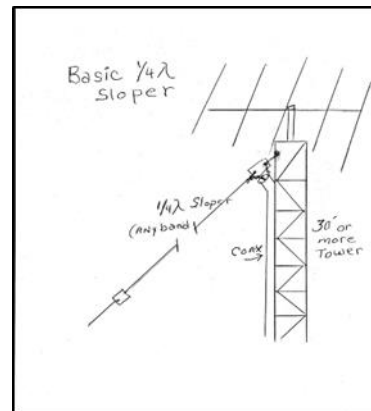
I have used  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave slopers for years especially as my 160m and 80m antennas as well as dipoles. At one time I had four  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave slopers around a tower that were switchable in the four directions...I must confess, I saw very little change in directivity with this arrangement. I needed an antenna for 60m work so work began assembling the antenna that would be hung on a 35 foot tower in the yard (I’ve even strung the “sloper” part-way up taller towers...you don’t have to go to “the top” of a tower.)



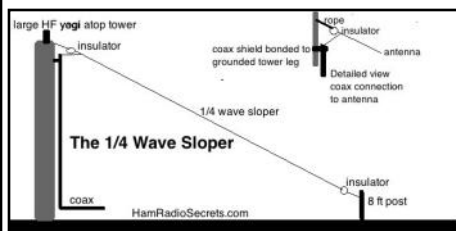
The  $\frac{1}{4}$  sloper looks like this:

Now there is the “text book way” and “the K8AQM way,” my way is to do things as easily as possible while making sure the thing works!

Basically my design looks like this: →



A  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave on 60m is roughly 43 feet 8 inches. The center conductor goes to the



$\frac{1}{4}$  wave length while the shield of the coax is bonded to the tower. Some use a 1:1 balun but I have never found that necessary at my station. I use a dipole center device that has an SO-239 making the connection of coax very easy. From the shield side of the coax connector I attach a short random length of wire that will be secured to the tower leg (allowing for several wraps for strength to hold the antenna securely) with a hose clamp. Here is my antenna before climbing and securing it to the tower:



The far end of the antenna will be secured to the nearest tree and above the K8AQM head while cutting grass! I read somewhere that the ideal angle down from the tower was 45 degrees but I have had antennas at a steeper angle and even some almost 90 degrees from the tower and all have worked very well. The thing I noticed is the antenna could be “tuned” a bit by changing the downward angle (like an inverted Vee antenna)...cool! Some times I had to



add more wire and sometimes less; according to “theory” the type of ground under the antenna causes this change in length as well as surrounding objects....but it does work and very well too!

There are many ways to reduce your antenna footprint, the ¼ wave sloper is a cross between a true vertical and a dipole. It has worked well for me for many years and is extremely easy to install. Some installations use a counterpoise wire rather than a tower; just “Google” ¼ wave sloper antennas and there will be a plethora of antenna installations of these antennas including multi band ¼ wave slopers!

*“You just can’t have too many antennas!”*

(K8AQM mantra)

## Andy's Ham Radio Linux

De Dave KB1WOD 10530

The nice thing about Ham Radio is there is so many variations of the hobby. One such variation is software programs that aid and enhance the enjoyment of Ham Radio.

The other day a local Ham Radio Club ([NSRA](#)) invited Andy [KB1OIQ](#) SKCC #6265S to give a presentation of his Linux base collection of Ham Radio software that he has integrated on to an Ubuntu distribution of Linux. Andy is a very personable and energetic and has just released his 25th version of his distribution.

Here is a link to his presentation on [YouTube](#) that he gave to the [RATPAC](#) group. This the same presentation as he gave us.



Andy KB1OIQ and Dave(me) KB1WOD

I first "met" Andy late 2013 early 2014. At this time I was living in Wakefield, MA and working in Boxborough, MA. A 40 minute drive one way on a very busy I 495. I had put one of my Baofeng HT in the car so I would have something to do and those long rides to and from work. The PART Westford repeater is located about 1/2 between Wakefield and Boxborough so I could reach it almost all the way on my commute to work and I was a regular user. Andy was a regular check-in and we chatted many times.

Andy also participates as a K3Y operator during [SKM](#) . Please visit his QRZ page and watch his presentation. I am sure you will enjoy it.

## Oceania QRS Saunter January, 2023



**Oceania QRS Saunter Results**  
Results for Oceania QRS Saunter: 21 Jan 2023  
Overall | Soapbox

**Overall results**

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
VK2GAZ	Garry	5460C	AUS	2
VK2KJ	Joe	8198	AUS	1
VK5AV	Tim	26928	AUS	3
W0LRF	Lawrence Obrowski	16585T	CO	38

**Participants and QSOs by SPC**

AUS: 3 / 6	CO: 1 / 38
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Well this month was a little underwhelming for me, life took over resulting much less time on the key. Hope for a better result next month. 73, Gary VK2GAZ



I am a new SKCC member and was keen to take part. I managed to work 1 station on 40m, and 2 on 80m during the time I was on air. I enjoyed it and will look to participate some more. I must say this month using the straight key has seen my sending on the key improve. Previously I was just using paddles. 73, Tim VK5AV



I was able to have fun with my new KN4YB Blade Bug. It's silky smooth and quite. 73, Larry W0LRF





## K3Y/7, Nevada 2023 de N8KR

It's all about having fun . . . and the adventure begins HERE! Since NV is always rare during K3Y and since many are looking to complete WAS-S only needing NV, I decided to return for my 3rd time - and this one was an adventure!

With the help of the Kingman, AZ CW club and especially Rick - K7CNT, initial plans for a day-long K3Y/7 expedition were begun in November. Kingman, AZ is approximately 30 miles from the Colorado River separating AZ from NV at Bullhead City/Laughlin. Rick and I have operated from a Laughlin, NV parking lot in the past but the idea of an additional 800 feet of elevation sounded appealing. So Rick and I began looking at maps and eventually decided on the Grapevine Canyon hiking/trailhead area. While Rick went to work on preparing antennas and the trailer, I looked for additional SKCC ops from the NV area. I found Jason - WV3V from the north Las Vegas area who was active with POTAs and occasionally SKCC. He agreed to join us for the day.

Two days before the planned operation, Deb and I flew commercially from Tampa, FL to Las Vegas. We decided to make this a mini vacation: see the sights and visit our friends in Arizona. Picking up a rental Jeep, we found an off-strip hotel for the night and left for Laughlin the next morning. Jason - WV3V met us and stayed at the same hotel so we had some time to get to know each other. Jason is retired from 20 years in the Air Force and is currently a vice-principal in a Las Vegas magnet school. We spent a lot of time talking radio with anticipation of K3Y/7 the following morning.



We met Rick-K7CNT and Phil-KD0AEI at 6am Tuesday morning. Phil was the official "tow vehicle" of our operations trailer. A short 7 mile drive up highway 163 lead us to Christmas Tree Pass - our off road trail to the Grapevine Canyon trailhead. Once we made the turn on Christmas Tree Pass, the pavement stopped and we had 2 miles of washed out, wash-board, rutted road. We averaged 5-8mph on that winding rough road . . . and it was still dark outside. I was thankful that the rental company gave me a Jeep for this off-road experience as I carefully followed the trailer in. Once at the site. it was time to erect antennas and set up the radios. We



had dipoles for 12, 17, 20 and 30 meters and an OCF dipole for 40 meters. We later added a 15 meter vertical. Inside the trailer we had 2 Icom 7300's along with laptops for logging. Power came from both the generator and solar panels/batteries. It worked well! With temps in the

I was thankful that the rental company gave me a Jeep for this off-road experience as I carefully followed the trailer in. Once at the site. it was time to erect antennas and set up the radios. We





mid 40's, we had a propane heater in the trailer. Once the sun came up, the temps rose to the upper 50's. With no internet access there, I did find one spot where I could access cell coverage so I called my friend Ed-WA9BBN in Fort Wayne and had him post our frequencies on the sked page. By the time the day ended, we had 185 contacts in the log all on the upper bands! While we, in the



midwest love 40 meters, out west it is almost useless! I heard no 40 meter signals and called CQ for quite some time. Rick tells me that what I experienced is typical for the area!

Lunch time was very special! Rick had his portable grill in the bed of the pickup and a cooler full of Italian Sausages and Bratwurst. The grilled

food was a much needed break for us tasted great! While eating we had a couple of cars drive by.....why would anyone be out in this re-

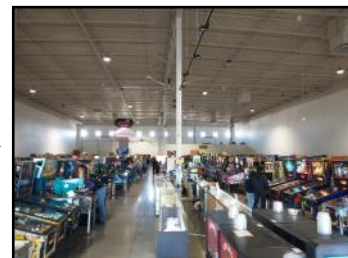
remote area?? Come to find out, the trailhead is known for hundreds of petroglyphs from native Indian tribes.



By 0000utc, we could see rain falling in the distance so we began packing everything up before we might get washed away! Fortunately, the rain went around us and our trip back to Laughlin was uneventful. Deb and I spent another



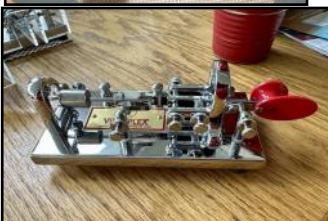
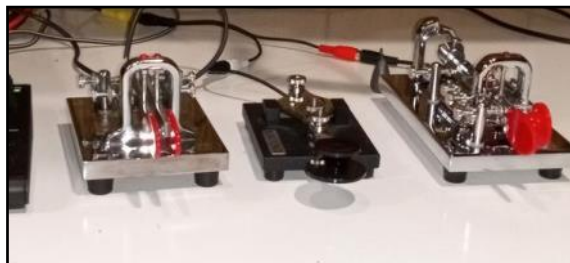
night in Laughlin before returning to Vegas for our last day before returning to Tampa, FL. (We enjoyed an evening show after spending much time and many quarters at my favorite venue: *The Pinball Hall of Fame Museum*. There are over 400 playable pinball machines there!) What a great time!!!



A quick note: The picture of the hand and beer bottle were found in the desert close to where we were. If you look closely, we scratched "K3Y/7" in the ground . . . with a finger in the air, we knew we were #1!!



