



Volume 16 Issue 4

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

December, 2023

Canadian Straight Key Month September, 2023 Wrap-up

The third annual Canadian Straight Key Month (CSKM) is in the books. More than 1900 QSOs from nine Provinces and one Canadian Government territory (VY9) were logged by 21 operators. QSLs are in the bureau and many have been mailed already. If you would like one of these anniversary QSLs just make sure you are "good in the SKCC bureau" (bureau directions can be found on the SKCC home page).

Recent data shows there are nearly 1000 SKCC Canadian amateurs.

There are club members in every Province. Of course some Provinces have fewer club members and some Provinces are hard to work. SKCC has many levels of awards in the Canadian Maple Leaf Award Program and the CSKM is an excellent way to work to achieve these levels. If you were lucky, the basic Canadian Maple Leaf Award (the Yellow Maple Leaf Award) could have been achieved in this year's CSKM and certainly if you include QSOs from last year it's even possible you already qualify for the next Canadian Maple Award, the "Orange Maple Award" given for single band accomplishments.

With more and more Canadians joining SKCC and joining in the fun, it won't be long before all Provinces will be on during the CSKM. See you next year in the CSKM!



Radio Amateurs by Province and Territory (courtesy of ISED)				SKCC members and clubs
Province/Territory	Individuals Amateurs + Clubs	% of Canada's total Amateur population	Amateurs per population	
YT	181	0.2%	1:245	3
NU	31	0.04%	1:1,313	2
NT	89	0.1%	1:513	3
BC	19,199	24.7%	1:283	190
AB	7,594	9.8%	1:619	75
SK	1,544	2%	1:791	29
MB	2,140	2.8%	1:675	41
ON	22,436	28.9%	1:691	424
QC	18,235	23.5%	1:484	122
NB	1,871	2.4%	1:444	34
NS	2,428	3.1%	1:431	46
PE	372	.5%	1:473	3
NL	1,364	1.8%	1:391	19
Outside Canada	137	0.2%	---	XXX
Grand Total (as of July 13 2023)	77,621	100%	1:513	991

73,
The CSKM committee

VC3K/VY9 Canadian Adventure By K8AQM/VE9AQM



Main shack...20/10/80m and 40m

friend, VY9DFL (the David Florida Laboratory, where space research is conducted) was contacted and although it wasn't possible to get security clearance, permission was



Randy N8KQ/VE3 running on 20m



Stan VA3ACW (AC8W) on 40m



Ted VE9AQM (K8AQM) ran 30/17/15m in the family room.



Chad VE3NGN visited and worked a bit of 15m.

granted by the club trustee for us to act as a "Field Day" unit for this event only. VY9DFL is located in Ontario near Ottawa....but for "Canadian Maple Leaf Awards" VY9 is given the same status as a separate Province. How great is that! VY9 is an extremely rare prefix for prefix hunters, great location to work the SKCC members, within driving distance of our homes(7 hours) and is given Province status for awards!

Fortunately a great friend VE3KG, allowed us to use his shack and antennas for our operation. David VE3KG, is an avid contester and his antennas included two 70 ft towers with lanyards on each. With a tribander at 70 ft and vertical dipoles on 40, 17, 15m plus a dipole on 30m at 70 ft and the addition of 500 watts at each of our three stations we began our adventure!

Four days later we had amassed 947 QSOs which included 518 Qs in the SKCC WES! I hope we made a lot of Maple Leaf Award hunters and prefix hunters happy; we sure enjoyed the operation and visits from two locals: Chad VE3NGN and Gerasimos VE3SPY. A special "THANK YOU" to VE3KG David and his wonderful wife Melanie who supplied us with several wonderful dinners.

The CSKM is a great event, we have been to VY2, VY9 and thinking about next year as /VO1. Remember, if you want a QSL from VC3K/VY9 the only way to get one is to be "good in the bureau." Join the fun and join SKCC and join in the CSKM next September!

73,

The VC3K/VY9 Team

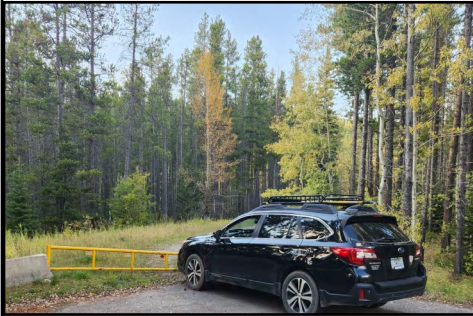


If you missed VC3K/VY9 on 40m here is why! VA3ACW found a couch and blanket...during the day!

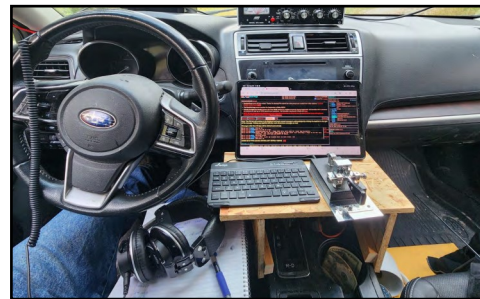
KJ7GNB's CSKM Adventures

Editor....When you live on the boarder with Canada the CSKM can provide a mini DXpedition! You may have worked KJ7GNB/VE6 or KJ7GNB/VE7 as VC3K/VE6 and VC3K/VE7. Bill KJ7GNB, lives on the boarder of Canada near both Alberta and British Columbia in Montana. Here is Bill's CSKM Adventure:

My Alberta Adventure....VC3K/VE6



Attached are photos of my QTH at Crowsnest Provincial Park (VE6). The wx was off just enough that I operated from inside my car rather than set up a table outside. I built the little wooden shelf that went over the gear selector for the key, tablet, and tablet keyboard the night before. It worked well. Fortunately, I write with my left hand and key with



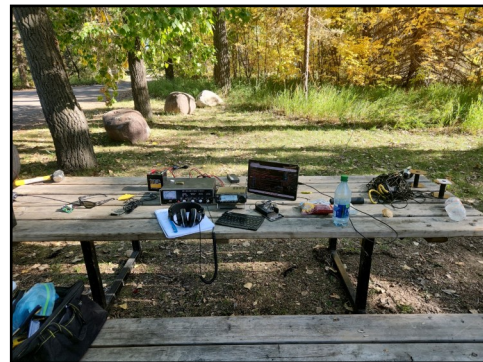
my right hand. I ran 50' of coax from the tuner out the passenger window to a Nelson 9:1 unun about 30' up a pine tree. Then, a wire about 125' to another tree. I had trouble setting up due to fighting with pine trees and my slingshot antenna launcher. The Yaesu Ft-891 was powered off my car battery with a cable out the driver's window. And a ground rod near the left front tire.

My British Columbia Adventure....VC3K/VE7



Yes, I really did operate from VE7!

Funny thing- As I was getting a cup of coffee Saturday morning, I mentioned to my wife that I could just set up in the backyard, call it B.C., and nobody would be the wiser. She actually raised her voice to me for even thinking such a thought of dishonesty! And she's not a fan of ham radio (other than it keeps my idle hands from deviltry)! So, I took a picture to show her, you, and the world that I made it at least to a sign that says: **"Welcome to B.C."**



Beautiful place to operate

I'm getting better with portable radio. And I have a better idea what to expect in VC3K for next year. I also have an idea for more antennas including a 30' mast off my back bumper.

Straight Key Month K3Y 2024 18th Anniversary of SKCC



Is there a better start to the ham radio new year than a month of manual keyed CW? Straight Key Month begins on Tuesday Jan. 2nd following the traditional ARRL Straight Key Night event on New Year's Day. It marks the 18th Anniversary of SKCC's founding in 2006. Last year more than 230 SKCC members signed up as Straight Key Month operators. They reserved several thousand hours of operating time and logged over 50,000 contacts-- all using straight keys, bugs and side swipers. SKCC members in ten US call areas, plus KH6, KL7 and KP4, will operate with the K3Y special event call sign. DX member stations in a number of Canadian provinces and six IARU continental regions will also be participating with their own call signs. Please help keep all of them busy with plenty of QSOs!



You can track your progress throughout the month by referring to the "stats" section of the SKM web pages. Check for frequent updates on the Areas, Bands, SKM Operators, DX Entities, Canadian Provinces & US States that you have worked.

K3Y QSL cards and Sweep Certificates will be available to document your achievements. You can get a QSL card whether you work a single SKM operator or complete the worldwide 19-region "Grand Sweep". Special K3Y WAS cards will also be provided for those who are logged by K3Y station operators in all 50 States.



This is an ideal opportunity for SKCC members to make progress toward various club awards. Contacts with SKM operators are valid for SKCC awards purposes. And if you choose to sign up as a SKM Operator you can readily log dozens or even hundreds of award-eligible QSOs with other members.

Be sure to check the Straight Key Month web page at www.skccgroup.com/k3y. It contains links for user & operator guides, schedules, QSL cards, sweep certificates, stats, operator location map, and the 2024 SKCC print calendar.

SKM/K3Y Planning Group

Merry Christmas!

December WES 2023

Ho Ho Ho! Get ready for a great December WES! Below is the list of alter egos of some of our SKCC members. They will temporarily identify themselves for Christmas bonus points.

Reindeer



Dasher	John	W3JJB	21909s
Dancer	Cathy	W4CMG	20093s
Prancer	Steve	AC9XS	23280s
Vixen	Bob	WM4Q	16465s
Comet	Mark	NX1K	11024s
Cupid	Andy	KD9KHA	6913s
Donner	Bill	W2EB	21535s
Blitzen	Chuck	KA8HDE	6913s
Rudolph	George	NE5A	24849s
Olive	Jorden	W7VC	24194s



Characters

Scrooge	Jeff	K4KYN	26302s
Santa	Bob	F6EJN	508s



Elves

Denny	W0NZZ	22005s
Gene	W9KMK	12970s
Kasey	KD2YMM	26231
Bil	K8MPW	15372T
Jo	PG4J	11019s



Slow Speed Saunter September, 2023

Slow Speed Saunter

Keep on Truckin'...



Slow Speed Saunter Results

Results for Slow Speed Saunter: 1 Sep 2023

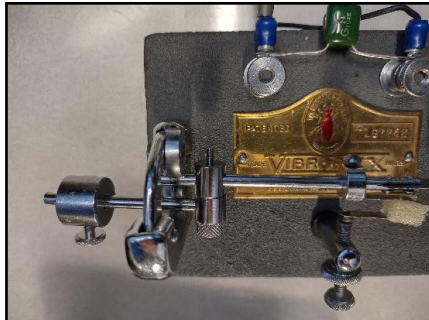
Overall | Soapbox

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	10
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	2
WA9BBN	Ed	17763S	IN	13
K8AQM	Ted	1629S	MI	8
W1DV	Dave	1433S	NC	17
WD4LSS	Neal	22181T	NC	3
N5XTH	Mike Kramer	12470T	SC	5
AF5Z	Bob	27159T	TX	20
K5ENS	Ken	19964S	TX	3
K4STJS	Allen	5172S	TX	4
KM4GC	Doug McNulty	20739	VA	2

Participants and QSOs by SPC

IN: 3 / 25	MI: 1 / 8	NC: 2 / 20	SC: 1 / 5	TX: 3 / 27
VA: 1 / 2				



Thanks to all for the contacts. My photo shows method of attaching a Vibroplex Vari-Speed accessory to a bug for slowest sending speeds. 73, Bob AF5Z



Nice turnout, good to hear so many high numbers (i.e. relatively new members). Also great to hear and work so many veteran cw ops. Fun even, as always 73, - ZUT de W1DV Dave (see you all 01 October).



Too much football competing with SSS. QSOs seem to be turning into long rag chews...great fun. Photo is "moon rise" with the flag pole vertical dipole. 73, Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM

Quick and Easy Way to Mount a Key

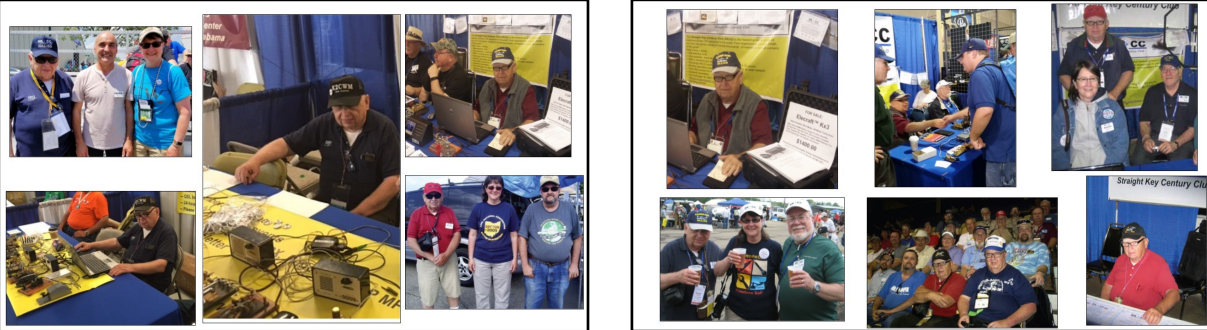


The attached picture is my Soviet key that needed a base to keep it steady.... Nothing like flooring samples from Menards and Gorilla glue! It's perfect, now! 73, Ken N8KR

Editor....I can agree with the "Gorilla Glue," I mounted my Hi Mound HK 708 with Gorilla Glue onto a wooden base. It's tight as can be and took a beating at the VC3K/VY9 operation.

Remembering Curt K2CWM...SK

If you were at Dayton and hung around the SKCC booth then you met Curt. If you were on the air then you have K2CWM in your log somewhere! Ever since we've had a booth at Dayton Curt was there helping to man the booth. Curt was the only manager the Brag program has had. Curt was a great friend to SKCC and his presence will be sorely missed.



RBN & Armchair Copy

From: [Vic G0BVZ](#)

Hi! Thanks for reading. In recent months I've taken advantage of kinder wx to experiment with antenna construction. I discovered how useful the Reverse Beacon Network is. In exchange for a 3x2 call I find where my sigs are heard but I have a bit of a niggle. I don't know how to interpret the S/N report, which is given in dB. I'd really welcome info as to the relation between S/N ratio value and readability. ie what is barely detectable, good copy, armchair copy and 60 over in terms of S/N ratio dB?

The bulk of my RBN S/N reports lie in the range 9-19dB, with a fair leavening of 2-8dB and the occasional exceptional ones 30-39 dB. The most recent high one was 34dB from UK to northern Finland. I only operate QRP so 17m propagation that day must have been pretty favourable. (Not that I have a clue what 34dB S/N translates to in the Real World!! :-))

Can you help me out? Tnx in advance

From [Rick WB6KBL](#)

I am not sure I understand the question so if I miss answering forgive me. Do you understand db? Decibels are so commonly used in radio and audio that I suspect many have not read the elementary explanation of what they are. Just briefly, db is a statement of ratio. So is signal-to-noise but S/N is usually stated as an arithmetic ratio. Easy to convert to decibels and vice-versa. It's important to know if the quantity being stated is voltage or power. For HF signal to noise it's usually stated as a voltage ratio at the antenna. As far as readability the effect of noise depends on the nature of the noise and the kind of signal. For CW the necessary ratio can be smaller than for phone but it also depends on the ability of the operator to read code. Some people can read CW when it's below the noise level. But, also it depends on the nature of the noise. Is it a steady hiss or a grinding noise? A hiss is much easier to hear through for either CW or phone.

There are good tutorials on db on the web. It is a logarithmic way of stating the ratio. Very basically, a power ratio of 2 equals 3db while a voltage ratio of 2 is 6 db. This is because $Power = E^2/R$ so the square root of the ratio gives one the power ratio. The advantage of stating S/N in power is that its the same regardless of the impedance but the receiver really responds to voltage so its much more common to state S/N as a voltage ratio and signal strength meters are usually calibrated in voltage. Where the meter indicates S-units its more difficult because there is no standard for the reference, i.e. S-9 can be anywhere from 10uV to 100uV although its commonly defined as 50uV but it depends on the manufacturer. So, IMO (but only opinion) 6db is probably enough for a clear SW signal but more like 10db or more is required for clear phone.

I hope this helps, I wrote more than I intended to.

September SKSE 2023



Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 07-Sep-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	20	13	8/4/0	420
2	EA3NO	Lluis	6653S	ESP	13	8	3/3/0	179
3	EA6/GM3ZDH	BOB	6027T	BLI	11	9	4/1/0	169
4	N8KR	Ken	7559S	IN	9	9	2/3/1	146
5	DL2KCD	Jo	27055	GER	9	8	3/1/1	132
6	ON5UK	Luk	13764	BEL	7	7	1/2/0	84
7	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	5	5	3/0/0	70
8	IK2CFD	Graziano	22069T	ITA	4	4	2/0/0	46
9	YU7TBA	Balint	26034	SER	3	3	1/2/0	44
10	G4IVV	Jon	26874T	ENG	2	2	0/1/1	19
11	F5UQE	DUC	13468S	FRA	3	1	1/0/0	18
12	K0KEX	Rick	5220S	MO	1	1	1/0/0	16
13	M0UDB	Dave	27024	ENG	2	2	0/0/0	4



I was glad to get those 20 SKCC contacts for a pleasant SKS-E edition. One new SKCC member for my collection, approaching soon (I hope) the 1500 level thanks to Ron KE8PX ! Thank you all and see you soon ! 73, Bernard F5DE



October 2023 SKSE

Good morning, thanks to those who had the patience and kindness to log me on yesterday, during the SkSE. RBN was telling me that the 15 meter band was open, unfortunately I connected only two stations from the US, Vern NJ8L always present, and N4LSJ. what a pity. 73, Mark I4IKW

More info on the Netherlands Telegraphy Club at <https://pi4ntc.nl>. Thanks all for the nice QSO's! 73, Jo PI4NTC



Results for SKSE: 05-Oct-2023

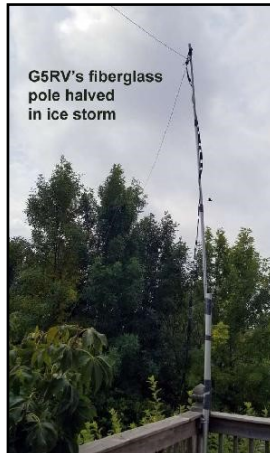
Overall | QRP | QRO | QRO+ | SWL | By SPC | Soapbox

Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
1	I4IKW	Mark	24889	ITA	19	13	3/3/0	322
2	PI4NTC	Jo	24551	NED	17	10	4/5/0	280
3	EA3NO	Lluis	6653S	ESP	17	10	3/3/0	245
4	F5UQE	Duc	13468S	FRA	14	10	4/4/0	240
5	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	13	8	1/4/0	159
6	DL2KCD	Jo	27055	GER	8	6	1/2/0	83
7	HB9CPS	Geo	20350	SUI	6	6	2/0/0	66
8	HB9IRF	Gerald	12483	SUI	6	6	1/0/1	56
9	NJ8L	Wern	13613S	OH	6	4	2/0/0	54
10	OK1CBA	Olavich	25347	CZE	4	4	1/1/0	41
11	GM3ZDH	Bob	6027T	SCO	4	3	1/1/0	37
12	ON5UK	Luk	13764	BEL	4	4	1/0/0	31
13	F6DHD	Chris	27490	FRA	2	2	0/0/0	4



WES September, 2023



G5RV's fiberglass pole halved in ice storm

It was nice to come home and take a break with WES, as CW is relaxing like meditation - love these long running contests that can fit around other obligations. I wish I was able to stay on 15 longer. Was fun to work CT7AUP(15) and F6ENJ(15, 40). Two KS#KCC's and KM0RSE were notable too, thanks Dennis! 73, Doreen AA0AJ



Little time but very funny. 73, Leo EA7Q



Hello, just a few QSOs, between the pro and a lot of lightning!!! 73, Frank F8DTU



Some tough band conditions and lots of lightning crashes, but was still a lot of fun, SKCC sure is made up of a great group of hams! Thanks for the QSO's. 73, Bill AA2MX



This was a surprising WES. Two surprises I had were working Randy, KB4QQJ and Allan, VK2GR. Both called me! Another surprise came Sunday. During the last couple of hours there was an amazing path between Kansas (me) and the east coast. Everybody was 599. Then it died. Oh wait, the WES ended. Just like this comment. 73, Jim AD0AB



Huge thanks to F6EJN Bob, EA7EGU Manuel, G4IVV Jon, and EA7Q Leo for fun QSOs. Great to work Jon G4IVV for the first time and we were using very similar morse keys. Mine was a PS No213A coast station key and Jon was using the Phil Boyle beautiful hand crafted version of the same Marconi 213. My Rig TS440s, 100 watts to a ground mounted vertical 20ft tall. Morse key a Marconi P.S.No213A straight key. 73, John G0RDO SKCC



Decided to go vintage this WES with my 1963 Drake TR-3 which is the first transceiver Drake made, warms up the shack with it's 19 tubes, and the 1963 Drake R-4B receiver. Used my 1939 McElroy straight key. One of the highlights was a Vintage Drake to Drake qso with Randal, KG5IEE, who was using his TR-4. Worked 4 KSxKCC, 4 VC3K but only one club call, KN8RHM and France, Portugal, and 5 West Coast Stns. Did I have fun, you bet. Hope to see old and new friends next month. 73 all Frank AA2XB



Tnx to all for your patience...Today good conditions to use west coast in 10 and 15 mts bands. 73, tu de



Hello Robert VE2KZW, I sleep well every night except during each WES when I do 4 hours of traffic between 3 and 7 a.m. only on the 40 m. Thanks for all the QSOs, at next time, 73 to all, Bob F6EJN



Conditions much better than last few months. Made some nice QSOs into Europe on 10M using only a dipole at 20 feet. I worked "VK" three times, a first for me. 73, Bob AC1GF

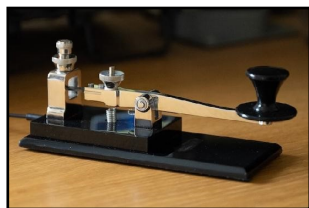


Thanks to everyone! Was using my new Ham-Key SK and really had a great time! 73, Kevin AF5SW



Because of volunteer work on Sundays, I can only operate WES on Saturdays. But, I also completed the requirements for the Triple Key Award (#172) so this WES was even more fun than usual! 73, Gary in AZ AF7M

WES September, 2023 II



Thanks for all the contacts, great to have better conditions this month! Mainly active on Saturday, highlights included reaching over to Tom N7WI in WA and having a nice chat with John G0RDO (his original Marconi 213 to my PB213 key). Been back on the SK the last couple of weeks using the lovely Phil Boyle PB213 key. 73, Jon G4IVV



My trip to the cottage to get things ready for the winter (a little earlier than usual) aligned with WES weekend, so I operated from the living room table as my alter ego (VA3NIA) with the IC705 and a low dipole. I think this is my best score ever; too bad I operated at 10W because I forgot to turn the power down to 5W. 73, K6NIA



Qs on 40,20,15, & 10 meters. 4 DX QSOs and yes one was Bob F6EJN. Saturday was slow but Sunday very good activity. 73 & STAY TUNED Daryl K9QEW



Many thanks to all. I feel the conditions are getting better. I hope to see you again next month.

73, DE Take JR2IUB



Had a great time with this WES with our church club K4MMC. Thanks to everyone who worked us! Lots of activity and except for some nearby lightning Saturday, weather was nice. Our station and OCFD antenna are on the 3rd floor (and roof). That's Kenesaw Mountain in the background. Please check our QRZ page! 73, David K4MMC



The bands were friendly, and so were the ops. This sprint was fun, with more high numbers and C's than usual. Awesome! My 5 watts and a wire made it to Europe for several contacts on Sunday as well. 73, Steve K9NUD



Proud to be a member of SKCC, My thanks and appreciation to everyone for another fun event. 73, Rick k0kex 5220S. Image from the collection



I promise this isn't just another adorable cute kitty photo. It's an explanation for why I wasn't able to be on the air more this weekend during the WES. My longtime shack-mate, Roger the orange tabby cat, passed away in June and we finally decided it was time to adopt. So, it was a busy weekend bringing these 2 home from the local shelter and getting them settled in. Thought about naming them CQ and WES but the XYL didn't go for that. Hi hi. As for this year's contest, the time I DID spend on the air was great. Really appreciated our board members, the club stations and the VC3K/VY9 stations. It all added up to an interesting and unique theme. Despite my limited on-air time, still made some great contacts. Thanks to all for a great weekend! 73, Jeff K4KYN



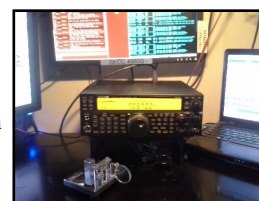
Had a lot of fun. I worked two stations in France. 73, Bruce KA3YGL



Storms off and on kept me off the air Saturday afternoon and evening, but still got a decent amount of time in. 73, Bill K3QP



Always a good time handing out points. I operated lower power with an Outreach vertical on a Fan Stand in the backyard. 73, Art K7DWI



Thanks to all who participated. I started out QRP 5w, and decided to remain QRP. I only worked one new "T". There were several others spotted on the skimmer but I couldn't hear them to work them. Everyone have a good month. God bless you and your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC

WES September, 2023 III



Another enjoyable WES and even picked up a Marathon QSO! Well the events make me feel this young anyway, hihi! 73, KA4UPI Mark



Fun time! 73, Craig KA9ERV



Had a chance to participate from the field as well as from home. Nice conditions. Thanks everyone! 73, Warren KC9IL



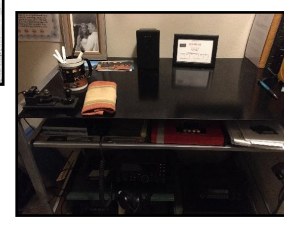
I operated qrp at 5w from my Tentec Argonaut VI into an end-fed 80-10 wire antenna up about 35ft. On Sunday I qso'd over to Fra, ESP, and Por on 15 meters. My qth is about 1 mile from a large bay on the Gulf of Mexico. Thanks to everybody (though I didn't qso with any clubs, apart from ks#kcc). Great time, 73, Chris/Christine/KE4WKH



Went vintage for this WES. Used the Drake TR-4. Thanks for all the contacts on the Drake, and especially to AA2XB for the vintage-to-vintage on his TR-3. Much fun. 73, Randal KG5IEE



Fine weekend, although worked days in the pro shop both days. 80, 40, and 20 meters worked well here this weekend. George (N2JNZ), we still managed to snag you on 20! Many thanks for all the contacts folks...catch you all again down the log. 73, Jack dit...dit KK0I



Another fun WES! Everyone have a blessed day es 73, Adam KN4HAQ



KS6KCC together again! Excited to work this WES! Thank you to our small team of four: Chuck N0CW, Lane WK4WC, Bill NF6R and Jim W6JIM (that's me!). While we were unable to track down the elusive KS1KCC, we did manage to contact a few other bonus stations. But, our main goal was to hand out as many points as possible to our fellow SKCC members :-). Thanks again everyone! We had a blast. See you next time. 73, Easy, KS6KCC The Easy-Copy CW Club :-)



The KS9KCC crew from the Fort Wayne, Indiana area operated a two station multi from the N8KR shack on Saturday. Marty - N9SE (pictured) joined John - WB9TYF, Al - K9FW, Ed - WA9BBN, Rose - KA9GKE, Steve - AC9XS, John - NJ0U, Jim - KR9U, Josh - W9HT and Ken - N8KR for the event. Featured was homemade apple pie with ice cream, donuts from the donut shoppe, homemade cookies, along with pizza and sloppy joes! We always have a good time here!!! 73, Codie KS9KCC



Good DX PROP, few STNs, FUN anyway. Got only one "Club Call" W4HZL, TU Dean WTG! 28MHz 4ele NBS Yagi - <5W - Home Brew DSK + SK RFT MT50 (Junker clone made by Firma GEM, East Germany DDR, Cold War era)TU everyone for the QSOs BCNU 73, Walt LW3EX - ... ZUT



Bands were in decent shape. I heard a few lightning crashes but my WX App showed they were miles to the SE and NW...Called CQ with my Club Call and was pleasantly surprised to have a few KS#KCC and Board Members call. In fact having a Club Call resulted in several pileups :-). Thanks All...Looking forward to the next WES. 73, Rick KN8RHM



Too many distractions with the T-storms and the poor low band conditions. It was still fun and met some new OPs. See you next month. 73, Dean N2TNN



WES September, 2023 IV



I was QRPp at one watt using a hb VXO tx and a KX3 to a doublet. The pic shows the hb rig and Omni V rx as well as the KX3 and left handed bug. 73, Gene N5GW



First time in a while I could devote much of the weekend to WES. Bands were in good shape, made contacts on all bands 80-10. Got Jack KK0I and Dave W1DV on three bands, and several others on two. Other thrills were working VK2DVA early Sunday and working Bert, F6HKA on Sunday. Photo includes my new N3ZN Cootie and my trusty NYE Master key. From the FT-710 scope you can tell the picture was taken after the contest. 73, Mark NX1K



Made a couple of contacts operating from a local park. 73 see you next WES Ron VE3SIF



My friend Leo makes these custom decals for your car. Just added this one to my new car. Hamradioframes.com and he has an SKCC link. Oh yes, WES was a blast as KS9KCC. added a few with my own call! 73, Ken N8KR



At the beach house with a vertical and 25 watts out. Single band 20 meters did not work for me. 73, Jo PG4I



Given the SN and the quiet Magnetic Field I expected to do better in the high bands (only two DX QSO's in 15m (TU Bob F6EJN and Jo DL2KCD!), and nothing in 10m), nothing in 10m), and 20m seemed QSB more than usual. TU all who struggled with my 5W and challenged antenna. 73, de Jose VE3D-TI.



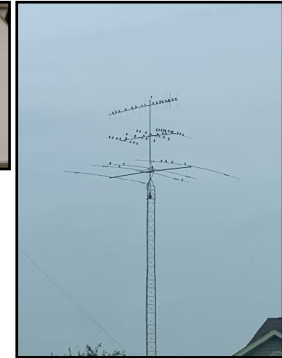
K2 5wts g5rv.. tnx to skcc moard mbrs..40 and 20 mtrs was not very busy.. hardly any mbrs on there calling cq.. it was quiet..i got my usual nmbr of qsos.. i now have made 89 types of keys. Gud hobby.. i have made a few cootie keys that also can be used as a stkey.. so, c u next month to make more LEGAL QRM.. haha.. i do it daily.. ha.. tnx to this month new club mbrs..ha, who is going to be skcc mbr number "28000".. ha.. by the end of this year, someone will have that nmbr.. ha.. so, takecare and c u agn.. 7three... or for qrp, u get a "7two" from me..ha. this pix is my hobby, now have made hams over 100 callsign plaques for them.. ha,, so they know what callsign to use.. ha.. DAVE LARSEN N9ZXLQRP@GMAIL.COM



73 From SV8SXF, KOSTAS



What a great effort! We operated as VC3K/VY9; VA3ACW(AC8W) on 40m, N8KQ(N8KQ/VE3) on 20m, VE9AQM(K8AQM) on 15m with visitor VE3NGN operating on 15m. Special thanks to VY9DFL for permission to be a "field unit" and to use the VY9 prefix and to VE3KG who allowed us to use his station. Thank you all for making contact with us. We couldn't submit the score as VC3K/VY9 because it has no specific SKCC number. 73, The VC3K/VY9 Team

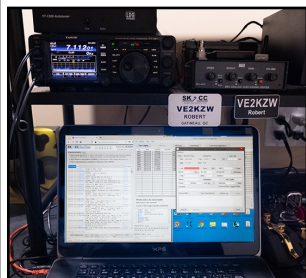


Wonderful 12 hours spent on the radio. Had 40M calling CQ as the best band followed by S&P on 40M, 20M and 15M. Had a 160M with K8JD. Had a few on 80M. Nice that the TS-2000 does antenna switching between the Vertical and the CL33 as doing S&P following the Sked page required quickly switching between all antennas. Looking forward to next month's WES honoring Military Veterans. 73, Vern NJ8L



I had a blast during this SKCC WES. It was my best performance (so far). I had 4 WES DX contacts which was really exciting. 10m and 15m were in great shape on Sunday morning. It's definitely improving my CW and getting me closer to earning a 'C' (over half way there). My station consisted of an FT-891 at 5W with a mAT-30 tuner into an end fed random wire antenna (29' radiator and 17' counterpoise). I used a Vibroplex Vibrokeyer (standard) single lever paddle wired as a cootie key as well as a Vibroplex Straight Key (standard). 73, Tom VA2NW

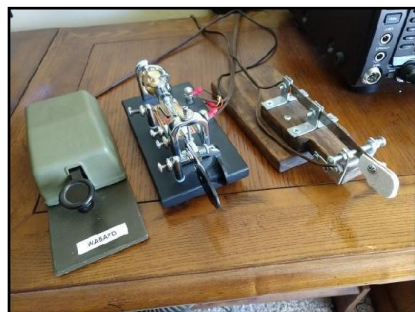
WES September, 2023 V



I operated for five hours as VC3K/VE2, an exciting challenge. Saturday afternoon, I had very difficult conditions on 40, 20 and 15m; I tried 10m but could not hear anyone. Only 3 Qs in one hour. Then, very late evening, 40m was good and I made 14 Qs, including F6EJN (does Bob ever sleep?). Two hours on Sunday afternoon on 20m worked well, including IK2CFD and G4IVV. The very last hour of WES started well on 20m until awful QRN made it just impossible although propagation was excellent; I moved to 40m and made several more Qs. All in all, a productive weekend. Many thanks to all and 73, Robert VE2KZW