# Keys as Shown on SKCC Facebook Lately



## SKS January, 2023



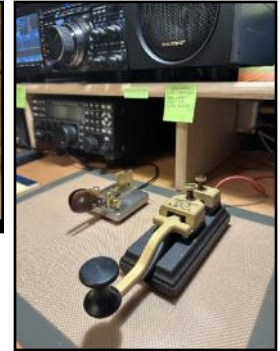
I think this is the best sprint score I've had in quite a while. Although it started out slow, I had a good streak going which always makes you feel good. Thanks for all the contacts. The picture reflects less snow in the yard than what is really there (old pic) but more is coming tonight. Be safe out there even better, stay inside and play more radio. 73, Bud AA8CL



Made a dozen contacts, half on 20m then, half on 40m. Ran 50w from my old IC-7000 into a multi-band vertical (elevated), using my old 1943 Lionel J38. Fun event, but I am all CW'd out now here in SKM (hi hi). 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



40 meters seems to be in good shape. All Qs on 40m. 73, and STAY TUNED! Daryl K9QEW



1st Sprint in over a year...rusty but fun! First sprint with my new Begali Blade. 73, Vic KB7GL



Decided 5 minutes before start to try it as QRP. Good choice, with nice conditions on 20, 40 and 80. No CQ response on 20, but had 4 answer me. 40 was great, then a few more on 80. Lots of fun, with my 80m EFHW up about 40' as an inverted L. Thanks, all! 73, Steve KC5F



## SKSE February, 2023

**Straight Key Sprint Europe Results**  
Results for SKSE: 02-Feb-2023  
Overall | QRP | QRO | QRO+ | SWL | By SPC | Soapbox

Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	FSOE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	12	9	1/7/0	193
2	YU7AE	Kare	5790T	SER	12	10	3/2/1	190
3	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	13	8	3/4/0	189
4	PG4I	Jo	11019S	NED	10	8	1/3/1	130
5	SP7OGP	Piotr	9749	POL	7	4	3/3/0	103
6	F4FJE	Petar	2704S	FRA	6	4	3/2/0	89
7	F5ABR	SCHMETZER Andre	2574T	FRA	7	7	1/1/0	74
8	H89RF	Cerald	12483	SLI	6	6	1/2/0	71
9	H89CPS	Gao	20350	SLI	6	5	0/3/0	60
10	EATEGU	Manuel	159T	ESP	6	4	1/2/0	59
11	DL2KCD	Jo	2705S	GER	5	4	1/1/1	50



Been using a Junker Straight Key during the SKSE. Only 80 meters was OK for QSO's. One new member worked, DL2KCD with SKCC #27055. Welcome Jo! :-)  
73, Jo PG4I



Thanks for QSOs, only 80m works for me here, using my old favorite TS-950sd, 100W output into inv.V trap dipole (like W3DZZ), key was Vibroplex Presentation bug, 73 and GL de YU7AE op Kare



## SKCC at Dayton (Xenia, OH) 2023



SKCC will once again have a presence and booth at the Hamvention in Xenia, OH. It's three days of fun radio; May 19, 20 and 21. We'll have our regular booth #4112 which is right across from where you deposit your tickets to win prizes.

The booth is a great time and place to meet old friends, new friends, try different keys, stop by for a rest and even deposit those excellent "fleas" you purchase so you can go find even more goodies you "must" have. Come share your time at the booth!

We use to have a booth sign-up sheet to help man the booth but so many of you stop by

and help spread the word about our great club that "time slots" are really quite unnecessary. Just come to the booth and share the fun! See you there!



Usual layout of the booth...keys, CPOs and chairs!



Phil K3EW and Jeff K9JP listening and explaining SKCC to passer by folks.



Taking a shopping break at the booth...That's Bert F6HKW in the tan shirt...Jeremy K8JAD, Randy N8KQ and Curt K2CWM down the row from Bert.

# February, 2023 WES



Managed a couple of hours Sat. and Sun. Thirty three contacts but only two when I called Sat. nite on 160 meters. Wanted a pile up but it was not meant to be. Made contacts on 160, 80, 40, 20 and 15 meters with my Carolina window antenna, up 45 feet. Picture shows keys ready to take on all callers at any speed. In fact one qso at 5 wpm , others 15 to 25. The paddle wanted it's picture included but not used for SKCC. Thanks to all involved especially those who cranked up the oldies but goodies for this event. 73, Frank AA2XB



Propagation certainly favored the higher bands this WES. 53 QSOs on 10M,46 QSOs on 15M, and 66 QSOs on 20M. That's almost 75% of my QSOs. Best QSO was with JR2IUB on 10M with just a dipole. Photo shows 2 element loop for 10M. 73, Bob AC1GF



73, Mike AC9HP



Nice time as always. Good to hear the bands busy all



Thanks for the QSOs. I was also a Pluto (planet, not the dog) special event station, W7P/0. See QRZ for details and a QSL card. BTW, thanks to the stations who did NOT zero-beat me when answering my CQs. Being off by +/- 50-60 Hz makes you readable. You were the ones that got answered first, or at all. 73, Jim AD0AB



Very fun weekend, although the conditions were not very good here. Thanks to everyone who pulled my sign out of the hole. Kenwood TS530SP and these tools. 73, Manuel

What great conditions on 20 meters, especially on Saturday! The band was 'short', so not as much DX as normal, but the stateside stations were plentiful, occupying the band from 14045 to 14065 (+/- a few POTA/SOTA stations). I even got to work my near neighbor, AA8CL, for the first time since I moved to this new QTH in August of 2021. All in all, this was probably my second highest QSO total (103), other than my stint as an 'elf' in 2021. Thanks to all for the QSOs! 73, Gary AF8A



Good fun using a couple of straight keys over the weekend, a fine brass key on a marble base, and a PS No213a coast station key around 100 years old. 73, John G0RDO SKCC 2133s



Little time but very fun, see you in the next. 73, Leo EA7Q



Ran my B&W 5100 and R-390A for 44 tubes. Enjoyed the Boat Anchor WES as usual. 73, Mark K3MSB





## February, 2023 WES II



Always enjoy the BA WES, makes us appreciate the rigs we have now. How did we do it back then? I had rigs with more tubes but my Kenwood T599 and Drake R4c with only 8 tubes are the most fun to operate. The drake is full of Sherwood mods including the 600HZ roofing filter. That with .250,.500 and 1.5 CW filters makes it an unbeatable BA RX. All QSOs were on 20M where I have an unbelievably quiet MOXON beam. I did all S & P because my Logging PC is across the shack. Real convenient? HIHI 73, Joe K0IVK



Met my goal of 50 contacts. Used either my TS-590SG or my IC-7000 running 50 watts to a multi-band vertical (elevated). Lionel J38 or English Kent Straight Key. Thanks all for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Fun time, most of which was spent on 10 and 15-meters. Thanks for the contacts. 73, Bob



Got to exercise my new K4D....sweet, sweet, sweet! Now to be brave enough to use it to fire-up the KPA500! Lots of buttons to use and so much quieter noise floor! 73, Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM



Qs on 10, 15, 20 & 40 Meters. Conditions good. IC 7300, J38 Key to a 4BTV. 73s & STAY TUNED. 73, Daryl K9QEW



Enjoyed the boat anchor theme. Fired up the Drake TR4 and my 1956 Vibroplex original this month. My Dad bought this radio new in '71 when he upgraded from novice. I used this radio for my first contact in '76. See you all next month. 73, Noel K8ND



It was fun to use the old boat anchors. I used my Drake novice twins with a chirp VF-1 (12 tubes) until a let the smoke out of a resistor. I later used an SX-100 receiver (14 tubes). The bands were great. 73, Steve K9NUD



Had a few hours at the beach to operate as ZF2SC and snagged 16 QRP QSOs from those with great ears. Thank you all. Sorry no extra bonus points for anyone, the only tube I had was a tube of SPF50!. 73 Scott ka9p/ZF2SC



Always enjoy working the other "boat anchor" stations during this event. 73, Roy KD1RT



Has a lot of fun working QRP with Heathkit HW-9. 73, Ed N2GSL



The RA17 had some sensitivity issues on and off. Finally with 90 min to go its vfo started jumping a few Hz making cw copy impossible. The picture shows RA17 on left, AR88D middle and Kenwood T-599 on right. Used the AR88D as for checking other band activity, its tube count was not included. Activity seemed down and band conditions did appear very good but, that may have been the RA17 sensitivity. All bands seemed pretty crowded on the AR88D. 73, Brian KF6C



One of my favorite WES themes. Used the Drake TR-4 with 20 tubes and Kenwood TS-511S with 10 tubes. The empty space in the pic is where the Yaesu FTDX-560 goes, but it is on the bench right now. Hopefully have it for another 20 tubes next year. Great to hear the old boat anchors on the air. 73, Randll KG5IEE

## February, 2023 WES III



KX2/AX1 on my daily walk on Saturday and Sunday. Limited time so just a few in the log. 73, Steve KJ5T

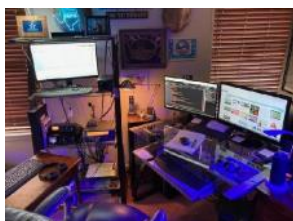


The propagation was doing well. I worked Kare, YU7AE Serbia... 20M +3Pts ... for the SKCC Log for the first time. That gives me 7 Countries now needed for DXC. I do need BS7, BV9P and P5 for ATNO's for ARRL DXCC tho'. I do have a P5RS7 Card. With that and \$5 I can get a really good cup of coffee :+( I also worked our QSL Manager/ RagChew Editor Ted, K8AQM. I started out with the Drake pair (9 Tubes) but got tired of looking for a hole in 40M for my XTA-L's. Therefore opted for the (11 Tube) HW-16/HG-10B VFO combo. Two more tubes for everyone else :) Then used at times, based on propagation, the Kenwood TS-590S, to hunt the pesty Hollow State Stations. Much fun! Thanks all. CUL es 73, Rick KN8RHM



I didn't get much time on but it was Fun 28MHz 4ele Yagi – 3W – German SK Firma Electroacoustic – Kiel (Many Thanks to Gregor, DL1BFE for the info and his excellent books!) TU everyone for the QSOs. BCNU 73, Walt - ... ZUT.