The past 3 months have been a challenge. None the less, a WES is always fun. 73, Drexel W4DHT



Thanks to all of you that were able to work my station and to all those who make the sprints possible and fun. Nice to work into South America and Europe. Great to work Bert F6H-KA who is now back on the air. Used a German Junker key, 100 watts and a vertical antenna. 73, to all Gerald WA5AFD



Great wes - lots of activity and for once conditions were decent. Only have one antenna here (80 meter dipole) but feed with ladder line and tuner so does decent job on most bands. Had to time share because big annual FOC event was same weekend; and I was tied up a good deal of Sunday with ministry obligations - but managed to make my internal goal. See you all again in 29 days. 73, Dave W1DV - dit dit



Well that was fun. Stuck with Covid so no where to go. Most action on 40 and 20 but got some QSOs on 15 and 10 also. Still amazed what 5W can do. Thanks for all the QSOs 72/73 Andy W4NLT



On again-off again ops this weekend. Bands were up and down. Activity seemed to be a bit off. It was all cootie for me this time (bug-less) using my SKCC edition W1SFR SS. Rig: Elecraft K4D/KPA-1500, Antennas: 160m Full wave horizontal skyloop on 40, an EFHW on 80, and the Optibeam yagi for 15 and 20. All antennas at 50'. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia



This was a terrific WES with lots of great ops to meet. Mostly operated on Saturday but had to QRT due to lightning nearby. Got on a little Sunday afternoon then operated from our club station K4MMC. "Chico" helped a lot by taking naps. Thanks for the QSOs friends! See you next month. 73, Dave (and Chico) W4QDV



Nice weekend! My birthday was on Saturday, and the "present" was to be left alone to work the WES. No company! Conditions were good enough to result in 60 SPC's, likely a high for me. Some lightning QRM problems on Saturday night, but no nearby storms while on the air. Participation levels seemed to be good, though the Sked Page is less popular these days. Worked a number of YL ops, definitely more than usual. Lots of fun, as always, and thanks to all. 73, John



Had a lot of fun, S&P only, mostly 20M due to local noise on 40M. 73, Dave W7DLR



WES September, 2023 V



Saturday was difficult and few club stations, but Sun was better. Including a picture of my first key, I know very little about it except it was my father's first, probably bought in the 1930's. Works well, I use it for QRP. 73, W9KMK Gene



Happy 200 WES Anniversary! Operated a Yaesu 757 to a vertical on 10, 15, 20, and 40 m. Thanks for the bonus stations and leadership bonus stations. 73, WB9TFF Donna



Novice Recollections A.R.C.
2215 Sterling Creek Pkwy Oviedo, Florida 32766

Always heartwarming to use my father's call on the air. Thank you for the qso's and comradery. Sorry I wasn't on the air more to give out those bonus points. 73, Keith WN8YGR



Bushwacked my way to some 15M DX this time. Not the best of band conditions, but still it was fun. Looking forward to next one. Thank you all for hearing my QRP signal here in AZ. 73, Mark WO7T

Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 4 Issue 2
from the shack of David VE4DL

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.....

Not much to report this issue, still not on the air at home. I've been cheating, using DMR to do my DXing. I'm having fun with it, but it's not the same thrill, and the QSOs don't go into my main log (which updates to LoTW) but to my secondary log on QRZ.com.

The Club will be running it's annual flea market this month, I have a few fleas to scratch, and I'll have the Cable Shop out for those who need.

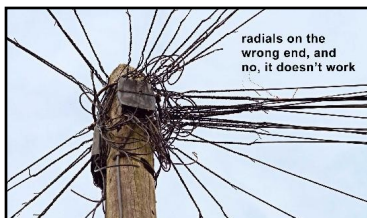
SKCC's Canadian Operator Event is winding down this week, ending on the 30th of September. Conditions have not been kind, most of the logs I'm getting are quite short. We got VY1 into the books, which is excellent!! Had to be a paper log, though, I think the last CME may have fried a northern computer or 3.

There are enough projects around the house to keep me busy all the way to Christmas, so I can't complain of boredom.

I'm looking forward to a new era in amateur radio clubdom here in Winnipeg, I think the amalgamation of two current entities into one will do everyone some good. I know there will be a some discussion around the new name, but I trust something everyone will like will come of it.

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

Brag August 2023



Hopefully when days turn colder I'll be in the shack more, but I did manage to log 13 quality QSOs! (I believe that's not counting Random Grams). I'll trust the Skimmer's judgement on "13" brags. 73, Dee AA0AJ :D



Thanks to all who participated. Again family activities limited air time. Hope to do better now that Fall is here. May the "Love Of Christ" (LOC) be with you and your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



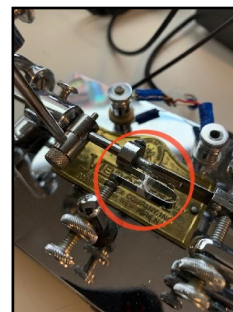
Not many but had a fun month. See you in September. 73, Bud AA8CL



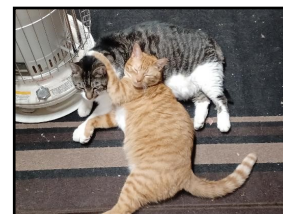
Pretty good month and a couple of DX contacts but nothing to brag about HI HI. Used the bug a lot more this month and getting a little better with it. Thanks for the QSO's and hope to hear you in Sept. IC 7610 @ 75w and a doublet antenna at 30ft. 73, Allen KA5TJS



The weather was a challenge this month. In No West Mo we experienced flooding followed later by a Historic 7 day Heat Wave with triple digit heat indexes. The Temp Inversion created 2M Tropo Ducting. I had a nice chat with W0HXL skcc 94T on 2M FM. Missed a chance to work Dick on 2M CW. TU Dave for Bonus op this month.... 73, Rick K0KEX



This pic shows a piece of dental floss around the dit contact. I saw this on a guys YouTube video and it seems to really make the dit cleaner/crisper. Tnx everyone for helping work towards my S. Less than 50 to go now. 73, Mark AA0YY



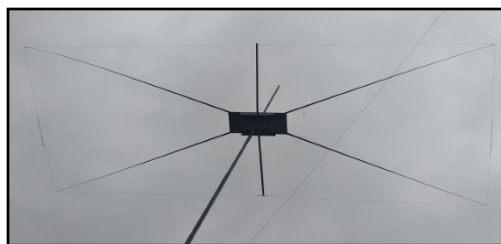
Less than a lot but the fun is still there. 73, Tom KB3CVO

It was an improved summer month but still with hit and miss band conditions. All QSOs (except for WES) made were with a homebrew all brass hardware cootie in an effort to complete the TKA requirements. While I don't play the guitar, I've found that guitar picks make nice finger pieces. At this time all SK and bug contacts are complete with a couple dozen or so QSOs still needed on the cootie to qualify. 73, Chuck N0CW

Brag August 2023 II



Well, another month passed and a few more Brag QSOs to add to the log. Nice to see a new member every once in a while...the group is still growing. Catch you all next month. 73, jack KK0I dit...dit



First opening to the states on 10m this month using a 2 element Moxon beam. Worked 5 SKCC stations in 30 minutes including 2 from AZ. I hope the next month will bring some more goodies! 73, Jo PG4I



Thanks for all that worked me while I was QRP in Puerto Rico! 73, Pat W5WTH



Had 10 in the WES but wx es health kept me off the air most of the month. Hopefully better in Sept. 73, Les WB5JWI



QSO's 172, Non-member QSO's 2, WES Member QSO's 149. Outside Special events 21 (Brag QSO's) But I did catch Dave, W1DV Thanks for the Bonus :~) I used my paper clip Key off/on for the month. 73, Rick-N8XI



Nice to cross paths with so many old friends - yet at same time meet so many new friends! My goal for the month as bonus station was 200 QSOs, and i beat that goal - so all is good! 73, Semper cw de Dave W1DV



Summer is tough on operating time. Outdoor stuff, like this picture, competes with it. I did get some good time in during WES but of course that doesn't count here. OH well, it's all good fun! 73, Bob W8YD

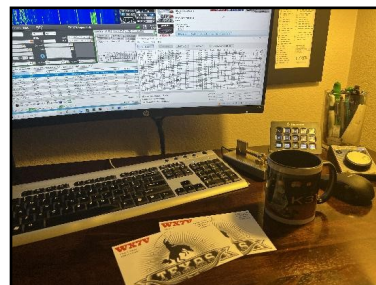
Had two weeks away from home for biz travel. Still had a lot of fun. Looking forward to working you all as the September Brag bonus member. 73, Chris de WX7V



Well now that an antenna is deployed I will attempt to get on the air. Want to call my attempt, "Side Of Building on the Air" but the initials sound a little dicy for this fine group. Here's a photo - the ends of the 41' random wire are circled. (Hope this is an appropriate "Brag". If not please discard it!) 73, TJ N5CTC



Just heard about Curt's passing today, so figured I'd better submit SOMETHING, be it modest. We were away for one week in August, and then tied up with grandkids for another, so no great totals. But as always, nice to stay in touch with everyone, and I do miss those who have been lost. 73, John W1TAG



K4 to K4 Remote Connection

Do you own a K4? Elecraft is about ready to come out with some incredible software that will let one K4 (client) connect to another K4 (server) and operate with all the client settings without going through third party software! To date it has been possible to use some software to remotely operate your K4 via the internet from a remote location...but there is a problem for us SKCC users. The only way you could send CW was via an electronic keyer...not an SKCC approved method for sending mechanically produced CW! It's not known for sure but the theory is if the client sends CW with a straight key/bug/cootie the CW at the server will be whatever it receives from the client!

Some interesting possibilities would be available; imagine a K4 user in Kansas connecting to a K4 in California or the east coast to experience the difference in propagation! Would the sever K4 have to belong to an SKCC member....not really. How about a client in the States connecting to a server in Europe, Asia or Australia, why not?



Elecraft is also developing their VK4, a program for your computer to completely control your K4 when you're accessing the internet from some location (back yard, vacation home or traveling in another country). As it is, there is not a solution for VK4 software to key the radio in straight key mode....but it's coming!

Reposted from the K4 remote list.

One of our staff engineers, Bob Wolbert (K6XX), also happens to be a top tester. Bob operated CW K4-to-K4 recently, using his K4 as the client and another K4 about 500 miles away as the server. It worked extremely well. (All the other modes work, too :) We're just a few user interface tweaks away from expanding testing to our full Field Test group, which generally means another month (or so...don't quote me) to beta.

Details

Engaging K4 Remote takes only a few seconds, whether it's K4-to-K4 or K4/0-to-K4. VK4-to-K4 setup is slightly different. It's peer-to-peer, so no other computers or intermediate servers are involved.

The original "?" button (the one that brings up the owner's manual) has been split into two buttons: "?" and the Remote button. The latter is emblazoned with a zippy new "globe" icon that tells you at a glance whether your K4 is operating as a client, a server, or neither. Tapping the Remote button brings up a simple dialog for client/server configuration. If you're setting up to be a client, you'll be able to quickly choose a server K4 from your saved-connections list.

You can even set up a K4 front panel switch macro to quickly connect to your favorite server.

There will be a lot more information on this soon, including a full description of our seamless integration with local computers running radio control apps. (As far as such apps are concerned, they're just controlling your local K4 -- even if you're using a K4 somewhere else as the server. The distant connection is completely transparent.)

September, 2023 Oceania QRS Saunter

Oceania QRS Saunter Results

Results for Oceania QRS Saunter: 16 Sep 2023

Overall | Soapbox

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
VK2GAZ	Garry	5460C	AUS	4
VK2GR	Allan	7823S	AUS	1
VK2IOW	Pat	20814	AUS	3
VK4EV	Ron	10775	AUS	6
VK4JAZ	Grant	4502	AUS	4
VK4TJ	John	4474S	AUS	4
VK7KPC	Peter Dodd	26832	AUS	1
W7AMI	Terry	20359S	ID	1
ZL1ARW	Jim J T	16633	NZL	5
ZL1RA	Mike	24654	NZL	9
ZL3TK	Stan	16208	NZL	8

Participants and QSOs by SPC

AUS: 7 / 23 ID: 1 / 1 NZL: 3 / 22



Stan ZL3TK		SKCC OC QRS SAUNTER 16 Sep 2023									
TIME Z	FREQ MHz	CALL SIGN	REPORT SENT	PROV	SPC	NAME	QTH	SKCC #			
1 0014	21.0580	VK2DVA	551	599	AUS	COLIN	SYDNEY	23507T			
2 0507	21.0573	VK2TER	511	33N	AUS	JAMES	TERRIGAL	26421			
3 0514	21.0573	VK4TJ	411	569	AUS	JOHN	MURPHYS CRK	4474S			
4 0543	14.0572	VK3MJ	541	559	AUS	MARK	GEELONG	25012			
5 0554	14.0572	VK4JAZ	511	599	AUS	GRANT	BRISBANE	4205			
6 0833	7.0373	VK4JE	441	5NN	AUS	OLWEN	MALENY	24961			
7 0902	7.0373	W5WTH	332	5NN	TX	PAT	AUSTIN	18901			
8 2219	21.0550	JJ1FXF	511	319	JPN	HIRO	not sent	22608T			



A little slow off the blocks this month however, I did enjoy the 4 contacts made John VK2TJ, Colin VK2DVA, James VK2TER & Pat VK2IOW. Thank you to all who participated. 73, Garry VK2GAZ



I enjoyed 3 QSOs on Sunday morning on 40M using my hacksaw blade sideswiper. Thanks to Garry VK2GAZ, Colin VK2DVA, Tim VK3TBR. 73, Pat VK2IOW

Less QSB than previous months, warmer upper atmosphere perhaps? Don't know where we'd be without that splendid skcc sked webpage. Thanks and 73 to all, Stan ZL3TK



Thanks for another enjoyable event for us Oceania folks. Special thanks to VK3MJ - Mark, VK4TJ - John, N7JM - Jim, VK2DVA - Colin, W5WTH - Pat, VK4JE - Ron & VK7KPC - Peter. While I was parked up on 14.114 I was also called by a couple of non members from Sweden: SM6CUK - Lars, Bosnia: E74A - Edin. I used my Admy. Patt. No.7681 Navy key into end fed vertical. 73, Mike ZL1RA



I only worked one station but it was still fun. Always look forward to working the gang down under. 73, Terry W7AMI



Contact with Mike ZL1RA 24654 on 14.114 MHz. This is my current in use key with the IC718 into end fed ant. 73, Peter VK7KPC



A most enjoyable afternoon working the 20m band with my Elecraft KX1 @ 3 Watts. My key was an American Morse KK1B straight key. And as usual, I set up my QRP station at a local park. I worked the following stations: ZL2AIM Ian, VK3MJ Mark, ZL/UR5AI Slava and ZL3TK Stan. 73, Grant VK4JAZ

Confessions of a Casual Contester

Vol. 4 Issue 3
from the shack of David VE4DL

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.....



Rejoice! Let the bells ring out and the banners fly! It's too good to be true, but I'm back on the air at home!

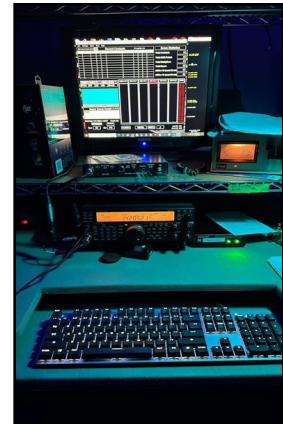
It's been a long wait, but the rotator and antenna went back up on the 28th of October, just in time to fire up for the CQ WW SSB. Conditions were terrible of course, and no-one heard me, but I enjoyed listening to everyone else working hard through the crap and earning every point. The Sun continues to play up while looking oh, so innocent. Doesn't matter, I can hit the shack any time I want now, one of those times the bands must be decent!

The project required a lot of help from friends and acquaintances and the rental of a boom truck for

down and then up again. Trying to get everyone free on the same day was the biggest challenge after actually finding them in the first place.

Now I can get to other projects, like finding the sticky switch in the MC-60 mic and setting the jumpers in the MFJ-1263 mic switch. I need to brush up my CW skills and get back into CWT and MST practices before the next big code contest. I've been neglecting my friends at SKCC for too long.

Of course, I've missed a lot of DX hunting these last 10 months, but there are plenty more upcoming to chase. Should be a good winter with plenty to occupy my time and keep me off the streets....