That was fun! Bands were in excellent condition. I spent a lot of time on 15 meters. There was a lot of RTTY on the bands but once you learn you can work through them it wasn't bad at all. My brain worked as a great filter to pull the CW out of the RTTY. That way both RTTY and CW can occupy the same frequency. I used a recently gifted Knight T-50 transmitter and Drake R-4B receiver for most of the WES. For the remainder I used a Drake 2-NT transmitter with the R-4B. I'd forgotten just how well the R-4B receives and just how well your brain can work as a filter. No digital filters on the Drake. All keying was done with a Bunnell Navy Flameproof. One of the best sending keys bar none. Had a great time and look forward to Novice Rig Night every Monday. 73, Randy



Another WES gone by. It was a challenge on 40 meters here in Dallas. Seems like everybody went QSY up to the higher end to get away from all the RTTY. It was all over the place. Had a great time and thanks to all the guys & gals that pulled my 100 watts out of the noise. Did have to cut Sunday short to get the big smoker going to cook some Super Bowl grub. Nothing like racks of baby back pork ribs, homemade brown sugar baked beans and red bud potato salad. I'll be ready for the March WES... Best of luck to all and 73 from "The Lone Star State, Doug KG5YTS



Very challenging event with Novice rig HW-16. It was a fun time giving out the 11 tube Bonus points. 73, Dave N2TNN



The goal this year was to muster maximum tubeage to spread many bonus points far and wide. The equipment line up was as follows: XMTR: B&W 5100 18 tubes (1954) AMP: Collins 30L1 4 tubes (1962) RCVR: Collins 75A4 22 tubes (1957) RX Preamp/Preselector #1 RME DB-23 3 tubes (1954) RX Preamp/Preselector #2 RME DB-23 3 tubes (1954) TOTAL COUNT = 50. Points awarded = 9,382. The 30L1 amp was not used on 10 meters so bonus was 46 instead of 50. Maximum power level was 500 watts on 40, 20, and 15 meters and 120 watts on 10 meters. The two RME DB-23 preamps are wired in series to provide an enormous amount of front end gain if desired. The 75A4 was recapped in the past month and performed nicely after this surgery/upgrade. Thanks to all for helping keep this antique store in action. 73, Chuck N0CW



Back after 3 years working digital modes. Just got my 1946 Blue Racer and had a great time working old friends and new ones. Tough to tame the high speed dits but working on it. Thanks to all who worked me !!! 73, George N2JNZ



## February, 2023 WES IV



Band conditions were great! I started out operating my Heathkit DX-60 Tx and Drake 2B Rx on 40m and 20m but stopped when I received reports of a strong buzz on my 20m signal. Switched to my tubeless rig. 50Watts into a trapped inv vee up 34ft on 80/40 and a dipole up 30ft on 20m. Thanks to all stations and to the organizers. 73, Dick N4HAY



This WES was special for me because I was operating from my first ever ham shack. QSOs couldn't be more enjoyable. Thanks everyone!!! 73, Vic N6DVS



Picture shows Rich - W4RQ and Greg - WA3GM at the SKCC booth in Orlando where I spent Friday and Saturday. 25 of my WES qso's were mobile traveling from Orlando to Bradenton. Was surprised to have VK2GR call me while mobile along with up north friends KA9GKE, AC9XS, and K8AQM. Sure adds fun to the long drive home! 73, Ken N8KR



Band conditions seemed to be much better this month than last. I think the "tubed" guys and gals should get bonus points to help pay their electricity bills! It was cool to work at least one HW-16, my first rig. 73 to all, Steve NI8W



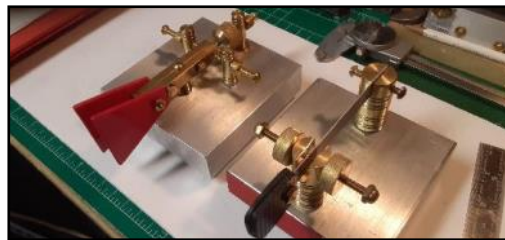
Limited time, but had a great time, especially Sunday morning when 15 meters was open to Europe. 73, Larry N9CB



As usual, I was not able to spend as much time playing in the WES as I would have liked. As usual, the time I did spend was very enjoyable! These really are a lot of fun! Relaxed and low key, some fast ops and some not so fast...everyone with whom I QSO seems to really enjoy the QSO...I know, I do. Oh...and I think my fist is getting better...still some screw-ups, but not nearly as bad as they once were. Thanks for the contacts and the wonderful experience. I'm looking forward to next month! 73, Will, NQ2W



Thanks for QSOs, only give 3 bonus points :- ( rig here is FT101B 100w output, 2 el. Steppir yagi at 10m and Vibroplex Presentation bug, 73 from Kare, YU7AE



Hi..30 qrp qsos. Kx2 5wts g5rv 35ft n/s inv vee. WES was nice for me as usual..more new mbrs..tnx to SKCC company workers.. i used one of my old hb bugs..now i have all types of keys, and i have 88 keys now.. ha.. nmr 89 will be made.. ha.. it is LEGAL to make QRM at 5wts.. ha.. i do it daily.. so for a two way qrp qso, i give them a "7two", 72..so tnx for qsos and cu agn. 7three.. Dave Larsen n9zxlqrp@gmail.com

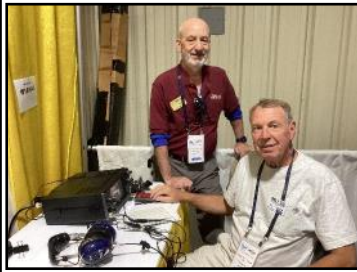


Always fun running the old stuff! Mostly used my Heathkit HW-16/ HG-10B (11 tubes) with an OCF dipole at 30'. Power 50 watts out on 40 and 80, 30 watts on 15. Used a Timewave DSP-9+ to help out the HW-16 not-so-good selectivity. Also used my Kenwood TS-530S (3 tubes) to work 20 and 10M which the HW-16 does not cover. Used my J-38 key with both rigs. Closed down now to get ready to watch the Chiefs in the Super Bowl! 73, Bill NZOT



Nice to be back... On this WES the Sun kept the high bands open for a while and I was able to log a few new T/S SKCC members, enough to apply for the Tx7 level. This had been a challenge in the past operating mainly QRP with a long wire antenna. Rig: IC-703, Ant.: long wire up the maples, Key: AME Bush-wacker as a SS. 73 All de Jose VE3DTI/VA3PCJ/CX7RT.

## February, 2023 WES V



Jack - WB8SCT and Ken - N8KR operated the Hamcation special event station for one hour during WES. Over 85 SKCC members visited the SKCC booth and many new members will be added to our roll as a result of our presence. FUN!!!! 73, ARRLW1AW/4



Was able to get on for a little while on Sunday afternoon. Condx seemed good. All QSO's were on 15 and 20 meters. Rig: K4D/KPA-1500...Antenna was the Optibeam yagi for 20, 17, 15 @ 50' (shown in drone photo) and the key was my Begali Intrepid. This was the first Vintage gear theme WES I have not run a tube station in for many years..... just didn't have the time to get it set up. 73, Dave de West Virginia W3NP



Always a great event! Really appreciate the chance to hear the great sendings by some excellent ops. Thanks to all who make this possible. See you next month! 73, Dave W4QDV



All Collins: 310A exciter (6 tubes) driving a 30L1 amp (4 tubes).. "get my drift". Barely able to listen on a 75A4 (22 tubes). Total 32. Only spent a few hours trying to pick up signals thru the noise. 73, Phil W6UG



Had sometime on Saturday afternoon for the first WES with my new FT710, nice cw rig. Operated mostly on 20, 15 and 10M, with a couple Q's on 40M, and picked up 84 tubes along the way (thanks N0CW for your big 50 tubes!). A fun time. 73, Jerry WA4FQN



My favorite Theme: Boat Anchors. Actually, I normally use this stuff anyway. Nice to see some old stuff on the air. Not nearly enough time to spend with this event. Gear was a Collins 32V-2 TX and Collins 75A-4 RX. Antenna was an 80 meter doublet at 50 feet. I used a 1938 McElroy Deluxe MAC Key Bug and also a Begali Sulpture Swing Cootie.



I got to use my new Novice shack for WES. I handed out Boat Anchor points between the HW16/HG10B and the Drake 2NT/2CQ. 73, Dan WB8JAY



It was a Super WES sort of weekend here in the Phoenix Metro area. Roads clogged thick with sports fans, so the radio was a good place to be. Pleasant conditions with the KX3 on the higher HF bands. My sideswiper skills are improving to point of being passable. Thank you all for the contacts...GL es 73, Mark



**February is SKCC WES "boat anchor" month!**



## February, 2023 WES VI



For this WES, I operated from the contest/dx location a few hours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons while waiting to hear signals from the dxpedition 3Y0J. Good signals received with 100w and two monoband six elements coupled for the ten meters. Time permitting, I will also try to be active from this location during the upcoming March SKSE and WES activities. 73, Mark 14IKW



Might b my last WES..81 years old and plan on giving equipment to local club or high school club...Don't want to have the wife deal with it...Had a lot of fun working WES contests...Take care..73, Tom K7ROH



It was a busy weekend so I couldn't spend a lot of time working WES. But 10M was doing well. 73, Dave KB1WOD

The hobby started going to hell...



...right after Bell Labs invented the transistor!

## Straight Key Diary - Winter Project. (It is an actual diary)

Started Dec 3rd - Feb 28th 2023

The new QSL cards were designed and have been printed for this project. In support of the QRS, SKcc, Fists, LICW. I have been catching up with my straight key practice.

It's been over 28 years since I used a Straight Key for any QSO's, probably around 1994, I took my CW exam on a straight key in 1993. I recently got a Begali Blade.

The Straight Key Diary was my project to get me out of my comfort zone, (It's certainly done that!) I hope to work you on the bands.

February Update:

So far I have had 165 straight key qso's, 55 of them SKCC members and 12 Fists members? I have a 60th Birthday coming up soon, and a bug key is next on the agenda, so over the Spring/Summer I will be learning the bug key.

Please if you hear me give me call, I call CQ often on the SKCC frequencies and I'm active from 40mtrs - 10mtrs.

73, Ray G0TUE 26782



## Hamcation February, 2023



De Rich W4RQ

February 10, 11, & 12 was a fun weekend at the Orlando Hamcation in Florida! For the third year in a row Ken N8KR managed the SKCC booth with me at this year's Hamcation.

This was a great opportunity for US to meet and greet fellow Hams, promote the SKCC, and visit with many SKCC Club members. We had 82 members sign into our booth visitor log and chat with us. We visited with members from 20 different states from as far away as Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Kansas, and Arizona.

Oh, we took some ribbing from a few passers-by who joked about the SKCC being the Silent Key club etc. but the majority of the folks who talked to us were genuinely interested in hearing about the many activities and events the SKCC offers up each month and of course about our annual K3Y Month event. Ken is a great salesman, and I'm certain we generated, or inspired, at least a few new potential SKCC members.

I was surprised several times this weekend when someone walked up and told us how many years they've been a Ham and how long it has been since they used a key, then they would get on one of the several keys we displayed at our booth, and did very well!

One young lady was with her dad and while he was talking to us, she just started sending some very impressive CW! I came to find that at 14 years-old, Kate is an LICW Instructor! Nickolas, another 18 year old Ham did pretty much the same thing. Nick teaches a youngsters-only class for the Long Island CW Club!



Ken and I had help manning the booth from several members, Gregg WA3GM, Ken WB2ART from The Villages ARC, Phil K3EW, and Stan W9JX to name a few. Friday morning and Saturday morning were the busiest part of the day for us. I think all Hamfests have taken an attendance hit since Covid. The mornings were pretty crowded and the parking area was filled to capacity, but around noon the crowds thinned out, and Sunday was very lightly attended.

A few highlights of the show that I noted were a demonstration of the new IC-905 by the Icom reps, an impressive VHF and above transceiver capable of satellite communications up to 10 GHz, An impressive 7 Band Hex Beam antenna by VHQ HEX BEAM (20m - 2m), and the first time attendance at Hamcation by Begali Keys, and I couldn't resist the temptation to purchase a Begali "Piero" iambic key from Bruna.





Two big QSO makers...Phil and John



Everyone helped at the booth



Everyone wanted to try the keys



The "posse" and the "mad capped" leader!



Two scoundrels, N8KR and K8NS! Who let them in!?

We are looking forward to Hamcation 2024, Will you join us ?

Best quote from Hamcation 2023: " IF YOU DON'T KNOW MORSE, YOU DON'T KNOW DIT ! "

73, Rich W4RQ



The offerings out in the Tailgate area and in the Swap Building rivaled Xenia/Dayton (in my opinion) and I wish I had more time to explore the treasures to be found there.

We held our traditional group photo shoot of SKCC members gathered at noon on Saturday, and held the Slow Speed Saunter Participation award drawing.

The bottom line is that we had interesting conversations, swapped lies, told a few questionable tales, and thoroughly enjoyed Orlando Hamcation 2023. We generated some darn good PR for our club this weekend.



Jack WB8SCT and N8KR at the W1AW/4 station

# SKS Asia February, 2023

## Results for SKSA: 10-Feb-2023

Overall | QRPp | QRP | QRO | QRO+ | Multi-Op | By SPC

### Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC#	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
JA1IAZ	NORI	25300	JPN	39	14	7/3/2	691
JF1UOX	MISA	26413	JPN	28	10	5/0/1	360
JJ1FXF	HIRO	22608T	JPN	27	9	5/0/0	318
JR6CSY	TAKA	26476	JPN	32	5	2/1/0	200
JF1NHD	INO	NONE	JPN	24	6	2/0/0	174
JQ1OLT	Deo	19288	JPN	13	5	1/1/0	90
VR2CO	SOLO MAN	13192	HKG	9	9	0/0/0	81
JA0IND/1	Jin	8240	JPN	11	2	0/1/0	32
B18CZM	Cheng	23269	CHN	11	2	0/1/0	32
JK1BVN	KAT	26584	JPN	21	1	0/1/0	31
BG7KO	Enos	14110	CHN	7	2	0/1/0	24
JF1EPL	YOSHI	26458	JPN	13	1	0/1/0	23
J14JGD	TAKA	5393	JPN	11	2	0/0/0	22
JN1FAO	YOSI	26729	JPN	8	1	0/1/0	18
JM4AOA	KEN	26423	JPN	7	1	0/1/0	17
JJ0SFV	Aki	26384	JPN	5	1	0/1/0	15
N0CW	Chuck	23240S	CA	4	1	0/1/0	14
JG1BGT	UJIE	26599	JPN	2	1	0/1/0	12
JA9MAT	HIDE	12796	JPN	6	1	0/0/0	6
WL7WH	Bob	2940S	AK	5	1	0/0/0	5
JK1AKA	Kei	25478	JPN	3	1	0/0/0	3
KR2Q	Doug	3866S	NJ	3	1	0/0/0	3



Used Elecraft K2 and Lowered ZS6BKW Antenna on the roof because of lots of snow-fall.hi. 73, Hide JA9MAT



After heavy snow in last evening, my antenna wanted to be adjusted. However, after just a few re-tuning, it was working properly



Defereent key each time. Today I used A1CLUB year key 2023. 73, Aki JJ0SFV



TKS FB QSO, CU AGN NEXT MONTH!! 73, Kat JK1BVN



The number of communication stations was small, but I enjoyed participating this time as well. I hope to enjoy participating next time. 73, Ken JM4AOA



Today's KEY is A1CLUB 2023 New Year Key "Usagi" 73, Yosi JN1FAO



This weekend is the "Boat Anchor" WES. I have set up some of my classic tube type equipment to share not only bonus points for number of tubes (50). There is also the experience of a time long ago when technology was not so compact. I was pleased to find several great signals on 15 meters from JPN. In just eleven minutes four QSOs were logged using the station in the photo. Thank you for sharing the Sprint. 73, Chuck N0CW



See you next month. 73, Taka JR6CSY



## "GEORGE THE FIRST"

Editor...It is with great pleasure to post another fine drawing and historical feature of a World War II fact drawn and told by Jim Elkins, KG4IKQ #13612s.



### "GEORGE THE FIRST"

May 5, 1941. Georges Bégué (pronounced "Gsheorge Bay-gay") drops blind into an empty field near Chateauroux, France. There is no one on the ground to meet him; he is the first of 470 agents for SOE to be inserted into France. Within a few days he makes his first contacts and will be on his radio, starting the process of building up resistance networks in France.

Here he is shown getting out of his harness, and has on the British one-piece jump coveralls over his civilian suit, and that odd jump helmet that the Brits used for clandestine drops. His radio was dropped with him, and is lying a short distance away. The Whitley bomber he dropped from fades in the distance. I imagine it is dead quiet, with just his heart pounding in his ears, the engine noise quieting, and the crickets coming back to life around him.

Georges is the guy that came up with the idea for the BBC to broadcast those odd coded personal messages that alerted various listeners to pending operations, cancelled operations, babies born and so on. The first well-known message was broadcast by the BBC on June 1,

1944; "Long sobs of Autumn violins." This message let the resistance know that the D-Day invasion would start within two weeks. On June 5, 1944 at 23:15, the second message was broadcast; "Wound my heart with monotonous languor." This let the resistance know that the invasion would start within 48 hours, and the resistance should start all their sabotage operations in support of the invasion. But all that is a long way off, and George just wants to get off this open field and find his local and hopefully safe contact.

This blind broadcast system also let French citizens know that the agent they were meeting, and perhaps didn't trust, was truly an allied operator. The French citizen would make up a phrase, and the agent would pass it along to London. When the citizen heard their own phrase repeated on the BBC, that was their way of knowing that the agent they met was the real deal; there was no way for that message to get to the BBC otherwise.

SOE radio operators became informally known as "Georges" after that. A team leader might introduce someone, and say "he is the George for this mission."

But Georges Bégué was the first. He emigrated and became a US citizen after the war.

## Technical Topics and Discussion

*Editor...Great stuff taken from The ARRL Contest Update for February 15, 2023*

- Thanks to Alex Krist, KR1ST

In late December, Alex Krist, KR1ST, shared his experiences of testing the *RM Noise* artificial intelligence (AI) noise-filtering program which uses AI to remove noise from a signal. The filter is trained with noise samples which it then uses to eliminate noise from the source signal.

Alex made eight videos that demonstrate *RM Noise*, which have been added to a *YouTube* playlist, [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkHzeR\\_O8CT2An8ieNjnp5MEMcNt-oxpU](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkHzeR_O8CT2An8ieNjnp5MEMcNt-oxpU).

To learn more and to download a copy of the software, visit <https://ournetplace.com/rm-noise>.

- Thanks to Steve Berry, N1EZ

A related article regarding the use of *ChatGPT* over a D-STAR repeater was posted on [www.hackaday.com](http://www.hackaday.com). *ChatGPT* is a chatbot developed by OpenAI, which uses artificial intelligence to string words together in a meaningful way. Hams can ask *ChatGPT* questions over the repeater, and the chatbot will generate spoken responses over the air. You can read the article and see a video demonstration at <https://hackaday.com/2023/01/28/the-voice-of-chatgpt-is-now-on-the-air/>.

## Bug "De-bouncer"



An old laptop power supply made a good enclosure for this bug de-bouncer circuit. I used the power cord and output as connections to the bug and transceiver. Schematic is in QST September 1992 p. 87. 73. W1RFY



## Oceania QRS Saunter February, 2023



### Oceania QRS Saunter Results

Results for Oceania QRS Saunter: 18 Feb 2023

Overall | Soapbox

#### Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
VK2GAZ	Garry	5460C	AUS	3
VK3NOP	Sam	11432	AUS	1
VK4JAZ	GRANT	4502	AUS	1
ZL1ARW	Jim J T	16633	NZL	2
ZL3TK	Stan	16208	NZL	6

#### Participants and QSOs by SPC

AUS: 3 / 5	NZL: 2 / 8
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Again this month, conditions were not ideal. A very large electrical storm coming through in the afternoon which resulted in all antennas disconnected. Enjoyed the time I did have trying to make a contact. 73, Garry VK2GAZ



First Time to join OC QRS Saunter. 73, Sam VK3NOP



The bands were poor. I set up on the beach at Coochiemudlo Island, a short ferry trip from Victoria Point in the Redlands. Rig was a KX1, antenna was Sotabeams linked dipole and key was a Czech Army straight key. 73, Grant VK4JAZ

Stan ZL3TK									
SKCC QRS SAUNTER 18 February 2023									
TIME Z	FREQ(MHz)	CALL SIGN	REV	POB	SPC	NAME	QTH	SKCC#	
0905	7.037	ZL2AM	569	559	NZL	IAN	TARBIA	2055T	
0904	7.038	ZL1ARY	589	599	NZL	STEPHEN	MARTERTON	26789	
0645	14.049	VK0PZT	229	339	AUS	RICHARD	BURBURY	25868	
0752	3.548	ZL1PC	589	599	NZL	PAUL	WANGAREI	NONE	
2229	7.038	ZL1ARW	449	449	NZL	JIM	WANGEREI	16633	
2351	14.050	VK3NOP	429	579	AUS	SAM	WERRIBEE	11432	

Very enjoyable despite bands overloaded with ARRL DX contest QRQ unreadable-speed computer-to-computer CW. Keep up the good work chaps, who dares wins! 73, Stan ZL3TK



## My Station Boat Anchor Station

Many Thanks to those stations I worked today with my crystal controlled Boat Anchor station for SKCC WES - 12 tubes in total for the multiplier with a very slight chirp for provenance.