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

Straight Key Sprint Asia September, 2023

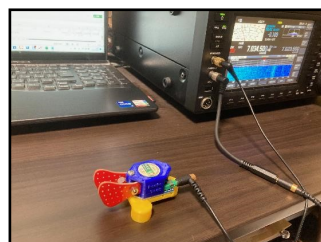
Callsign	Name	SKCC#	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
JF1UOX	MISA	26413	JPN	36	10	6/3/1	485
JA1IAZ	Nori	25300T	JPN	37	6	3/3/2	307
JA0FVU	Taka	13456	JPN	21	8	3/4/0	253
JJ1FXF	HIRO	22608T	JPN	24	6	4/2/1	229
JF1JDG	HIRO	26409	JPN	29	2	0/3/2	98
JR2IUB	Take	11167S	JPN	8	4	1/3/1	82
JK7UST	Sugi	8239C	JPN	20	2	1/2/1	80
JK1BVN	KAT	26584	JPN	32	1	1/2/1	72
JK8PBO	MASA	NONE	JPN	13	3	1/1/1	69
JR2AWS	Shin	26453	JPN	28	1	0/3/2	68
JF2FIU	Mark	NONE	JPN	21	2	0/2/1	67
JM4AOA	KEN	26423	JPN	21	1	0/2/1	46
JJ5QNS	UME	27343	JPN	15	1	1/1/1	45
JE1WOY	YASU	27670	JPN	10	1	0/3/1	45
JA0IND/I	JIN	8240	JPN	11	1	0/2/2	41
JG1BGT	UJIE	26599	JPN	6	1	0/3/1	41
JA9MAT	HIDE	12796	JPN	10	1	1/1/1	40
JR6CSY	TAKA	26476	JPN	25	1	0/1/1	40
JN1FAO	YOSI	26729	JPN	9	1	0/3/0	39
JF1EPL	YOSHI	26458	JPN	15	1	0/1/2	35
JF0RRH	Kazu Takamura	NONE	JPN	8	1	0/2/1	33
JJ0SFV	Aki	26384	JPN	8	1	0/2/0	28
JO1ZZZ/I	ATCLUB	16199	JPN	11	1	0/1/1	26
JJ4JGD	TAKA	5393	JPN	10	1	0/1/1	25
W9KMK	Gene	19270S	MO	3	1	0/2/0	23
JN1KMI	TAKA	NONE	JPN	7	1	0/1/1	22
JA7KED	SAKU	NONE	JPN	6	1	0/1/1	21
JM1LDV/I	AKI	NONE	JPN	6	1	0/1/0	16
JJ0VXN	KATSU	25488	JPN	8	1	0/0/1	13
JG1WKM	KOSHI	6202	JPN	3	1	0/0/0	3
JE3OUU	SHINYA FUJITA	NONE	JPN	3	1	0/0/0	3
KOKEK	Rick	5220S	MO	1	1	0/0/0	1



Fairly good propagation this morning. Run with 1W using Elecraft K2 and ZS6BKW Antenna 12mH. 73 CUL Hide JA9MAT



My first ever SKSA. Thank you. 73, Kazu JF0RRH



This time, I used the photo paddle with the left and right contacts shorted and used it as a sideswiper. Controlling the duration, timing and interval of ditto and dah can be very difficult, but for me it's a lot of fun. 73, Ken JM4AOA



I enjoyed Straight Key Contest. 73, Taka JN1KMI



Using side swiper. I'm struggling. 73, Aki JJ0SFV



Thank you for the QSOs. I tried to work NA stations on 15m. But condition was not so good. So I could not work NA stations. I hope to see DX stations next time. 73, Sugi JK7UST



73, JJ0VXN, KATSU



Today I used KENT KT-1. But the conditions were not good. See you next month. 73, Taka JR6CSY



Calling All SKCC Members!



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

2024 will be the 18th anniversary of SKCC's founding. Our annual Straight Key Month will start on January 2nd. QSL card designs are needed for the special event call sign, K3Y. ("K3Y" resembles "KEY", as in straight key.)

Submitted designs will be displayed on the event webpage where members will vote for their favorites starting in mid December. The most popular design will become the official K3Y QSL card of the January Straight Key Month event. Others will be featured in the SKCC 2024 print calendar.

You can see some of last year's cards featured in the 2023 calendar here:

https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y-docs/SKCC_Calendar_2023.pdf

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

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

There were many popular images submitted for past events that did not win the top spot. Designers are invited to update their past cards and resubmit for 2024.

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

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

(Design guidelines are also quoted on the next page)

JPEG high quality format

- Image size 1650 x 1050 pixels (or 5.5" x 3.5" at 300 pixels per inch)
- Horizontal layout only
- No text within 1/4" (75 pixels) of edges

Include the following items in the text elements of your design:

- K3Y
- Straight Key Month
- Straight Key Century Club and/or SKCC
- 18th Anniversary
- 2024

You can combine text elements, for example: "SKCC Straight Key Month & 18th An-niv.", etc. Also use different font sizes. You can include additional text if desired.

The back side of the card, including the QSO space, will be provided by us.

If you don't understand the image size requirements please ask. Setting your workspace/canvas to 1650 x 1050 pixels (or 5.5" x 3.5" at 300 ppi) is the first step in designing a card im-age.

Designs can be submitted now through Dec. 14th. They will be displayed on the webpage in the order received. You can revise a submitted design any time until Dec. 14th.

You can submit several different designs. However, please avoid multiple images hav-ing minor variations. For example: the same basic design with differently colored backgrounds. Similar designs will compete with each other for votes.

If you include graphics or photos that are not your own they must either be public do-main or you must have permission from the original owner. Please advise us if you are using graphics or photos that are not your own.

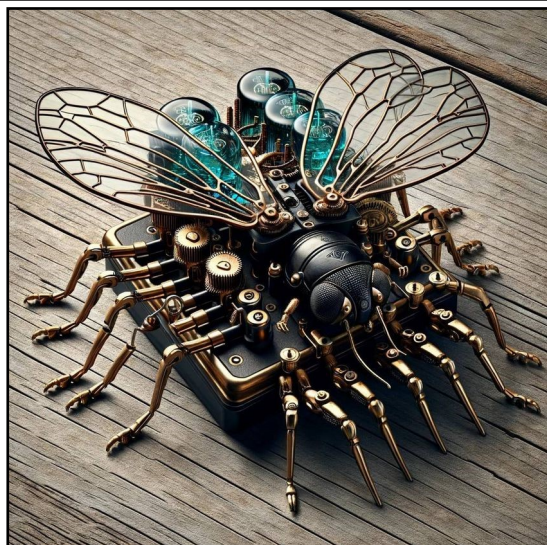
By providing a card design you agree that SKCC has the right to use it for the K3Y QSL card, webpages, anniversary logo, mug graphic and calendar. Also, a variant of your de-sign may be used on K3Y DX QSL cards.

Please send any questions or comments to me at af2z[at]skccgroup.com, or post a fol-low-up on Groups.io, and I will get back to you. Also send your card images to me. I will con-firm receipt and uploaded them to the webpage for display.

We're looking forward to your card designs. Have fun!

Drew - AF2Z

SKM/K3Y Planning Group



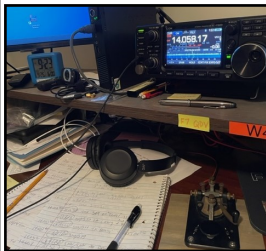
AI Vibroplex Bug!

Just a bit off topic, but I found to be so funny and odd, I had to share. I asked Open AI's image generator to render a picture of a Vibroplex Bug and this is what it gave me. Wow!Kevin Laughin....Facebook CW Bugs, Keys & Paddles

SKS September 27, 2023



Thanks to all for the QSOs. Twenty meters seemed to be in good shape & activity was high. I'm enjoying a VariSpeed device and dental floss string to tame the dot contact of my 1954 Vibroplex Original Standard bug. 73, Bob AF5Z



This was a lot of fun! Met some new ops and some familiar calls, too. 20 meters was unusually quiet here, so I never moved. I was blessed to encounter Bonus Station EA3O "Santi" on my second QSO! Thanks for the QSOs, friends! 73, Dave W4QDV



It's been a while... 1/3 20m and 2/3 40m. Nice to have bonus station EA3O call on 20m early on. 40m much noisier, but generally good signals all around. Thanks, all! 73, Steve KC5F



Always great fun to multi op with friends. At first after working 5 ft. Wayne stations in a row I thought it was the Ft. Wayne QSO Party we were in! Geez, they were everywhere! 73, Crew NM8GS



A nice enjoyable event on a chilly and rainy fall evening. 29 contacts on 20 meters, 18 on 40, and 1 on 80. 40 was a bit noisy but condx overall were not bad although 40 seemed to be a bit long. Used my Vibroplex Presentation bug circa 1956 for all contacts. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia



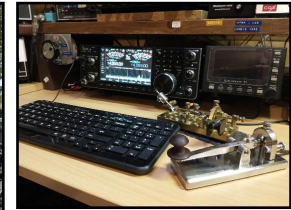
Gosh, it's been a while, but sure was fun. Nice to see some activity on 20 meters this evening. Thanks everyone for hanging in there. 73, Warren KC9IL



Been a while since I've been able to work SKS so great to be back! low start on 20M so I switched to 40M about 30 minutes in and did much better despite a noisy band here in SW MO. Used my Elecraft K4 at 100 watts. Antennas OCF dipole at 25', 43' vertical with remote tuner and an 80M doublet at 30' The OCF dipole seemed to work best. Morse code device was a KN4YB bug. Thanks all for a fun 120 minutes! 73, Bill NZ0T



Operating as VC3K/VE2 with a Hi-Mound HK-706 straight key. Using a Yaesu FT-891 at 5W into a 29' random wire with a 17' counterpoise. 73, Tom VA2NW



Lots of activity tonight! The QRN in Indiana was brutal on 40 meters. Getting used to the new radio and having fun with the new key. 73, Ken N8KR



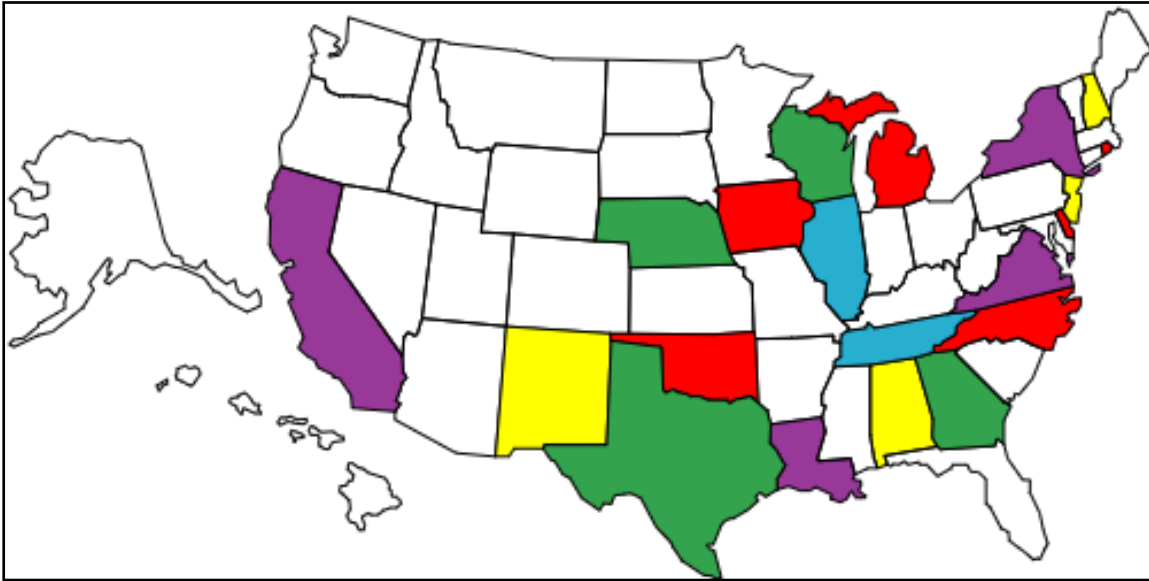
Not much time for operating SKS this month, but did get two more contacts towards Tx7. Bands seemed open nicely, for a change. Hope propagation continues into the fall. My three Signal Electric keys shown, left to right, R-62, R-63, R-64. Identical but for the diameter of the contacts. 73, George NC2M



That was fun - until the sun went down and it got all windy and cold. 73, Matt W6CSN

Eyeball WAS Update

De Larry N1FG




Like others in my age group, my ears have certainly seen, and heard, better days. I suffer from almost total deafness in my right ear and profound hearing loss in the left. However, unlike verbal conversations, which are peppered with “say again?”, or “pardon me?”, listening to a CW signal is easy for me and rarely calls for a repeat. My radio filters are always set very tight, and I also have a special program for my hearing aids with a restricted bandwidth and response peaked at 600 Hz.

Of course, along with the advantages of CW for my hearing disabilities, I really enjoy my SKCC QSOs. There is a lot to be said about the no-stress nature of hand sent code in our club. Whatever your preferred speed the experienced members go out of their way to make both newcomers and/or less experienced hams feel welcome. The numerous awards and events which SKCC offer allow everyone to pursue that next step up the ladder in experience and confidence.



As a personal goal, when I travel, I try to catch as many “eyeball” QSOs as possible with hams I have had QSOs with. I always leave these short meetings (often over a meal) with a smile and a real memory of the ham who owns that “fist”. During my travels over the last few years, I have had a lot of opportunities for my first handshake with SKCC radio friends. I have been keeping track of which states I have had eyeball QSOs in and am looking forward to catching them all.




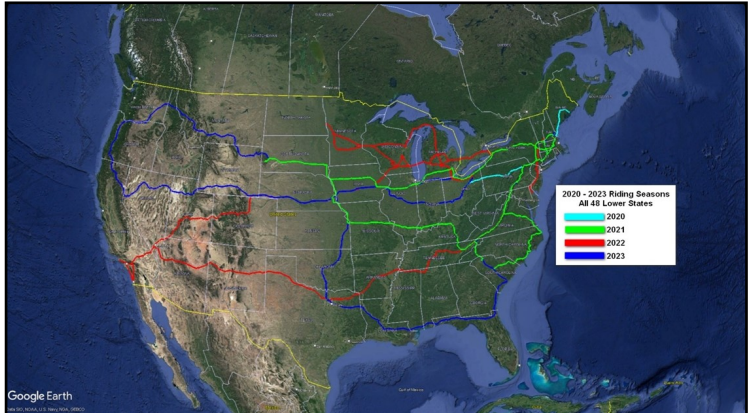
Best 73 from NH,
Larry N1FG

Local to Deerfield

New Hampshire	NEAR-FEST 2017 N1FG – Larry W1TAG – John KB1WOD – Dave W1UL – Urb (SK) NM1W – Jim	
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Vehicle Road Trips 2017 & 2019

California	K6ELQ – Tony (SK) Met Tony during a trip to California in 2019. He convinced me to try the BMW R1250RT motorcycle as I was looking to replace my Harley-Davidson. Unfortunately, he passed away before I took delivery the following year of the bike he had recommended. The bike is as good as you said Tony, RIP my friend.	
Delaware	K3CRM – Cliff At the time I met Cliff in 2017 he was working on the Nuclear Ship Savannah and a co-founder of their radio club (K3SAV). He is a licensed senior reactor operator along with being a great host and master storyteller!	

<p>Georgia</p>	<p>W4FOA - Tony</p> <p>Met Tony in 2019 as I passed through his area. I had worked him many times as I was trying to re-learn CW and he always has a great fist, kind ears and words of encouragement when they were needed.</p> <p>Great fun at dinner and super stories!</p>	
<p>New York</p>	<p>K2KRG - Steve</p> <p>Met Steve in 2019 on a road trip to visit friends and family. We were both students in a CW Academy class at the time.</p> <p>He is a former Army paratrooper and runs mobile CW from his truck almost every day. If he loses 50% of his skill he will only be 10x more skilled than me.</p>	
<p>Virginia</p>	<p>N5SUN - Steve</p> <p>Met Steve and his wife in 2019 returning from my road trip out to California. He was a frequent early bird on the SKED page and it was a real pleasure to meet them both!</p>	
<p>Motorcycle Trips – 2020 through 2023</p> <p>These are the routes taken across the United States during the last 3 years to get all 48 lower states in the ride log for my 2020 BMW R1250RT motorcycle.</p>		

2021

Nebraska

WB0BEE - Mike

I have shared meals with Mike in 2021, 2022 and 2023 as Omaha is a common via-point in my rides! This picture was our first meeting while I was returning to NH from a ride to Mt. Rushmore.

It's always a pleasure to see a friendly, smiling face when I pass through Nebraska.



Rhode Island

NIGKE - Myrt

Met Myrt while in Rhode Island performing annual maintenance on my motorcycle with a friend. Myrt is commonly on the SKED page, and it was great to meet this fist I knew so well.