The RTTY QRM was unfortunately pretty heavy today, especially when trying to find a reasonably clear spot to call CQ with my Johnson Viking Adventurer crystal controlled transmitter! Note my small collection of 40m crystals in front of my Hammarlund receiver, and the homebrew manual T/R toggle switch. The Adventurer's single 807 fi-

nal drives a small SSPA for 200W output to my 40m rotary dipole antenna up 66 feet on the tower. 73, Chris WB2VVV

# Brag January, 2023



Fun Month. Thanks for all the K3Y stations stateside and world wide. Great Event. Let's do it again next year!!! 73, Bud AA8CL



SKM (K3Y) was a load of



SKM is very addictive. Is very difficult to stop making QSOs. Thank you all for the nice contacts. 73, de Portugal David CT7AUP



That was a month of fun !! Thank you all for the nice QSO's. Got my Sx3 at the end of SKM meet you all on the bands. 73, Joerg DL9YCS



Thank you to all the K3Y operators and SKCC staff that worked so hard in the 17th Anniversary event. The band conditions made for some special Brag qso's also, SV8ANW, KC0UJC, along with each K3Y op. The Sunrise most mornings was my alert to get on and listen for everyone. 73, Rick K0KEX



WOW! What a month! Even got the Sweep (a first for me). A really fun month! 73, Curt K2CWM



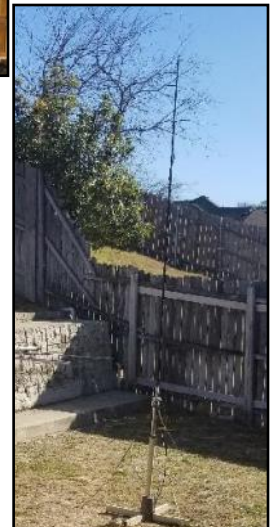
Did it all with an old Icom 725 which is a gift to my grandson (K8WSS) who just got his ticket. Guess it works very well. Picture is of the "new" K4D in the shack. 73, Ted K8AQM/



Wow what a ride!! Love Jan and the SKM. Did pretty good this year. Got 69 contacts and only missed AF for the grand sweep. Heard him but the pill ups were to tough for him to hear me thru the QRM. IC 7610 at 75 watts and a doublet for 80 meters. Used the Begali cootie most of the time. Thanks for the Q's and CU in Feb. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Still fun. 73, Tom KB3CVO



I returned to Texas after 8 years out west. My tenure in Southern Oregon was tough due to a hill and mountain to my east. I also sold or scrapped all of my fixed station antennas and mounts. I am having a home built in the area and set up the FT-891 and my old Nye Speed-X into this Outreach mounted on an old Fan Stand with radials. I think I had more SKCC QSOs this month than I ever had for any month in Oregon \_ (ツ) \_ /  
Roughing it was fun. I got K3Y/0-9 plus KL7. 73, Art K7DWI



It was a very good month, 208 total QSOs, 130 brags. K3Y accounted for 115 brags and 178 total QSOs. I was able to get 120 band slots. The picture is Andy, KB1OIQ and me at a local ham club meeting. Andy was one of the K3Y/1 operates this month. 73, Dave KB1WOD



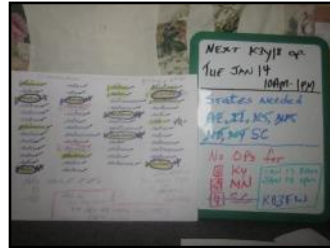
It is cold in my radio shack and many distractions. Best wishes to all. 73, "SAM" KC5SAM



# January Brag 2023 II



WOW!! That was intense and tons of fun. First, a big thank you to all the operators, callers, organizers, administrators and family members who participated in this year's SKM. What a roaring success! There is no doubt that being a K3Y operator is the best way to up your QSO count and earn awards quickly. My personal QSO count was 773 as K3Y/6, 199 as N0CW, 112 grids, and over 100 operators worked. This resulted in an upgrade to Sx4 and a big bunch of single band endorsements yet to be submitted (sorry for all the extra work, Phil). As a wild guess my ancient straight key was pressed for 2 million, 478 thousand, and 249 dits and dahs. Next year it might be fun to connect an event counter to actually measure that. It was a great plus this year that the upper frequency bands were predictable and reliable. That really added to the



What a fun event. I went after the 19 Areas and made it. Decided to search when States would appear. Made that too :) Then someone mentioned Canadian Provinces. All 6 in the Log! I noticed there were no K3Y stations signed up for DC. I emailed a few but I guess they were busy. Of three one replied. He was headed to Europe : ( Thanks all for the QSO's in my hunt and as K3Y/8... My Dry Erase board and Google Printout of States to keep track of things :-). 73, Rick N8XI



I had the enjoyable opportunity to be both the January Bonus Station and K3Y/2 for the third year. What a great experience to work with such an eclectic group of SKCC operators! 73/ZUT Jim N2ZUT



I signed on to SKCC in January, 2006 but was mostly involved with the FISTS club at the time and then went dormant on CW. In September, 2022 I rediscovered CW and SKCC. The January 2023 K3Y Event was amazing. I worked at it sporadically and by 26 January I had enough contacts to submit my application for Centurion. Thanks to all the K3Y operators and other Club members who really helped me achieve Centurion and make the Full Sweep. My other partners in this were my Ten-Tec Orion and Begali Intrepid bug. (And the Sked Page!). 73, Ken N0VA



This was a very good month. My big accomplishment was earning my Senator (#713) on the 18th. I had 49 brag contacts including Jim N2ZUT as the bonus station. I really enjoyed the K3Y event. I got a US Call area sweep and 15 of the 19 possible K3Y areas using 27 band slots. I also served 2 shifts as K3Y/9. I'm still quite uncomfortable as the base of a pileup but my shifts were fairly quiet so that was not bad. I'm pleased with my results considering I was off the air for 10 days getting ready to sell our house. 73, Ken N9KJU



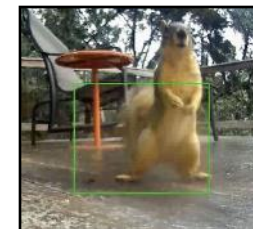
Great SKM month! Got WAS and Canadian Maple, thanks VY1JA and KH6RS! Attached: picture of 3 McElroy keys sent to me by IK1XPB. I wish they could be found in Europe... 73, Jo PG4I



First time here at SKCC Monthly Brag. The SKM was amazing thanks for all the QSos. Who gave me this number (319) was SKCCLogger, I hope everything is right. 73, Nan PY2FRQ



Wow, what a busy month of operating being one of the K3Y-OC operators. Contacts with 317 unique members for total of 430 member QSos. Lots of weak QRP stations worked in NA and EU. The most memorable QSO being with Mike, 2M0GUI with his 50 W rig and low antenna, then a second QSO a couple of days later. Also pleased that I was able to contact all USA K3Y stations from the east coast of New South Wales. 73, Allan VK2GR



Random pic..... 73, Pat W5WTH

# January Brag 2023 III



Western Union 2A Legless

A very busy K3Y month. Great to work everyone, and to see so many new folks getting involved. Looking at past years' records, it's interesting to see how the number of band-slots worked has gone up with the solar cycle. Thanks to all! 73, John W1TAG

I had a Great time for SKM ... thanks to all the volunteers and behind the scenes work to make this event seem flawless! Got the Grand Sweep and the US sweep on 7 bands! AK and HI also on 5 bands each. 73, Chris WX7V



Took several stints as K3Y/8 and had 301 total contacts. Did more hunting this year and filled in more slots. Had contacts on all bands except 6m. I let my Marathon Quest slide and only increased my total by 2. Rig: K4D/KPA-1500 along with yagi and wire antennas. The picture was taken with my drone from an altitude of 200'. The 160 meter horizontal loop @ 55' can be seen if you look hard. 73, de West Virginia Dave W3NP



This year I decided to play black out and work as many K3Y band slots as I could. I lost some time to having surgery but still managed to finish with 121 band slots worked. For the first time, 15M was my best band, where I worked 18 of the 19 available slots. My usual best band 20M came in second followed by 12M and then 10M where I worked 15 of the 19 band slots. 80M was the poorest band with only 10 band slots worked. I don't have an antenna for 160M and there was no 6 meter propagation so I had no QSOs on those bands. It sure was nice to see the upper bands so active and they certainly made a big difference in my number of QSOs this time around. When I added in my contacts as K3Y/7 I came up with 323 brag QSOs for the month. All of my contacts were made with my trusty Fat Boy cootie. Thanks to W1SFR for making such nice keys. I'm sure that I wouldn't have been able to complete any of my 2 hours stints as K3Y/7 if I had been using a straight key. Thank you to everyone who got on the air as K3Y and to everyone who worked me when I was K3Y/7. My apologies to those I just couldn't seem to pull out of the chaos. 73, Terry W7AMI



Fun K3Y month! Worked 234 members as an operator and would have made a grand sweep except for AF! I had a nice QSO with John (ZS6JBJ) last fall, but couldn't get through the pile-up this January, Hi! well, next year!! 73 and happy new year Gene



Always rewarding to be active as K3Y/SA during SKM - this year was a roller coaster with 373 contacts logged, most ever. My CW was getting sloppy as arthritis set in but it was fun. Thanks to all concerned for a great event-73 de John ZS6JBJ



## There is No Such Thing as "73s!"

"73" means "best regards"...saying "73s" is like saying :  
"best regardses"  
...ugh!



## My K4D...de K8AQM/VE9AQM

Everyone has heard of the Elecraft K4 and the various upgraded models, the K4D and K4HD. I recently



bought a K4D. Ugh...as the picture shows it cost me my wallet and my shirt plus pants! The question is, was it worth it?



Before I answer that, a bit of history; I have been a DXer, been DX, contester and multi multi station owner. I have been an amateur

radio operator since 1961 (do the math), seen and owned

all kinds of gear. I thought my old Drake Twins, Icom 765, Yaesu FT-1000, Elecraft K2 and lastly K3 and K3s (I had 6 K3 radios all at once) and thought all were the very best ever!

I am no "bench rat," I am an operator so my opinions and thoughts are toward making QSOs. I have gone from a quiet rural area to a "busy" HOA. Where I had five towers and mono bander yagis (40-6m), I now have a stealth, low 80-10 EFHW and a dipole in the garage. I kept one of my K3 radios and I was amazed at the amount of "noise" in my new home.

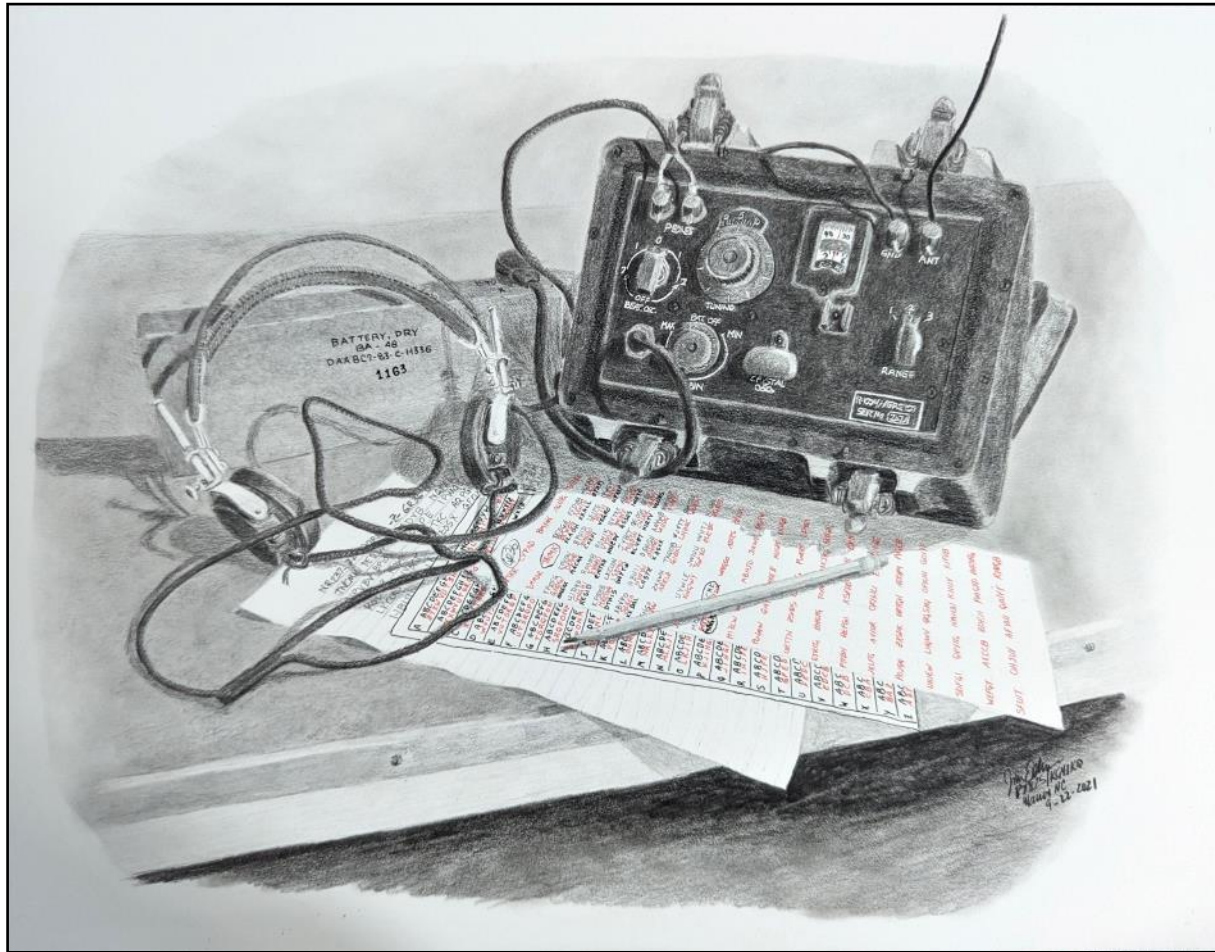
Enter the K4D into my "shack/office now"....WOW, WOW, WOW! Noise floor went from S5-6 down to S3-4! The filtering is great and I can really work stations who are piled upon each other. Yes there is a bit of a learning curve (got to get it to talk to the SKCCLogger), but since I only work CW there is no need for me to worry about all the SSB, digital and other do-dad features offered by the K4D. I doubt I'll ever have a need for that "Diversity" feature (whatever that is?) but the radio came with that feature...and many more.



So wrapping up this "untechnical" evaluation from someone who makes contacts, my opinion is the K4 is worth what I paid for it and more because it allows me to make more contacts with less stress on my old ears. My next goal is to tie it into my KPA500 and to put up a flag pole vertical dipole and magnetic loop...."you just can't have too many antennas!"...even in an HOA!

## "FLASH TRAFFIC"

Editor...Drawing and story by Jim Elkins, KG4IKQ



9" x 12", Graphite pencil on smooth finish Bristol Board.

This is the R-1004 receiver set, that is the receiver unit for the AN/GRC-109 radio set used by U.S. Army Special forces in the 1960's at least up into the 80's and maybe beyond. This is the companion receiver to the T-784 transmitter set I depicted in the September 2022 Newsletter.

There are two different mains or wet-cell battery connected power supplies that can be used to run the set; it can run off the G-43 hand cranked generator, or, as in the drawing, it can be powered by a BA-48 dry cell battery. The BA-48 is a cardboard covered dry cell, about the size of a hardback book, and is equipped with a connector for the R-1004. The battery can provide the 1.5 and 90 volts, milliamperage level DC that the tubes require for operation. In the drawing, the operator has set it up so he can more easily read the controls from a seated position, and it is connected to a set of H-65 headsets. Not the most comfortable of headsets, but they got the job done.

The rig had a frequency range of 3 to 24 Mhz in three different bands and would receive AM voice, CW, and modulated CW (MCW). There was a beat frequency oscillator (BFO) so you could set a comfortable tone for listening to CW.

Here the operator has already received his message (the bottom of the pages shown). He starts decrypting the cipher text (the radio message) by copying it into the one-time letter pad (OTLP) sheet, as the top line of the text. He knows where to start because the



first five letter group of the radio message is the starting point on the pad. Only he and the base station have a copy of the pad. But he would never actually overlay the pages as you see here; if he did, the actual message might transfer through to the paper underneath and could be captured and read.

After he writes the whole message out over the pad text, he starts to use his trigraph, the middle page in the drawing, to match up the top line radio message, to the red letters of the one time pad, to give him the bold black letters of the actual message. Without the one-time pad, the radio message, and/or the trigraph, are useless; you have to have the one time pad for it to all come together.

Something about this message though, has caused this operator to stop his decoding, perhaps to go find a team captain or supervisor. The "FLASH" identifier as the first group in the message is a clue. The 1163 date code on the battery is a second clue. What message possibly could have caused such consternation in November of 1963? You might be able to make out the message in the drawing.

**Fun fact:** Experienced operators could listen to the CW coming in on the headsets, look at the red text of the one time pad, and make the trigraph conversion in their head, realtime, so they were actually copying-converting-decrypting live. Not a good idea for operational traffic though, and the sending operator had to know his stuff; no scratchy dits and poor code characters.

The trigraph looks complex, but it's not. Even though there are twenty six alphabet letters, all three-letter combinations are the same, so there ends up being only 126, as I recall, combinations; E over X is always Y, Y over E is always X, X over Y is always E, and so on.

As amateur operators, the concept of multi-component stations is a bit odd, but in a military setting it allows for flexibility; the load can be split for carrying, can be split for concealment, the receiver and battery only need be set up for receiving, the failure of any one component does not necessarily take the whole set-up out of service, and so on.

## The USAF (Almost) Declares War on Illinois Radio Amateurs

Every week the Hackaday editors gather online to discuss the tech stories of the moment, and among the topics this week was the balloons shot down over North America that are thought to be Chinese spying devices. Among the banter came the amusing thought that enterprising trolls on the Pacific rim could launch balloons to keep the fearless defenders of American skies firing off missiles into the beyond.

But humor may have been overshadowed by events, because it seems [one of the craft they shot down was just that](#). It wasn't a troll though, the evidence points to [an amateur radio pico balloon](#) — a helium-filled Mylar party balloon with a tiny solar-powered WSPR transmitter as its payload.

The balloon thought to have been shot down was launched by the Northern Illinois Bottlecap Balloon Brigade, a group of radio amateurs who launch small helium-filled Mylar balloons carrying the barest minimum for a solar-powered WSPR beacon. Its callsign was K9YO, and having circumnavigated the globe seven times since its launch on the 10th of October [it was last seen off Alaska on February 11th](#). Its projected course and timing tallies with the craft reported shot down by the US Air Force, so it seems the military used hundreds of thousands of dollars-worth of high-tech weaponry to shoot down a few tens of dollars worth of hobby electronics they could have readily tracked online. We love the smell of napalm in the morning!

*Editor...Taken fro our reflector and submitted by DJ Ringer*

## **“Sparks” on the Great Lakes**

**By Ralph C. Folkman (W8AF - SK)**

According to an old logbook that I have maintained throughout the years, I heard my first “wireless signals” on Christmas Eve, 1916. On that memorable night, I put the finishing touches on a homemade receiver and, using a bedspring for an antenna, tuned in NAA at Arlington, Virginia sending time signals and press dispatches. For the remainder of that winter, I heard dozens of ships at sea, and in the spring of 1917, listened in on ships of the Great Lakes as they tuned-up their spark transmitters for the coming season.

Attending East Technical High School at the time, I naturally became an ardent member of the school’s wireless club. One day, while listening on the marine frequency in the club’s “shack,” I happened onto WCS, the "SS Alpena" handling message traffic with VBE, Sarnia, Ontario. A close friend of mine was operator on that vessel and this incident inspired me to become a ship operator. Subsequently, I studied hard, acquired the necessary commercial license, and was assigned to the freighter Peter Reiss. I felt a tinge of importance as I scrambled up her ladder, having been told that my arrival would trigger their sailing (they couldn’t depart without a wireless operator). From that day on, I was called “Sparks.”