Although you can't see it in this picture, the weather was horrible with heavy rain and gusty winds. (On this point, I think there is some jinx associated with meeting SKCC members while riding, as I end up in my rain-suit for a lot of them! Hihi)



2022

Alabama

WB4LAL - Ike

I met Ike and his XYL, Deborah, at an Applebee's in Florence, Alabama during my ride to California and back - "Grand Tour 2022". Very kind of them to make the long drive into town from their home to share stories and laughs with a deaf motorcycle rider!

Ike is a frequent early bird user of the SKED page and always anxious to help other members with their goals.



Iowa

WV0C - Bob

Had dinner with Bob (farthest right in this picture) and friends while riding through Iowa during the Grand Tour. Bob retired from a long career at Collins. I talked him into getting an SKCC number but have been unsuccessful in getting him to use a key instead of a microphone! (In the "small world" category, Dave, the old man on the far left also retired from Collins, but I worked with him in 1974 when we were both Marine radar technicians based at 29 Palms, California.)



Michigan

K8AQM – Ted

Was riding through Michigan on my way back from North Dakota during a relatively short ride (“Mini Tour 2022”) to get Minnesota and North Dakota in the log. Met Ted for breakfast at a Cracker Barrel in Port Huron, MI just across the river from Sarnia, ON. What a fun time we had! (Note the rain-suit – very heavy rain that morning.)



New Mexico

NA5N – Paul

This meeting, while on the Grand Tour, was a real treat for me. Paul is a common early bird on the SKED page, especially during K3Y, and we had a ton of fun chatting in Albuquerque. He had driven about an hour for this event, and it was a blast!



Tennessee

W4IRA - Marty

This meeting was also during the Grand Tour, and it was great to meet Marty at a Murfreesboro, TN restaurant for fried catfish. He is a full time US Air Force recruiter, and it was an honor for me to have him take the time to have lunch and some laughs with an old jarhead passing through town.

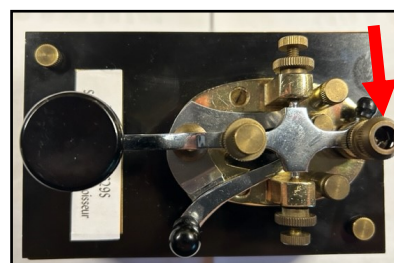


What the Heck?



Now this is strange! What looks like a J-38 and actually works as a J-38, with buzzer and butane cigar lighter! Two batteries underneath, a butane tank and a buzzer make this key. The closing bar is the selector for either key operation or cigar lighter!

Butane flame here



SKCC QSO Party October, 2023

QSO Party Results

Results for QSO: 7-8 Oct 2023

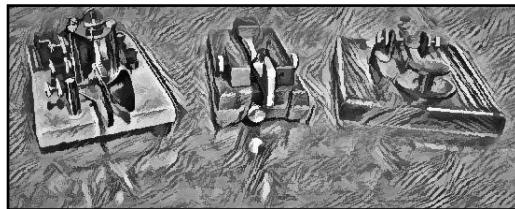
Overall | Single Op | Multi Op | Unlimited | SWL | By SPC | Soapbox

Overall results

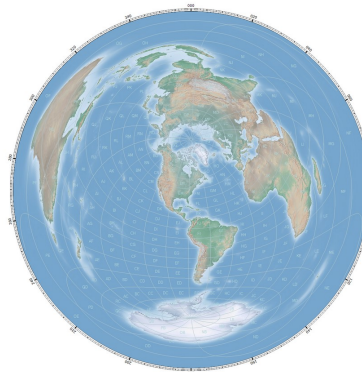
Rank	Callsign	Power Class	Name	SPC	SKCC #	Grids	QSO's	Score
1	F6EJN	QROo	Bob	FRA	508S	66	81	5,346
2	K3EW	QROo	Phil	MD	10605S	61	79	4,819
3	NJ8L	QRO	Vern	OH	13613S	55	68	3,740
4	W1DV	QRO	Dave	NC	1433S	43	54	2,322
5	KE8PX	QRO	Ron Wilch	OH	26949T	32	41	1,312
6	KK0I	QRO	Jack	WI	2370S	27	31	837
7	WG0Y	QRO	Dave	UT	26170T	24	29	696
8	W4CMG	QRO	Cathy	TN	20093S	18	21	378
9	KG0RD	QRO	Jim	NE	7068	17	17	289
10	W4NLT	QRP	Andy	VA	16400S	16	17	272
11	PG4I	QROo	Jo	NED	11019S	15	18	270
12	N2TNN	QRO	Dean	VA	25132S	14	16	224
13	IK2CFD	QRO	Graziano	ITA	22069T	12	13	156
14	AC1KV	QRO	Dan	CT	24660S	10	11	110
15	N3KRX	QRO	Jerry	DE	2525S	7	11	77
16	VO1KGZ	QRO	Gord	NL	25729T	8	9	72
17	KC3SSC	QRO	John Armato	MD	27648	6	6	36
17	NE5A	QRO	George	OK	24849S	6	6	36
19	KS7KCC	QRO	CW	OH	21877S	5	5	25
20	AB8FJ	QRP	Ted	OH	62T	4	4	16
21	VA2NW	QRP	Tom	QC	4889	1	1	1
21	W6IRA	QRP	Gary	CA	12393C	1	1	1



Lots of QSOs with non-members. The Californian QP was also part of the party. few participants, the list of active users was not very long. 20 exotic or European locators. Thank you for these dual band and sometimes triple QSOs. Image is Mosley 10, 15, 20m. 73 QRO and the next Week End, Bob F6EJN



Another work weekend, but we managed to snag a few QSOs. Didn't seem there were many ops out there during my time on the air. Still a fun event. Thanks to all those who participated. 73, jack kk0i dit...dit



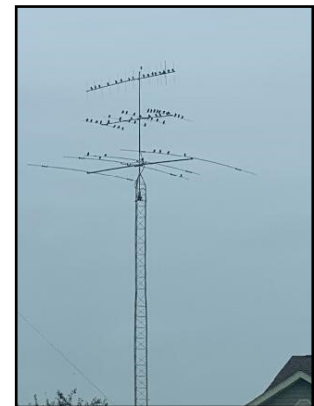
Good opening in the 10M band at the end of my activity which allowed me to add points and multipliers. Thanks everyone for your patience. 73, Graziano IK2CFD



Fun but certainly a level or two below WES participation. Lots of non-members, curious about the "CQ SKQ" calls - maybe we will get some new members in the club. ZUT 73 de Dave W1DV



Nice to work a few new stations, 10 meters had been very good. Have been using a 2 element moxon at 8 meters and 400 Watts on that band. 73, Jo PG4I

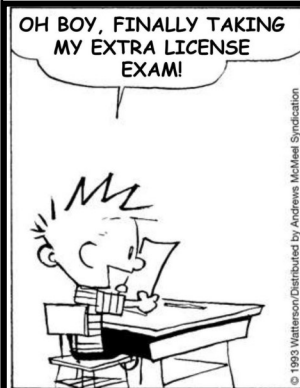
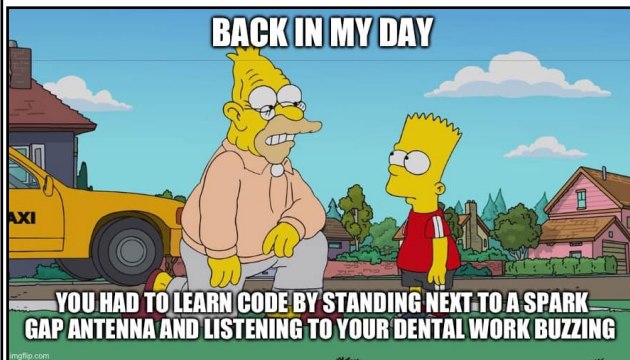


The California QSO Party wasn't as much an competition as last year. Wish there was greater SKCC participation in this yearly event. Had too much downtime between QSOs. Using the TS-2000s 'Quick Memo' was able to monitor two different frequencies. Looking forward to the Randomgram #6 event later this month. 73, Vern NJ8L

Just for Laughs!



Birthday cookies...too cool to eat!



What is the effective isotropic radiated power of a repeater station with 200 watts transmitter power output, 2 dB feed line loss, 2.8 dB duplexer loss, 1.2 dB circulator loss, and 7 dBi antenna gain?



Addicts: Before And After



FT8



DMR



SSB



CW



October, 2023 Slow Speed Saunter

Slow Speed Saunter Results

Results for Slow Speed Saunter: 1 Oct 2023

Overall | Soapbox

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
WL7WH	Bob	2940S	AK	9
AB4QL	Barry	24997T	AL	4
KC3AM	Dave	22014C	DE	10
DG5CW	Tom	25380	GER	2
KJ7KDB	Tim	22903	ID	0
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	4
KB4QQJ	Randy	3508S	NC	13
W1DV	Dave	1433S	NC	20
WD4LSS	Neal	22181T	NC	13
NJ8L	Vern	13613S	OH	30
VA3WAV	Steve White	27619	ON	1
W7VC	Jordan	24194S	OR	12
KC4KS	Kirk	27594	TN	6
W4CMG	Cathy	20093S	TN	7
KA5TJS	Allen	5172S	TX	1
N5FZ	Paul	24810	TX	3

Participants and QSOs by SPC

AK: 1 / 9	AL: 1 / 4	DE: 1 / 10	GER: 1 / 2	ID: 1 / 0
IN: 1 / 4	NC: 3 / 46	OH: 1 / 30	ON: 1 / 1	OR: 1 / 12
TN: 2 / 13	TX: 2 / 4			



Able to devote a few hours to this event. Activity was less than I expected - Will do the S&P more next month- Had fun as usual doing the CW thing with a WISFR Fat Boy. 73, Vern NJ8L

Slow Speed Saunter

Keep on Truckin'...



Always a fun event. First time in 18 months I did not put K2CWM in the log - sad - RIP Curt. 15 of my QSOs had numbers >20,000 - great to see so many (relatively) new SKCC members participate. Had some unexpected ministry duties that took a portion of the Sunday afternoon I had planned on working SSS - but so be it. See everyone next month 73, Dave / W1DV dit dit

How to Store a Yagi

I moved into an HOA...yup! No towers nor visible antenna outside allowed! In previous issues I told how a stealth EFHW 80-10, a 20ft 160-6m vertical flagpole dipole and Mag-loop grace the place with my K4D and 100 watts. When I moved I sold/gave away most of my towers and antennas but found no home for a 30 year old two element HB9CV tribander. Scheming to the rescue! Why not mount it to the garage ceiling! Cleaning and the use of many plastic ties the antenna is tuned with 1:1.5 swr on the bands (20, 15 and 10m). It's pointed at Europe and even at 10-12 feet up I can worked many EU stations and it has a poor front-back so works well to the SW in the States. BTW, no worries about the garage door going up and down when keying. The antenna has a 1:1 balun and common mode choke at the feed point.

Only problem...when that metal door goes up the swr goes crazy!

I also have an Alpha Delta 40-10m strung in the same garage the legs are at right angles to each other.

You just can't have too many antennas!

73, Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM



September Brag 2023



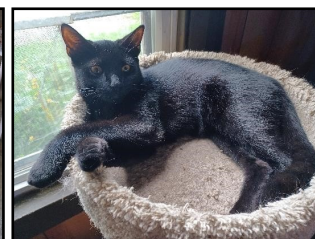
Good month. Had a great time. Some great conversations which always either makes a new friend or catches up with old friends. Thanks for all the QSOs. The picture is me Aug 1974 as novice WN8SDA. First setup. 73, Bud AA8CL



Thanks to all who help make the Bragg Program so much fun. God bless you and your families. 73 Ric KA3LOC



Well not a great month but I did get JPN and AUS this month. That was fun!! Hoping for a few more QSO's next month. Take care and hope to



Always fun fun fun. 73, Tom KB3CVO



Another nice month meeting old friends again. 73, Dean N2TNN



Thanks for the contacts....73, Jim N4EES



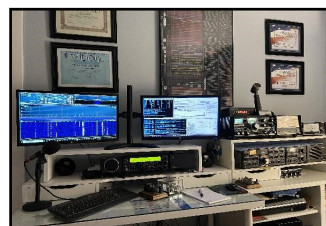
73, Al N4OW



Finally the bands opened and gave plenty of opportunities. Said hi to many old friends and made quite a few new ones. Looking forward to October and beyond. The Signal Electric R-64 on the right is the key that I used almost exclusively this month. 73, George NC2M



Overall, it was a pretty good month here with somewhat improved band conditions as we transition out of summer. Congratulations to Chris, WX7V on his long hours and dedication to the bonus cause. A shout out goes to Jerry, NN5SD for his consistent and hard fought journey to a rapid S. His signal was like a propagation beacon most times of the day on most bands! I made it a goal to achieve the Triple Key Award (TKA) in time for the upcoming October WES which is TKA themed. Pictured are the keys used in this endeavor. A left handed bug borrowed from W6JIM, my trusty antique Bunnell SK of 6,000 plus SKCC QSOs, and a homebrew sideswiper. Thanks to all who filled my log and to Dave, W3NP for being the 100th contact using the last key needed (the cootie). 73, Chuck N0CW



73, Jim NJ3B

September Brag 2023 II



Thank you for the contacts. Still planting seeds in the antenna farm plot, but so far only one result. 73, Leo N9QU

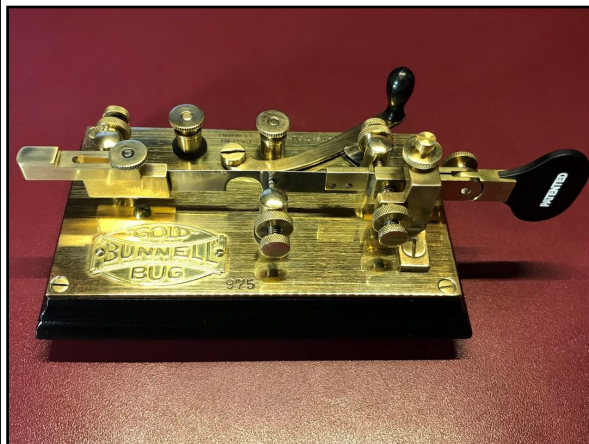


Random pic... 73, Pat W5WTH



I had a great month and a lot of fun. I used my favorite cootie made by W1SFR. My score was aided by all the members working VC3K. I also completed my personal goal to work all states in September as the brag bonus member. Got the last state (North Dakota) with four hours to spare on Saturday! 73 Chris de WX7V

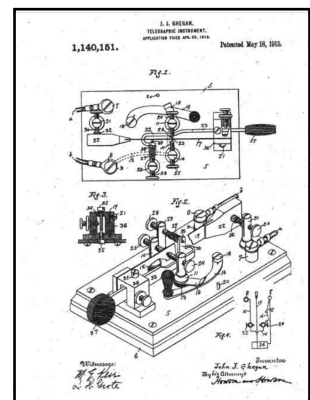
Very Rare Gold Bunnell Bug



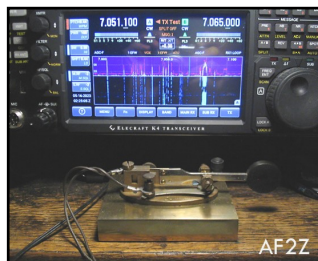
From Facebook "CW Bugs, Keys and Paddles"

Here is a beautiful "Gold Bunnell Bug". To the right is the original patent drawing of Bunnell bugs from 1915 by J.J. Ghegan

The Gold Bunnell Bug was produced circa 1920



Straight Key Sprint Asia October, 2023



Some nice signals from Japan to US east coast on 10m & 15m. Tnx JF1UOX, JA0FVU and JA1IAZ. My rig: Elecraft K4 @ 100 watts; endfed wire antenna; Bunnell sideswiper key. 73, Drew AF2Z



73, Hide JA9MAT



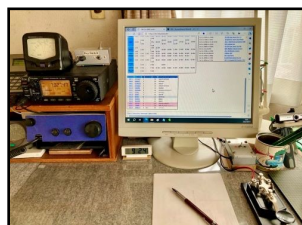
Thanks for FB QSO! 73, Kazu JF0RRH



This morning this key. 73, Aki JJ0SFV



Thank you for all stations! See you next SKSA! 73, Matt JS2BGJ



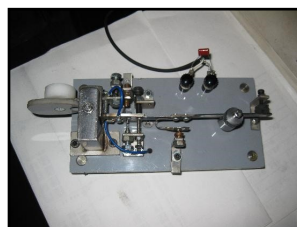
I QRV 40m 500mW into INVVEE up 13mH. 73, Yasu JH2HTQ



Thank you all stations. 73, Masa JK8PBO



This time, I tried to work at output 1W again. I was able to communicate with not many stations, but with the help of their good antennas, I was able to communicate with 7 stations. I really enjoyed it. Thank you so much to everyone who called my weak signal. 73, Ken JM4AOA