As we left Buffalo bound for Green Bay, Wisconsin, I got my first look at the shipboard installation, awe-inspiring to the novice, with its switches, push buttons and gadgets that I’d have to become acquainted with. For some days, we plowed northward, with me practice message-handling procedure - all this, of course, with the vessel’s antenna disconnected so that my synthetic messages would not actually get on the air for other stations to hear. I had been warned to “count to five” after starting the transmitter to permit the rotary spark gap to reach full speed before I pressed the key. “You’ll be sorry, they had said, “if the gap is running too slow, it will do damage and probably blow the Leyden Jar condensers (Editor. “capacitors” is the modern term).” I forgot to count to five and, you guessed it, the shack was rent with an earsplitting crash and filled with blue smoke! I was off the air until repairs and replacements could be made. The delay in finally handling that first message took the wind out of my sales and put a dent in my pride as the Peter Reiss operator.

Later that season, I found myself aboard the "SS City of Erie" passenger ship plying between Cleveland and Buffalo. This was a far cry from the freight job and necessitated a natty blue uniform instead of overalls. Experiences too numerous to relate happened on the Erie. The "SS City of Buffalo" ran exactly opposite to us, passing our ship each morning at two AM, at which moment we two operators would “hit the key” in friendly salute.

I had noticed that when the "Buffalo’s” operator pressed his wireless key, a section of lights on their freight deck brightened considerably. I told the operator about this strange phenomenon, and he said he would check it. Later, he revealed that the ship’s electrician had put a voltmeter on the freight deck lights and found, when the transmitter key was pressed, those lights went up seven volts above the normal voltage! Apparently, this circuit was somehow tuned to accept the ship’s transmitter frequency and was receiving the additional voltage by “wireless.” Nothing serious came of this except for the fact that the bulb burnouts were more frequent in that part of the Buffalo’s lighting system.



One season followed another and each spring found me sitting in the rooms of RCA, Intercity Radio, and other offices where operators awaited assignments to ships. Eventually, I racked up a second stint on the "City of Erie, two tricks on the "Seeandbee", the "Goodtime", and the "Tionesta", then back to freighter life aboard the "Cletus Schneider", "Angeline", "Frontenac", "G.A. Tomlinson" and the "William G. Mather".

While on the "Seeandbee", I saw the transition from the original spark transmitters to tube equipment, the latter permitting radiotelephone conversations with other ship and shore stations, as well as code. Along with this modernization in marine communications, the crystal detectors with their famous "cat's whiskers") disappeared as more sophisticated receivers took over.

I never had to send an SOS, but served as "traffic cop" in connection with one. In 1925, I was summoned ashore from a ship assignment to work the night shift at WTK, Lower Lakes link with shipping, located on the tenth floor of the Cleveland Hotel. My first night on watch (first hour in fact) there was a faint SOS on the air. Mechanically, I kicked in the big generator for the first time and piped down all ship activity in my area after learning that the vessel in distress was off the Virginia coast. Couldn't afford any unnecessary interference at a time like this. I kept curious lake operators muffled, policing the air under my jurisdiction until some hours later when the distress was cleared. I had kept a complete log of my activity.

Incidentally, my chief operator, Hank Grossman, was the individual who, aboard the "Alpena" about seven years before, had inspired me to become an operator. He relieved me after the exciting night shift and asked to see the log. His eyes bugged as he demanded "all right, now let's see the real log." When he finally realized that I had been involved in this distress emergency, he blurted out, "Wow! First hour on watch in his first coastal job-and he hits the jackpot!"

But shore-station operating somehow lacked those elements I had enjoyed so much aboard ship. It wasn't too long before I was again underway, breathing fresh air and seeing a different port every few days. Looking back, a number of incidents stand out in my mind, like the time when a devastating tornado swept through Lorain, Ohio, and it fell to me to serve as relay link between the freighter "Grand Island", pinned behind the twisted bridge in that city, and the outside world. With no wire service out of the crippled city, the "Grand Island" operator fed his messages to me on low power, and our freighter, off Cleveland at the time, passed the information on to the Red Cross and others.

Another thing I well remember is the unexpected run of jumbo perch off the dock in Little Current, Ontario, where I tied into 270 of them. Our crew ate fish for about a week. I remember numerous times we carried ore from the Upper Lakes to the hungry furnaces of the Ford Motor Company at River Rouge, near Detroit. We proved to be an important factor in Ford's lofty aim of a new car every fifty-five seconds.

I'll never forget July 4, 1924, churning southward across Lake Superior from Fort William to Marquette, Michigan. A sudden drop in temperature and a heavy snowstorm coated us with thick ice. I repeat, this was on the Fourth of July!

Not to be forgotten is the time I slipped into the ship's refrigerator, tiptoeing past a sleeping cook in search of a between-meal snack. The big door slammed close behind me and the light went out, leaving me to shiver for what seemed like an eternity until I was "rescued." I almost got pneumonia from that deal. On June 12, 1924, about 2:00 AM, my ship, WFS, was called by WSBN. "What ship is that and where are you bound, the operator asked.

“This is the great ship Seandbee and our destination is Buffalo,” I pounded on the key. Thumbing through the ship dictionary, I found WSBN to be the "SS Leviathan", who by now, was asking for a repeat. “The great what?” the operator sarcastically keyed. “Forget it,” I came back. After all, who’s going to boast to the largest ship afloat about being great.”

Very few employees of the C&B Lines were ever summoned to appear before T.F. Newman, general manager, unless they were in some kind of trouble, but when this radio operator got the summons, it proved quite different. “You’ve been with us for a few years now,” said Newman, “and although your ships have been noted for carrying newlyweds to Niagara Falls, you yourself didn’t make it to the falls on your honeymoon.” With that, he presented me with a pair of tickets, all expense in scope, for me and my comparatively new wife to visit Niagara Falls in style. “Everything on the house,” he beamed. Most of those sailing the C&B Lines had him pegged as a “whip cracker.” I found that he had a heart of gold.

Radio operating aboard the Goodtime proved to be a paid vacation. Federal law stated that this ship had to carry wireless for the safety of its passengers on pleasure trips to Cedar Point, Put-In-Bay, and on moonlight rides out of Cleveland. Very few messages were handled. The acquiring of the vessel by the C&B Lines permitted the busy City of Erie to again return to its Cleveland-Buffalo night run. The "Goodtime" had call letters WCP, which someone said meant “Wireless Cedar Point.” She carried a 500-watt quenched gap spark transmitter, not unlike the "Erie" and the "Buffalo". The operator was also responsible for a PA system that picked up the band on the forward dance floor and blared with big bull horns toward the pier when the "Goodtime" was departing or arriving.

But finally, I succumbed to becoming a landlubber, writing for the Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper, as associate radio editor, and serving as operator at Station WHK, which was owned primarily by the newspaper. At the time, the city was dickering with WHK to devise a police radio system for Cleveland (Editor. Detroit deployed the first successful police radio system). Singled-out for this task, I worked through the summer of 1929, designing such a project. In September of that year, the fruits of my labor were installed at Central Police Station – with six radio cars on the road. I officially moved from the WHK control room to the new one just installed by the police department, staying on after joining the department for a lengthy career. Along with “calling all cars,” the system eventually added radiotelegraph for communications with other police departments in most major cities of the US, bringing together on this net numerous ex-ship operators. I personally found a few of my shipmates pounding brass for the police across the country.

Then, in 1965, with but three more years to go for police retirement, I was bit by the old “sailing bug,” and requested a leave of absence from the department. Shortly, I was serving as operator on the "SS South American", luxury Great Lakes cruise ship. Once on board, I found

that what had been “wireless” had changed to sophisticated “radio.” From spark transmitters and crystal detectors it had progressed to RADAR, ship-to-shore radiophone, direction finders, a PA system that utilized thirty-two loudspeakers, and many other innovations too numerous to mention. It was like learning the radio operating profession all over again, and at my age, it wasn’t easy!

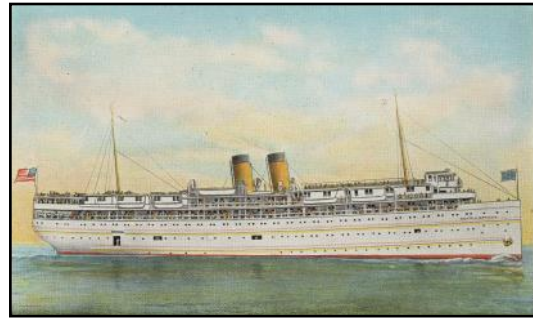




At the beginning of the season, we carried high school seniors on three, four and five-day cruises. One of these trips catered to exchange students from Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, Chili, and Peru. Plenty of guitars came on board with these southern kids and, needless to say, the talent shows held nightly were glorified by them.

A whole book could be written on just the exciting experiences of the last Great Lakes cruise ship. The "South American" was an excellent feeder. Once the ship was the recipient of a national award for the best food-ashore or afloat! Waitresses, galley help, bus boys, in fact most of the crew consisted of college students working their way through school, and all were required, when they were employed, to have some special talent that could contribute to the ship's entertainment of passengers. The young fellow that saw to it that I had fresh ice water and warm biscuits at dinner proved to be another Fred Astaire on the ship stage. A dishwasher in the galley, who I later learned was a graduate of the Detroit Institute of Technology, looked and danced like Bill Robinson. The "South American" was loaded with such surprises.

One of my closest "brass pounding" buddies passed and I became heir to his Vibroplex telegraph key. Ellis Smith had more than once expressed a desire to serve as operator on the South American but never made it. His key did, however, because I carried it aboard with me to use while handling message traffic. I'm sure he would have liked that.



I soon learned that the present day radio officer was treated as just that - an officer and a gentleman. Whoever made up the crew roster certainly had both ends of my welfare in mind. They had me eating in the dining room with the ship chaplain, and abandoning ship, if need be, with the bartender. One who became a buddy to me was the vessel's photographer, Harry Wolf, who would amble about the decks, snapping candid shots of passengers, everyone of which came out a masterpiece. Many of his photos filled my files, awaiting those days when I would mull over the old experiences.

I won't forget the "big-shot" passenger who made a \$9.95 phone call from the ship to his office in Detroit. He later made the grueling climb back to the radio shack to get change he had coming - I think it was a nickel. In the last hour aboard before flying back to Cleveland and my old police job, I went to the pilothouse for the captain's signature on my license, attesting to my service on board. I got the signature all right, and a fringe benefit too. "A pleasure to have had you aboard, Sparks," from Captain Barney Olson.

I got in the required three years to complete my time at the Cleveland Police Department before retiring. With ship operating and thirty-eight years of police radio behind me, I spent my time watching the mailman, reading newspapers, working my ham station W8AF, and doing a bit of cartooning. I forgot to mention that my cartoons were part of the Fraternal Order of Police publications from 1944 through the late 1970s, and later, I would draw for the Society of Wireless Pioneers publication, the group having been a worldwide organization of old-time operators, mostly shipboard, who have saltwater in their veins. In my case, however, it was freshwater from the Great Lakes!

The above was copied from "QNI Newsletter", January 2023 issue.

## The USAF (Almost) Declares War on Illinois Radio Amateurs

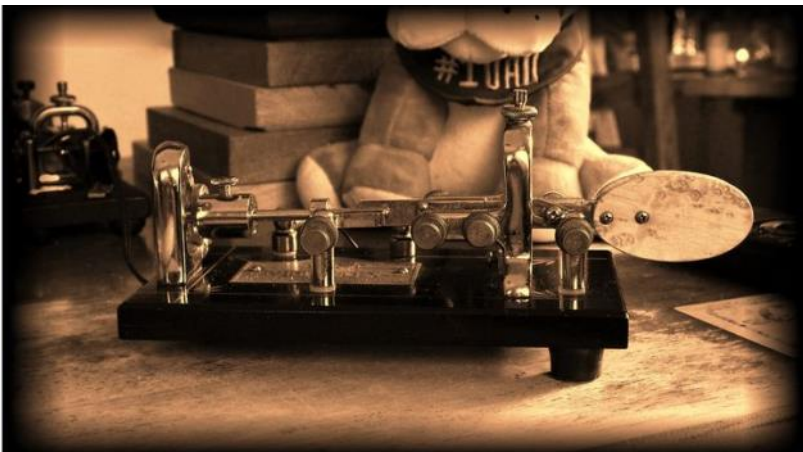


Every week the Hackaday editors gather online to discuss the tech stories of the moment, and among the topics this week was the balloons shot down over North America that are thought to be Chinese spying devices. Among the banter came the amusing thought that enterprising trolls on the Pacific rim could launch balloons to keep the fearless defenders of American skies firing off missiles into the beyond.

But humor may have been overshadowed by events, because it seems one of the craft they shot down was just that. It wasn't a troll though, the evidence points to an amateur radio pico balloon — a helium-filled Mylar party balloon with a tiny solar-powered WSPR transmitter as its payload.

The balloon thought to have been shot down was launched by the Northern Illinois Bottlecap Balloon Brigade, a group of radio amateurs who launch small helium-filled Mylar balloons carrying the barest minimum for a solar-powered WSPR beacon. Its callsign was K9YO, and having circumnavigated the globe seven times since its launch on the 10th of October it was last seen off Alaska on February 11th. Its projected course and timing tallies with the craft reported shot down by the US Air Force, so it seems the military used hundreds of thousands of dollars-worth of high-tech weaponry to shoot down a few tens of dollars worth of hobby electronics they could have readily tracked online. We love the smell of napalm in the morning!

Their website has a host of technical information on the balloons and the beacons, providing a fascinating insight into this facet of amateur radio that is well worth a read in itself. The full technical details of the USAF missile system used to shoot them down, sadly remains classified.



### “Anni...”

I tried the 100th Anniversary Bug in the contest with the small weight .... FAST but a bit more control then the Blue Racer. Is there anyone out there who still makes exotic wood finger pieces for a Vibroplex bug ???? ... 73, de George N2JNZ



# SKS February, 2023



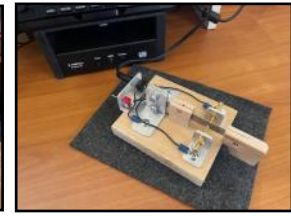
Ran 50 watts from my TS-590SG into a multi-band vertical (elevated) using a wooden-base Kent Str Key. Always a fun sprint and thanks to all for the contacts. 73, Curt K2CWM NJ



Operated 1 hour 40 meters only. Band condx good. 72/73 & STAY TUNED! Daryl K9QEW



Thanks all for a fun SKS! Enjoyed working with the QRP station. Thanks all for pulling me out! 73, Jim KA6J



Tried using home-brew Cootie as practice for next WES. Good fun, but need to work on skills. Thanks to the other OPs for your patience. 73, Terry KD8RGJ



I finished building a (tr) uSDX last week. When powered from a USB cable, as mine was this evening, it develops about 1/2 watt on 40 meters and a little more on 80 meters. 4 QSOs on 40, and ran out of time on 80 meters. Homebrew T antenna with 15 foot vertical section resonates on 40 and with some loading, works fine on 80 too. Matched with a homebrew 1.5:1 unun. 73, Tim NOLMQ



Got in real late but managed to work a few .... ol buddy Randy , N8KQ was got for my first Q .... the Blue Racer with the big weight is the slickest bug I have ever had !!! 73, George N2JNZ



Conditions on 40m were much better this month. Thank you all for the QSOs. 73, Steve NI8W



Tnx all!! Had an early QRT. A nice evening! WayTaGo! Randy!! 72 Steve NQ8T



Spent very little time on 20 meters and most of time on 40 tonite. New Radio here, still learning it ! I love my K4D it is a CW Machine. Thanks everyone for another great SKS, see all Y'all next month. 73, Rich W4RQ



In and out of the shack but condx were good and there was a lot of activity. K4D/KPA-1500, 3 ele yagi on 20 and horizontal loop on 40 and 80. Keys: Begali Intrepid and German Junker 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia



What looks! N8KR & W4RQ at Hamcation



“Stylin’...” His wife let him out?!

## Left-Overs!

Yes, left over photos but too good not to print!



Cathy W4CMG filled them out by hand!

## My "Marathon Journey"

By Ai Nguyen ,AI8AI



"Thank you all for your congrats!! ☺. There's so much to say about the SKCC marathon as I am still processing having completed it.

Aside from taking the ten-week ICR class with Tom, W0FN, and Glenn, W4YES, this year in May, embarking on the SKCC marathon was by far the best thing I did for my CW journey. After having done several longer QSOs with Randy, KB4QQJ, and then completing a marathon with Cathy, W4CMG, I knew this was the way to proceed. It would provide me focused one hour air time with a different fist each day. I would be head sending, head copying, and working through QRN, QRM, and QSB, and a litany of other challenges.

At first, I had no intention of getting involved. I was only helping Cathy with her crazy, lofty goal. In fact, Cecil, K5YQF, SKCC manager, told me straightaway, on average, it takes about two years to finish the contest if one marathon is completed per week. I didn't have two years. I had about 90 days with a finish line before 2023. Now my goal was crazier and loftier than Cathy's. I told no one.

I planned my work, and began to work my plan. I was averaging about 25 marathons per month. I was meeting new people every day, hearing different fists, and having a conversation that lasted beyond, "RST, QTH, name, and 73." When a marathon ended, sometimes I felt sad because I had made a connection, learned something new, had a few laughs. Other marathons I could not wait to end when the QSB, QRN, and QRM were filling the air waves, and I had my ear to the radio with every filter turned on hearing every other letter. My #37 marathon with Bill, WA4FAT ended with a storm that knocked out his computer. However, we hit the mark at 63 minutes. He was so determined to get it done.

My greatest achievement was with Glenn, W4YES, my #57 marathon. Whilst he was fighting other fists, QRN and QSB, I was happily head copying almost the entire marathon 😊. Most of my marathons were done with old school ops who learned CW when they were five years old. Finding topics to talk about weren't very difficult. All I had to ask is, "Do you like boat anchor gear?" Easily, 20 minutes would pass. Tell me about your antennas - another 20 minutes. Love to talk about building kits, radios, tubes.... Grandkids, gardens, motorcycles, musical instruments, flying planes, etc.

At the end of November, I began to experience a turn in propagation, and for every five attempted marathons, I would get one or two. As December rolled on, the propagation and my numbers worsened. The well of participants I had sourced was running dry. By the time, I got to marathon 90, it was the last week of December. After completing #98, Peter, AA2VG, and #99, John, KD2BD, I had less than 48 hrs (UTC) to get my 100th marathon before 2023 rolled in. Everything went super south.

On 30 December, I attempted eight marathons and each one failed. With my compromised antenna and the horrible propagation, I was up a creek without a paddle. The next morning rolled around, I attempted another marathon, which failed. By the afternoon, two more failures under my belt. I sent a text to Randy, KB4QQJ, and shouted, "I QUIT." He told me I wasn't allowed. I had about four hours before we would cross over into 2023.



Then, the phone call came. The Grand Poobah himself, Howard, WB2UZE, stated he had heard I had completed 100 marathons. I explained I needed one more, and all 11 tries had failed miserably. Neither one of us could understand how I was able to work 99, but not get this last one. He then said he would like to be my 100th marathon.

And so, at 23:58hrs UTC, on 31 December, two minutes before crossing into 2023, I completed my 100th marathon with Howard. I felt so honoured. It was worth all 11 failed attempts after marathon #99. Thank you Howard! You're the best! 😊 It was a great way to end the year.

Many thanks to Cathy, W4CMG, a great mentor, for encouraging me to take on this crazy lofty goal with her. Thank you to Randy, KB4QQJ; Jimmy, WB5MET; and Eddie Jones, W2LCQ, for being my cheering squad from start to finish. The latter, for the J38 straight

key which got me through all 100 marathons, and his sage advice that experience comes with "time in the chair." To which, I replied, "I hope it's not the electric chair."

Many thanks to the two other YLs who participated in the marathon with me - Caryn, KD2GUT, and Teri, K0WFP. The latter who has taken up the marathon contest with eight under her belt.

Thank you to those who participated in the marathons with me. I could not have done it without you. Many fond memories of our QSOs. As a new ham, two years into the hobby, I learned so much through this experience.

And finally, many thanks to the two LICW members who designed my special QSL marathon cards ❤️

De Randy KB4QQJ....I thought it interesting that her name is pronounced " I Win."



## Interested in a Slow(er) Speed CW Net?

Although not directly sponsored by SKCC, the idea is certainly supported by SKCC. Three SKCC members have expressed an interest to see if there is interest in forming regional Slow(er) Speed CW Nets. The nets would be very informal with the focus on saying "Hello." Of course that does not mean you couldn't ask to arrange to work a new state, number or arrange a marathon QSO! The three interested SKCCers would like to hear from you. The regional areas would be:

"North-East Slow Speed Net".....contact Doc K2PHD for more information

"South-Central Slow Speed Net".....contact Tommy N5CTC for more information

"West-Mountain Slow Speed Net".....contact Bil K8MPW for more information