Thank you so much for giving me an enjoyable time. My Total QSOs were 9 (only 10 mtr band) and the number of unique SPCs are 8 in spite of I was able to only about an hour operating for my job. I am expecting BIG opening :-) CU in the WES. 73, Take JR2IUB



Thank you all stations! 73, Mark JF2FIU

Oceania Slow Speed Saunter October, 2023

Oceania QRS Saunter Results

Results for Oceania QRS Saunter: 21 Oct 2023

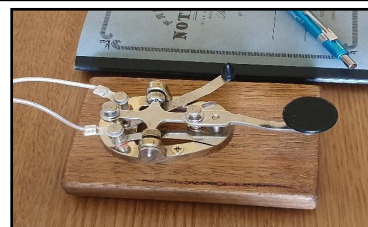
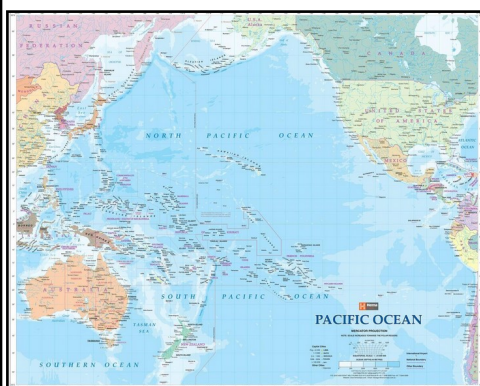
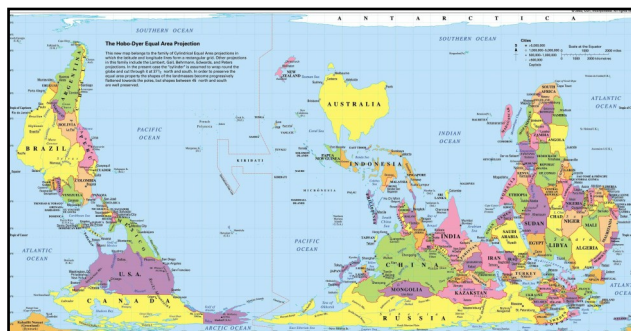
Overall | Soapbox

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
VK1AAF	Pete	27938	AUS	1
VK2GAZ	Garry	5460C	AUS	5
VK3BAP	Brendan	27533	AUS	1
VK4SE	Jeff	26260	AUS	4
VK4TJ	John	4474S	AUS	3

Participants and QSOs by SPC

AUS: 5 / 14

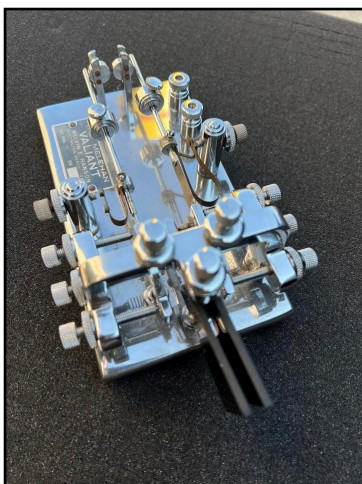


Tried throwing out a few CQs on 15M on an antenna that wasn't optimal for the band. Changed to 40M and got a response from VK3ADX Merv and had a FB QRS QSO for around 40mins at around 8 to 10WPM. Have been practicing on a paddle for the past few weeks so it was a great opportunity to put my new (to me) J37 on the air. Took a bit of getting used to the straight key again, and a new one at that, but it's always nice and relaxing when it's QRS. Just wish I had more time on OQS weekends to have a few more QSOs, there's always next month...or the next... 73, Brendan VK3BAP

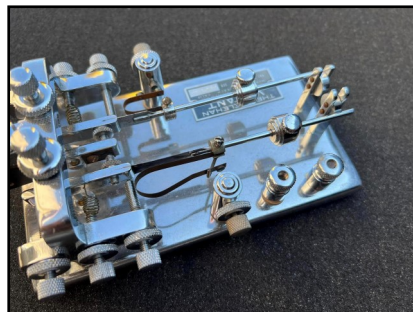


Only had very limited time to participate this month but had 5 most enjoyable contacts. 73, Gary VK2GAZ

Try Sending on One of These!



Imagine what sending cw on this Melehan Valient double lever bug! A very few of these rare keys were made by Mel Hanson from 1939 to 1959. It uses two vibrating levers to allow it to make both dots and dashes automatically. These keys are very hard to find. There is a nice article on the Melehan in the March, 1942 Issue of QST Magazine .



Mel was "an intercept operator for the Radio Intelligence Division of the FCC... Their job was to find suspicious signals be they enemy signals or traitors on American soil.

NN Problems with Cut Numbers

The topic of [cut numbers](#) comes up periodically, especially for contests that use serial numbers or power numbers in the exchange, such as February's ARRL International DX contests, or some CQ World Wide contests. Cut numbers, originally only for CW, substitute letters with fewer elements for numbers. For example, N with two elements is used instead of 9 with five (disregarding the difference in time between dots and dashes, which makes the savings even greater).

Using cut numbers for RST is so common, we sometimes forget that they are actually cut numbers. RST is not usually checked during contest log scoring and acts more as a placeholder, denoting that "the exchange part you need to copy is next." No running station in a contest wants a true and accurate signal report. For CW RST, sending 5NN is customary and expected. For RTTY RST, you should send 599. Sending 5NN in Baudot takes more time. For SSB readability and strength, 59 is as short as it needs to be. The decision to use cut numbers for other parts of the exchange is more nuanced.

It may seem faster to send ETT instead of a number (500). But if cut numbers have to be repeated because a short exchange was covered by noise, the other operator is not familiar with cut numbers and asks for repeats, or the other operator is confused about what to log after copying the cut numbers, then they aren't serving their intended purpose.

Those who make thousands of contacts in a weekend, operating for the full contest interval and running for hours on end, might make more contacts using cut numbers. The small savings per contact could add up to matter. But how many S&Pers who aren't familiar with cut numbers, requiring repeats, does it take before any savings are consumed by the extra time taken for those contacts?

Less experienced S&Pers may face challenges in receiving cut numbers -- logging them, and even submitting the log. A logging program may not accept letters instead of numbers for the contest exchange. If a log is submitted with cut numbers in the exchange field, does the contest sponsor score it as-is? Turns out, it depends on the contest! For CQ World Wide contests, per the [Rules FAQ](#):

"Q: A station sends me 'cut numbers' on CW. What should I enter in the log?

The log checking software is expecting to see a log with sent and received zone numbers.

No matter what someone sends you, it is your responsibility to convert it into the zone number you thought they were trying to communicate."

It's different for ARRL contests. The ARRL International DX Contest will [accept cut numbers for power in Cabrillo logs and convert them to regular numbers](#). You might hear 1K or K as a shortcut - not technically cut numbers, but both are understandable as 1,000.

Another potential drawback: Someone that has found cut numbers to be confusing in the past may be inclined to not call the running stations using them.

How about if both stations are fluent in cut numbers? Not as safe as you'd think. Most CW sending these days is handled by the logging software, so saving time using a cut number would probably require special case handling using a paddle, alternative macro, or some other means. Anything outside of the normal flow of QSOs is risky.

The ARRL Contest Update for November 8, 2023...Brian N9ADG

WES October, 2023



Another great WES, the band conditions were very good, many great DX contacts on 15M. Thanks everyone for a nice event. 73, Bill AA2MX



Wow!, great conditions on 10M this WES. I made 67 QSOs on 10M, very unexpected. My homebrew 10M 2 element quad came in very handy. Although it's fixed in the SW direction it did very well for the boom being only 13 feet above ground. I decided to go "all out" this WES and made over 300 QSOs for the first time in about 2 years. 65 SPCs was my best ever. Just running modest antennas here: dipoles, 20M loop, and wire quad. Favorite contacts were AH6EI on 10M, KE1AF (RI) through heavy RTTY, and lots of DX on 10M. Photo shows home made quad. Hope to raise it to 20 feet next year and make it rotatable. Divergent arrays make a huge difference. 73, Bob AC1GF



Thanks you to everyone who answer my calls. 73 cu agn Tom /F4GOU



Another fun weekend and great theme. Those of you who worked me heard the sounds of a Bunnell 1881 triumph key that is part of a box relay kob. Got some action when calling on 160 meters Sunday morning (utc). I was Rudolph in the Dec. WES several years ago but did not get my bid in for it early enough this year. 100 watts into a carolina windom up 40 feet. Looking forward to meeting old and new friends this Dec. WES. 73, Frank AA2XB



Bands in good shape this weekend. Thanks to Bob F6EJN for DX on 10 meters! Ten-Tec Omni VII to end-fed wire. 73, Steve AI9IN



Many thanks to all for a pleasant WES : 12 TKA members logged, 9 two bands and one three bands (tks K3EW) contacted, 7 new SKCC members at long last achieving my DXQ 1500+ level ! All the best to all and see you again soon. 73, Bernard F5DE



Got in to give TKA for points. Could not operate too long. Met several new ops I did not have in logs. Several nice QSO's. Got to use new Begali Bug. 73, John Paul AB4PP



Thanks for another fun WES. 73, Jim AD0AB



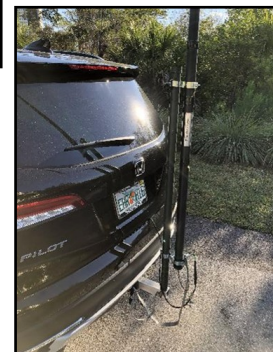
Tnx to all fer qso, 73 tu de Lluís EA3NO



Family reunion and 4 Rugby matches reduced my activity time this WES. Strange spread for the month of October. quite numerous 3 or 2 bands and a good participation for this WES. Thank you for all these QSOs, 73 to all and to the WES in November. 73, Bob F6EJN



What a wonderful weekend, WES as well as SKCC has restarted that fire I once had. Thanks to everyone that had to put up with my QRP Signal, I had a great time. Special Thanks to Dave KI8I for helping me with the Scoring I missed the 100 for the Soapbox and Photo! 73, Craig AB8DY



Didn't have much time but managed a few contacts. My station was a battery powered IC7300 into a 31 foot hitch mounted EagleOne vertical using a CW Morse Sideswiper key. Thanks to SKCC for this event. 73, Brad AI6DS

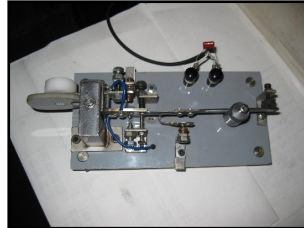


Great event !lots of qso on 10 M rig ft 5000 300 watts yagi 3 elts (20 15 10) picture of my vert r8. 73, Duc F5UQE

WES October, 2023 II



Good fun on the key for an hour or two, mainly on 20m. Looking forward to the next WES.
73, John G0RDO



Thank you for giving me an enjoyable time. 73, DE Take JR2IUB

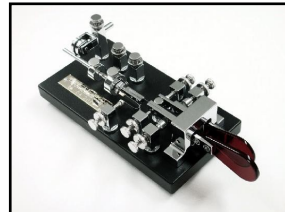


I had worked on 10m only. Thank you for WES QSO. 73, Sugi JK7UST

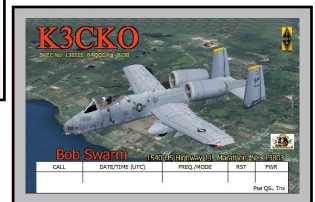
A few hours of traffic to get me closer to the "T"! Thanks everyone for the qso's. Looking forward to it. 73, Frank F8DTU



Exceptional 10 - 15 meter conditions this weekend. The Solar eclipse didn't appear to have had an influence. Thank you to all the "TKA" operators for a fun weekend My Hats Off to you. The Llaves SKCC es a "59" Blue Racer are my go to keys. 73, Rick K0KEX



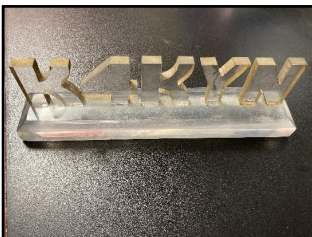
Lots of activity & excellent conditions. Worked Chuck, N0CW on 4 bands! 73, Steve K2FW



First time on here in months. Band was strange for October. Had a good time good to see the old gang. 73, Bob K3CKO



FRANK w3LPL, IN HIS PROPAGATION PREDICTIONS FOR THE WEEKEND SAID THAT CONDITIONS ON TEN METERS WILL BE THE BEST IN 20 YEARS. THE BAND JUST KEPT COMING WITH DX MULTIPLIERS EVEN AT THE END OF THE CONTEST FOR ME, WHEN A UA0 CALLED IN. TOO BAD IT WAS MONDAY AM IN SE ASIA BECAUSE NOT MANY ON-SOME JA'S BUT NOT MANY. FOLKS JUST PUT A DIPOLE OR A WIRE OUT THE WINDOW AND WORK THE WORLD ON TEN METERS. WORKED A TON OF FOLKS IN EU AND AS USING 20 W OR SO AND A DIPOLE. AS ALWAYS THANKS FOR THE QSO'S - BOB AC1GF 5 BANDS!!!TU BOB. mANY WITH 3 AND 4 BANDS TU. CONGRATS TO KEN N8KR FOR A STELLAR EFFORT. i MISSED A FEW PRODUCTIVE HOURS TENDING TO FAMILY ISSUES. PIX OF NEW JK-ANTENNAS 10/15 JR @ 50 FEET ON AN AB-577 ARMY MAST. 73, Phil K3EW



Before my dad was an engineer, he was a schoolteacher. He made this acrylic piece in shop class to celebrate his time in ham radio. Recently, I rearranged my desk in the ham shack to give me a little more room. Now, I can prominently display my callsign (and his) - a shout out to his many years in ham radio and a reminder of all the great QSOs I've made. Another good number of those QSOs took place this weekend during this wonderful WES. Thx for all the great contacts and for another great Weekend Sprintathon. 7, Jeff K4KYN



Worked bug and SK. This WES put me over for both the Tx8 and the TKA! 73, Dan K7NXL



In es out of the shack both days, Grandkids es run,run, run.. Ran the 7300 @ 90 watts into either a 5 band vertical or multi-band dipole. Tnx fer the Q's 73, Loren.K8CGE



Nice opening on all the bands. 20 ft vertical OCF Flagpole dipole and EFHW worked very well. Nice to hear so many TKA ops and many old friends. I think the lake makes for a great take-off. 73, Ted K8AQM

WES October, 2023 III



Thanks for all QSO's 80=5 40=6 20=13 15=3 10=3. All bands seemed to have a lot of activity. Listened last night on 160 but nothing but QRN here. We hope everyone has a nice Halloween 73, Larry K8TEZ



It was fun being a bonus station! The bands were nice with openings into Europe on 15 and 10M. I entertained a captive audience. 73, Steve K9NUD



QSOs on 10,15,20 & 40 meters including several DX stations. Overall very good conditions. Enjoyed the WES very much this month. 73, Daryl K9QEW



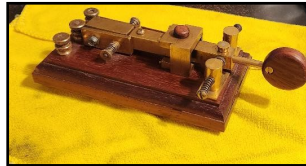
Another fun WES event. Hope everyone enjoyed it. May God bless you and your family. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Lots of fun guys. I passed out 44 TKA's and collected 16. In the spirit of the event I used all three types of keys for the WES. Got contacts on 80, 40, 20, 15 and a few on 10. I included a picture of the 1946 ugly bug, WISFR TBCP and the Flame Proof key I used for the WES. Good to see the Sunday morning activity on 80m for a change. I have 4 SK, 3 cooties and 1 bug. CU next month and stay well. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Rain was my friend for this WES Thanks to all for the Qs. 73, Craig KA9ERV



Bands were nice and great to see some 10m activity. 73, Randy KB4QQJ



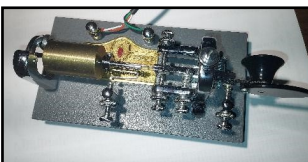
Had a wonderful time! Was my first time participating in the SKCC WES. Looking forward to the next one. I was operating in a park and another visitor brought his two white cockatoos. They kept on repeating "hello" over and over. What a nice surprise! 73, Ron KC2PSA



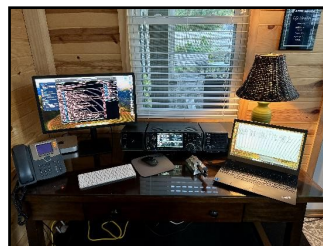
Rig is Tentec Argonaut VI running 5w into MFJ end-fed 80/10 wire antenna. My antenna is stretched between 2 trees; lowest point at 30ft/highest at 50ft. Early Sat. I qso'd across the Atlantic to Fra, Ger, Por, and Ned. on 15 and 10 meters. Late Sun. I qso'd west to CA on 20m. I put up a piece of cardboard (with pin hole) across the window and was able to observe the moon's position as it crossed the sun at about 50% my qth. Thanks to all the tka's. Looking forward to the next SKCC WES. Hpe cu agn. 73, Christine KE4WKH



Was lots of fun to see our EU members on 15 and 10 meters this month. Thanks everyone for participating, and thanks to our TKA bonus stations. 73, Warren KC9IL



Had a great time! I finished my Triple Key Award on this 1990 Vibroplex Original. 73, Ron KE8PX



Been quite some time since I last stopped by during a WES, I really enjoyed it. Key used (straight) was the Begali Sculpture Arrow along with the IC-7610 and a vertical at 50 watts. Generally good band conditions all around. Thanks to all for the fun! 73, Jeff KE9V



Well I finally got to play radio this weekend. Been so busy with construction here in Texas and the never ending honey-do list around the house. Had a great time and the bands were pretty active. 15 meters was pretty good as well. The wind was in my favor several times ... HAPPY HALLOWEEN to all and look forward to November WES. 73, Doug KG5YTS

WES October, 2023 IV



I earned Tribune during this WES! Big TNX to everyone participating. Here's the minimalist station on its rolling table/cart, just wide enough for the rig, SKCCLogger, and key. There were strangely few WES stations on 10 m despite seemingly good propagation (my 100 W sig being heard by RBN stations in Europe and all of CONUS), but 40 and 20 were going great. 73 until next time! 73, Andy KI5PED



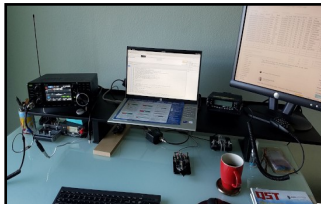
First time back in a while due to health issues. it was fun as usual and I called CQ instead of search and pounce. Thanks to all who were able to copy my weak signal. 72/73 from Wild Wonderful West Virginia. Dave KI8I



Many, many thanks for all the ops out this weekend. The upper bands were great. Had a big obligation this weekend (family wedding). Thanks for my regulars out there... NX1K, Mark and N2JNZ, George...thanks for catching me. Worked all the bands except for 160 (no antenna). See you all next month....73, jack KK0I dit...dit



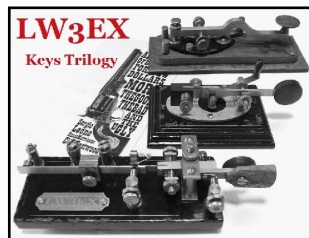
My first WES in quite some time. Had a lot of fun. 10 and 15 meters were good, but lots of stations working the QSO Parties. Nice surprise to hear G4IVV calling me! TNX to all



My first WES QSO!! Some nerves, but got through with the aid of Steve K2FW. 73, Paul KM4PIH



Great WES. Enjoyed making all the contacts. Thanks to all. 73, Carolyn KX4QF



I couldn't be QRV for a long time but was FUN. Got 5 TKA STN. Congrats OM! 28MHz 4ele Yagi // 3-5W // Homemade Keys Trilogy. TU everyone for the QSOs. BCNU 73, Walt LW3EX - ... ZUT



Exceptional WES this time. Bands great on Saturday, kind of quiet on Sunday. Worked multiple stations on three or four bands. Plenty of DX to go around, eight unique DX stations worked here. I was peased to earn a shiny new TKA in the last couple of weeks to help spread the point wealth. 73, Chuck N0CW



Great time again and thanks for a couple good runs. 73 and see ya'll again next month Dean N2TNN



Great fun! Ten and 15 meters seemed to be open most of the time, good signals from Europe. Sunday was somewhat of a wash, since needed to take care of some family matters. Thanks to all who gave me Qs, the cat and I really appreciate it! 73, Jerry N3KRX

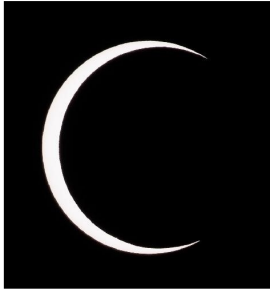


Split the weekend between POTA and SKCC. Great openings on 10 meters, with several new SKCC DX contacts. 73, Jim N4EES

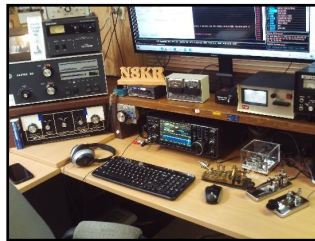


15M Was very good down this way. 73, Al N4OW

WES October, 2023 V



It was finally cool enough outside here in central Texas, so I went out to a local city park on Saturday to operate. There were too many people there to set up my antenna, but got some pictures of the annular eclipse. Some friends joined me and we had a good visit. Thanks for the contacts!



I am honored to join the 14 local Fort Wayne, Indiana area SKCCers participating in this month's WES! With my wife visiting her mom this weekend, and with rainy cold weather, I stayed in and played "radio"! A lot of DX and great propagation made this event especially fun! Lots of activity and great fists! See you all next month! BTW - love the 7610! 73, Ken N8KR



Nice to see the activity and the Bands cooperating for a change. I was able to work the following countries...1-BEL, 1-CZE,1-ENG,1-ESP,4-FRA,1-GER,1-ITA,2-NED & 1-POR... Also worked a few new and non-members. I put in a good word for SKCC...AI, AI4B (#27924) was so new I had to manually enter him in SKCCLogger :-)) I had one QRMer. I guess they don't know how to defeat Notch Filters :-)) Thanks all, it was much fun!! 73, Rick N8XI



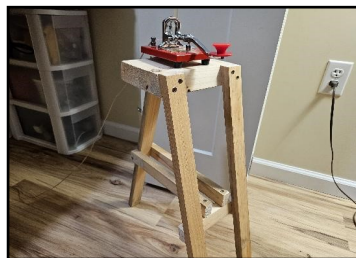
It was great to hear station calling CQ WES on five bands at the same



K2 rig, 5 wts, g5rv up 35ft, n's inv vee..tnx to all.. tnx to skcc board mbrs..worked 23 states and Canada.. so, in November with possibly snow, I'll still make WES QRM for that month, as it is LEGAL.. haha.. i have 16 qrp rigs, and now 90 home made keys.. 91 will be another DUBBUG that i design.. it makes fast and slow QRM.. ha it's legal.. ha..so, u all takecare and c u agn. Pix is my key nmbr 90, another DUBBUG..so 7three or if u were qrp also, i give u a 72. DAVE N9ZXL



A busy weekend with the eclipse over NM and leading an off-road ride, limiting my time. A shame as bands were great and heard DL to VK and JA on 15M with huge pileups (didn't even try with my QRP sigs). Nice to work so many high numbers. Wow - approaching 28,000 members. CU next month. 73, Paul NA5N



I was only able to operate for a little over 1 hour. :(In that short period of time I had a blast. The highlight was working Stan, ZL2BLQ, on 15m with my 40m dipole (oops) and not my beam - even though I turned the beam towards him...I forgot to switch the antenna. Stan's station has a great receiver to hear my 5 watts on a wire. Now, I don't have a lot of time to practice with my straight key. My fist tires quickly and it shows (or hears)...sloppy CW is not what I want. The picture shows my attempt at a remedy. It's a 3-legged stool I built on which I mounted my Know Code key. The key sits below my desk, under my keyboard pull-out. The premise is to keep my wrist from getting lazy and drooping, resulting in poorly sent CW. It seemed to help for the short amount of time I operated. Hopefully, I can try it out on the next 2 hour sprint...we'll see. Thanks for the QSOs and the opportunity to participate. 73, Will, NQ2W



Nice way to spend a dreary day! TNX! to all who make these SKCC activities possible C U AGN. 73, Steve NQ8T



Took a break Saturday afternoon to help a local Vintner. 73, Mark NX1K

WES October, 2023 VI



A very lazy Sunday, though I'm glad to have met a few new and a few familiar ops. This time I brought my ca. 1875 Austrian landline camelback to the table. 73, Andi OE3IAK



Great conditions. Only have one antenna (80 meter dipole) but ladder line and tuner puts it on all bands. Only had a couple hours QRV on Sunday due to ministry commitments but put in a full day Saturday. Lots of high skcc numbers - newbies - in my log. Despite RTTY massive contest interference on Saturday, and a couple of active state QSO parties going on at same time of WES, it was a good event. BZ all. 73, Dave W1DV



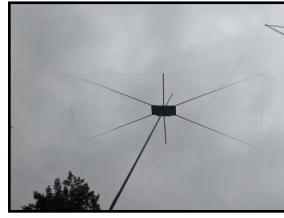
73, Stan W9JX



Good conditions on the high bands, in the few hours I could operate in this WES. I worked a number of new ones. Using 100W and 33m random wire + my beloved Woody Cootie key. Picture: operating as EA6/ON7DQ on a SOTA summit, joined by "another" Mountain Goat ;-) 73, de Luc ON7DQ



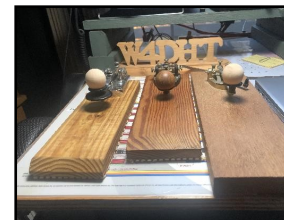
Oh, the glory and majesty of the October WES! Colorful leaves on the trees in Maine. Crisp fall days. Me in the 50F cellar, with a space heater between my legs. Anyway... it was a fun time. In the spirit of the event, I used the SK for most QSOs, the bug for the faster ones, and the SS for the endless CQs. Band conditions were very good, with 10 and 15 meters productive, even with my one G5RV-size antenna in the pine trees. Worked a bunch of folks that I hadn't heard before, which was nice. Also, my thanks to the New England Patriots, whose uninteresting game allowed me a couple of hours of Sunday evening contesting, with my friend, the space heater. I'll be back from my dull but comfortable Massachusetts QTH in November... 73, John W1TAG



Great propagation on 10 meters, worked 70 US stations on that band with 3 from CA. Antenna is a 2 element moxon at 7 meters high made from a couple of fishing rods... Great fun! 73, Jo PG4I



It was a perfect Saturday for ham radio - a gloomy rainy day!! Condx on 10 and 15 were pretty good. Got Take JR2IUB on 10. Used my 1956 Vibroplex Presentation bug and wked 12 other TKA stations. Rig: Elecraft K4D/KPA-1500 and the 10m ant was the Optibeam 6-2 with 4 elements on 10 at 42'. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia

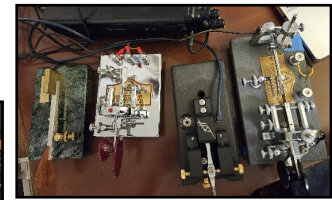


Great fun as usual. 73, Drexel W4DHT

What a hoot! Lots of activity and no QRM from other Contests. Used this ugly TAC (hole in the wall) bug. Fun Fun Fun. Used my simple wire antennas at QRP. Thanks to all who dug my weak signal out of the noise. 73, Jack W7QQQ



Yaesu FT-871 @ 5W into an EFRW 29' Radiator + 17' counterpoise. Best DX was F5UQE on 10m. 73, Tom



The keys were all lined up and ready this fun event - until I hit some rig issues. Thanks, Sam VE3WH for letting me know! 73, Cathy W4CMG



Had a great time with this WES, having more operating possible. Stayed on 20m--Europe coming in Sunday afternoon. Got to see the partial eclipse Saturday. Thanks for the QSOs, friends! 73, Dave W4QDV



WES October, 2023 VII



I love these WESs where I'm giving away bonus points; it's a season of giving, and people seem to flock to me. Had four runs of CQs, 60-100 minutes long, all on 15m and 10m... so much so that my cootie went out of adjustment! Was going to use all three keys, but ended up just using the cootie. The only change from the August HB WES is that it is now bolted on to the desk. 73, Jordan W7VC



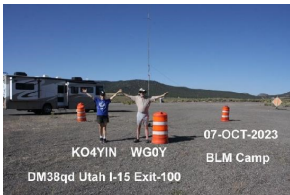
Fun WES, had QSO's on 10M, 15M, 20M and 40M both North America and DX. I am rebuilding my 1927 Vibroplex bug so am showing all the pieces after cleaning. I hope to show the finished bug after reassembly. Thanks for all the QSO's 73, Gene W9KMK



Short on time again this weekend but had fun while I was on as usual. 73, Bill W9SA



Not much time to work the WES this weekend. A lot of family stuff... Tnx to all I worked..73, Greg WA3GM



WES Op Location Utah Interstate 15 Exit 100 BLM Camp. Had fun and happy to provide UT for the group. 73, WG0Y



I made some WES contacts while doing a POTA activation in French Creek State Park (PA) (K-1355) on Sunday. 73, Craig WB3GCK



Was able to sign TKA for this one! I didn't have very much time for this event. However, I thoroughly enjoyed every QSO! I used the usual Collins 32V-2 and 75A-4 and an 80 meter all band doublet at 45 feet. My keys I used for this event were: Bunnell Model W sideswiper and 1938 McElroy Deluxe Mac Key (bug). Sorry for subjecting you guys to my bug fist.... 73, Mike WB0SND



Great fun. Started on 15 and 10 mid day Saturday with half a dozen or so European contacts. Then resumed Sunday mid day on and off through the end on 10, 15, 20, and 40. All bands were active with SKCC, which shows good growth in membership. I also had a maiden voyage with a new (mid 20th c) Vibroplex bug and managed maybe half a QSO at a time before switching back to my cootie wired Begali mono simplex, this to spare the other op the agony of the bug. Boy, it is tough go go back and forth from a side to side (every side's a winna!) cootie to a bug, where the choice of sides matters. Hi Hi. 73, Ken WA3RSR



As luck would have it on Friday the 13th, not surprisingly, my apartment lease violation stealth antenna wire mysteriously came down. Just before darkness fell on Saturday with the parking lot empty, I was able to get a pull line thrown (first shot!) over the desired tree and a new-used* 60' run of #26 magnet wire run from the apartment window, over the tree, and secured. Made up a tuning chart for 80-10 meter bands - tuned up GREAT - and casually jumped in the fray. After WES closing time Sunday, operated a bit in the SST on 40 meters, too. Set up: Yaesu FT-817ND @ 5 watts out, homebrew L network tuner, 60' wire, 30' counterpoise, Brown Brothers straight key, and Vibroplex Original Standard bug. * re: "new-used" - When on vacation last month camping in the Adirondacks, I ran some brand spanking new #26 magnet wire for an antenna. The Friday the 13th dilemma sent me to my camping storage bin to retrieve said wire for repurposing at the home station. The photo shows the magnet wire on the left end of the make-shift storage "spool" when striking camp. 73, Jeff WN1MB

SKS October 2023



Thanks to everyone for hanging in there during a Noisy evening. Good job as "Bonus" George Forty was the place to be for me..73, Rick K0KEX 80 watts-Double Ext. ZEPP Blue Racer es Llaves SK



Who knew the Phillies would be in Game 7 and it would be on the night of the SKS? I took some breaks to watch a few pitches. Used my SKS...straight key stand...during the SKS. Didn't give it a real workout...maybe an hour, so the jury is still out on its effectiveness combatting fist fatigue. Had fun and I appreciate the QSOs. Thanks to the SKCC, the SKCC Logger folks, and the participants that heard my QRP station and ended up in my log. Thank you for the opportunity to participate. Now, back to the game...73, Will, NQ2W



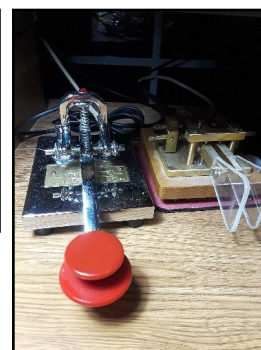
Huge signals on 40m, 20 stayed open for the first 30 min and chased N8KR around for three bands (20, 40 and last and only Q for me on 80m!)...cool! Flagpole vertical dipole and EFHW es K4D. 73, Ted K8AQM



What a fun 2 hours! I brought out the old "Sea Dog" Marconi 365A for this one. Thanks for all the contacts. 73, Jim N4EES



OMG... I am totally new and just learned CW. I was scared and jittery (which caused some small mistakes). But my contacts were so kind to help me thru the QSOs. I thought putting an S at the end of my SKCC number was how you ended a QSO... sorry to K5UV, N0TA and WG0Y... I am NOT a Senator. My rookie mistake. Won't happen again. :/ This was so fun and I am now finally initiated into the SKCC with my first Sprint. 3 contacts in 45min before I got dragged off to dinner isn't bad. Thank you SKCC for getting me going! 73, Mike KK7MMN



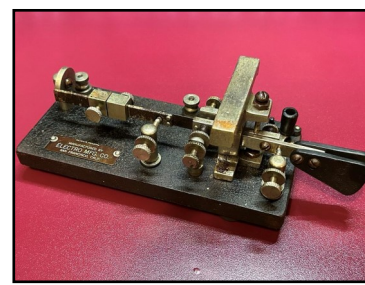
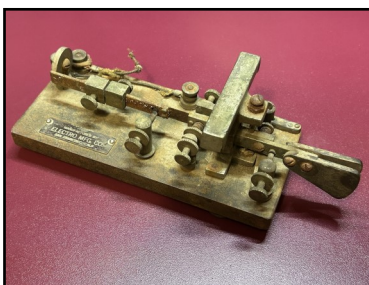
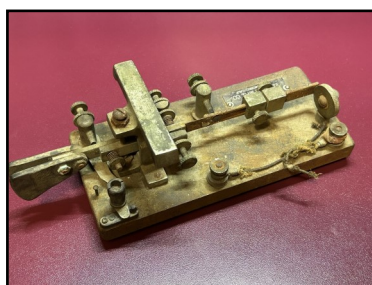
Got going late due to commitments, and then did my S&P routine. 40 meters was good and made most Qs there, one on 80. Tnx to all that gave me Qs, 73, Jerry N3KRX



A Fun Night- once again (;>) 73, Jim VE6GL

Started on 20 and finished on 40. 40 was a bit noisy. Used my Blue Racer Deluxe from 1963 - first time it's been off the shelf in years - was still adjusting it during the sprint. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia

Bug Cleanup



From a disaster.....to a beauty! ...de Facebook CW Bugs Keys and Paddles

SKCC Honor Roll Listings

Editor....After a decade of inactivity, the SKCC Board has decided to bring back the SKCC Honor Roll. Selection of inductees is done by a Board approved committee and inductees are approved by the Board of Directors.

The Straight Key Century Club Honor Roll recognizes members who exemplify the ideals of the Straight Key Century Club. The inaugural Honor Roll members are keeping alive the traditions of CW operation through their on-air activities and support of all SKCC activities, they have become Top Operators for the club.

Inductees into the Honor Roll having been selected by a Board approved committee - and have earned the recognition and respect of the Straight Key Century Club membership. Induction into the Honor Roll cannot be refused and is irrevocable.

Let it be known, that the following members have earned Straight Key Century Club's highest operating honor, without whom the Straight Key Century Club would not be as well known as it is today.

Congratulations to these outstanding SKCC members and new inductees to the SKCC Honor Roll.

The SKCC Honor Roll Selection Committee

Honor Roll.

2023

K6ELQ(SK) - Tony Slupko - SKCC #10250S - Although a SK, Tony was a regular in SKCC events and on the SKED page. Tony was always available for an "S" or California multiplier and signal report.

K2CWM(SK) - Curt Myer - SKCC #3018S - Another SK, Curt was the Brag Mgr, attended "all" Hamventions (really!) and worked at the SKCC booth. Curt was there for the WES, Brag, SSS (his favorite) and K3Y.

KK0I - Jack Hill - SKCC #2370S - You can find Jack in every SKCC event almost every month. Often Jack will QSY to bands where you need a WI fill. Jack is happy to QSY and to QRS when needed.

PG4I - Jo Stakenborg - SKCC #11019S - Jo participates in many SKCC events including WES, Brag and SKSE. A very active SKCC member, Jo provides many SKCC members with their first NED QSO. Jo is usually there on our sked page.

N8KR - Ken Rogner - SKCC #7559S - A very big signal and big scores in SKS and WES, Ken also is a huge fan of K3Y operating as /4, /5, /7, /8, /9. Ken has encouraged many SKCC members in the W9 area of Ft. Wayne, IN and often hosts multi-multi events from his shack.

2013

ZL2BLQ - Stan Mangin - SKCC #4356T - Centurion #265 - Tribune #178 - For his continued outstanding efforts in the promotion of SKCC and participation in various sprints and the K3Y Anniversary events.

SKCC Honor Roll II

LW3EX - Walt Masi - SKCC #3804T - Centurion #194 - Tribune #111 - For his continued outstanding efforts in the promotion of SKCC and participation in various sprints and the K3Y Anniversary events.

2011

W7GVE - Ed Becker - SKCC #729T - Centurion 73 - Tribune #109 - For his outstanding efforts in the various sprints and promotion of SKCC.

NW2K - Dean Faklis - SKCC #7330T - Centurion #528 - Tribune #389 - For his outstanding efforts in the various sprints and promotion of SKCC.

KO1U - Mark Burgess - SKCC #7648T - Centurion #536 - Tribune #393 - Mark earned Tribune x10 in his first 11 Months of membership.

2010

W1DV - Dave Vittum - SKCC #1433T - Dave, already in the Hall of Fame, is a virtual "CW sending machine." Dave has probably recruited and worked more individual members than most of us could ever hope to match.

W9DLN - Dan Nyman - SKCC #3635T - Dan is inducted in recognition of his incredible machine-like consistent top scores in sprints and in K3Y.

F6HKA - Bert Banlier - SKCC #6069T - Bert is inducted in recognition of his non-stop strong signal from the European continent. Bert has given many new members their very first European CW contacts.

2009

K0LUW - Russ Halbert - SKCC #1702T - His outstanding and dedicated operating has earned him the honor of being the first SKCC Member inducted into the Straight Key Century Club.

W6UT - Dennis Sanford - SKCC #2417T

KK7YJ - Jim Tregarthen - SKCC #2728T

AC2C - Ron Bower - SKCC #2748T

The Story of Fern Blodgett Sunde The First Woman Wireless Radio Operator at Sea



This is a great story! It's a "You Tube" and if I copied everything correctly you can watch it at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWv528S_IB8

She is Canadian

Slow Speed Saunter November, 2023

Slow Speed Saunter

Keep on Truckin'...



My homebrew rigs. 73, Yoshi JG2LGM



What a great time, enjoyed working everyone and greatly appreciate everyone that replied to my little 5w QRP station, I can feel an upgrade in the near future, getting close to that T Look out WES I am looking forward to this next one. 73, Craig AB8DY

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
N0CW	Chuck	23240S	CA	10
WB6IZG	Bruce	17714S	CA	9
KK7MMN	Mike	27757	ID	1
W9GOO	John	21474S	IN	3
JG2LGM	Yoshinao Yamada	26989C	JPN	1
K1YAN	Gary	7563S	MA	10
AK3X	Peter	7217S	MD	8
NN3E	Kevin	19625S	MD	2
K8AQM	Ted	1629S	MI	15
KD8RGJ	Terry	26013T	MI	12
W1DV	Dave	1433S	NC	13
WD4LSS	Neal	22181T	NC	17
KG0RD	Jim	7068	NE	12
W0JTS	Jim	26135	NE	2
KB6R	Eric	27253	NY	4
NC2M	George	26325T	NY	10
KE8PX	Ron	26949T	OH	24
NQ8T	Steve	5919S	OH	13
W3HMS	John	20679	PA	5
W4CMG	Cathy	20093S	TN	8
AF5Z	Bob	27159T	TX	13
KA5TJS	Allen	5172S	TX	7
N2TNN	Dean	25132S	VA	19
AB8DY	Craig	15285C	WV	14

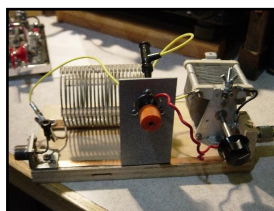


Great fun! I had a super enjoyable Rag Chew QSOs with Rick VE3JGX and John K8JD.

Picture is moon peeking through on my 20 ft flag-pole vertical dipole. 73, Ted K8AQM



1st time playing Radio after some number of weeks! Great day to get back at it. TU FER FB QSOs!!! 73, Terry KD8RGJ



TNX! to Dave for keeping this activity on the schedule! 72/73 Steve NQ8T



Nice event, decent turn out. Wish more would show up however! Nice to cross paths with some old friends as well as work with several newbies. Semper cw - see you all 01 December. 73, Dave W1DV



Only had 2 qso. Still was a great time. QRP for both and a cheesy antenna. Keeps the HOA people jolly. SKCC Group a great bunch. 73, Jim W0JTS

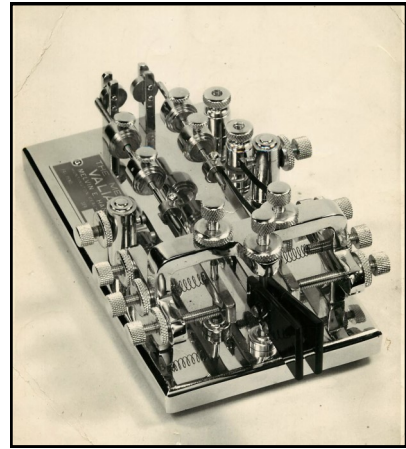
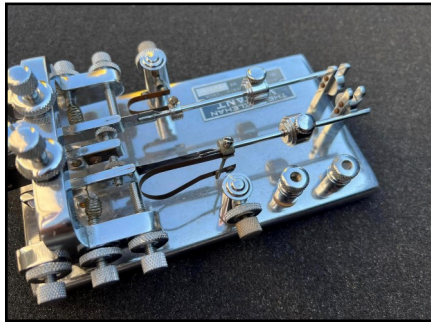
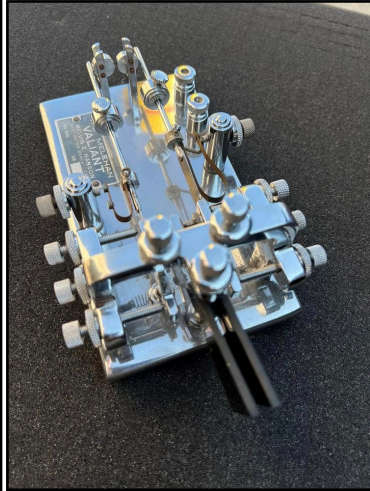


Interesting Keys

Melehan Valiant Telegraph Key....designed by Melvin E Hanson
circa 1940

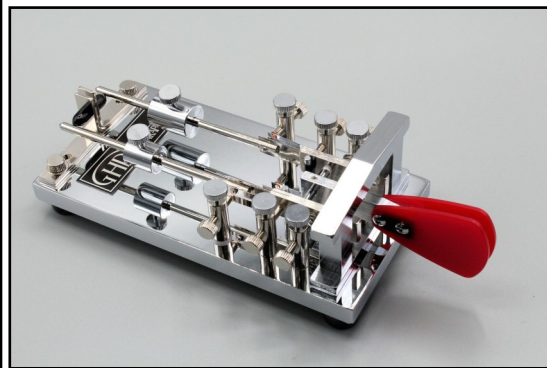
Mel was "an intercept operator for the Radio Intelligence Division of the FCC... Their job was to find suspicious signals be they enemy signals or traitors on American soil."

Rare and sells for \$3500starting bid!



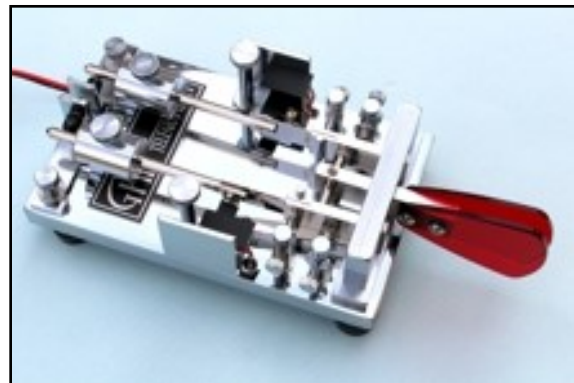
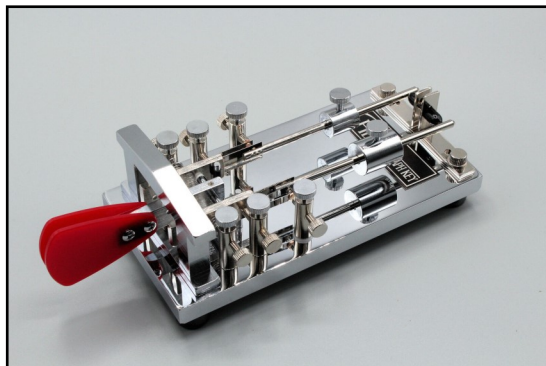
GN209W "Autokey" Bug

2023



The classic fully-automatic "bug" key with mechanical contacts is the first "autokey" GHD has made in a decade. The devil is in the details, and GHD's choice of materials, dimensions, and other technical features, results in a bug that has an unusually crisp and precise feel over its entire speed range. Fingerpieces and weights are packed separately, but easy to install, and there is a third weight that can be installed on the dash lever to bring the speed down farther. The GN209W weighs 2-1/4 Lbs and the base measures a tidy 3" by 5".

Today's price selling for \$550 and new



GN209W-P "Autokey" Bug with Optical Sensors!

(Selling new for \$630)

November SKSE 2023



Straight Key Sprint Europe Results

Results for SKSE: 02-Nov-2023

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

Overall results

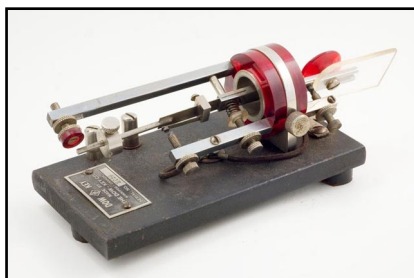
Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/TIC	Score
1	K9QEW	Daryl	2963	IL	330	3	1/1/0	1,015
2	I4IKW	Mark	24889	ITA	14	8	7/2/0	237
3	EA3NO	Lluís	6653S	ESP	10	9	5/4/0	205
4	F5DE	Bernard	6247S	FRA	12	8	2/4/0	166
5	ON7DQ	Luc	14984T	BEL	8	4	2/2/0	82
6	F5JBR	ANDRE	2574T	FRA	5	4	2/2/0	70
7	GM3ZDH	Bob	6027T	SCO	4	2	2/1/0	48
8	K0KEX	Rick	5220S	MO	2	2	1/0/0	19
9	PA3JD	Joop	10955	NED	1	1	1/0/0	16
10	KK7MMN	Mike	27757	ID	1	1	0/1/0	11



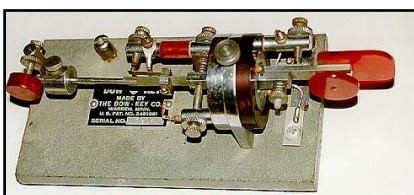
Wkg with a TS130v (20 watt) and a Junker key. 73, Joop PA3JD



Canadian/USA Dow Key



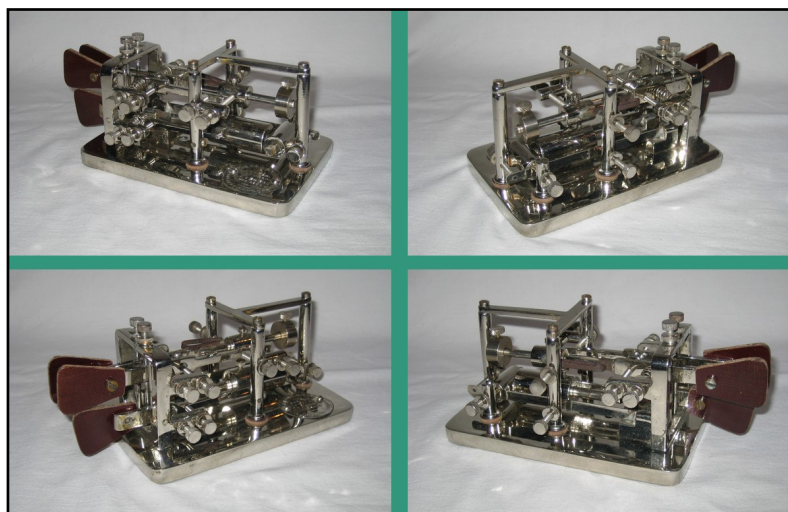
DOW KEY "UNIVERSAL" MODEL ROTATABLE BUG
This Grey wrinkle-finish bug with bright red plastic knob and rotating mechanism can be rotated for right or left handed operation or for use as a straight key. It is called the "universal model" and it was manufactured in Warren, MN. This one carries serial number 1904.



EARLY FIRST VERSION OF THE DOW KEY "UNIVERSAL" MODEL ROTATABLE BUG: This grey wrinkle-finish bug with bright red plastic knob and rotating mechanism can be rotated for right or left handed operation or for use as a straight key or angled bug. It was manufactured in Winnipeg, Canada. This one carries serial number 2059.

The Automorse by Hitchcock Bros. Co. Adelaide. Australia 1918

The Automorse, what a key, this complex looking key can operate either as a semi-automatic or fully-automatic key, depending on the requirement and skill of the operator. It was invented by Mr. Norman Percy Thomas who was born in Adelaide in 1881 and died in the same city at age 56 during a tennis match on Sunday 24 October 1937. Thomas presented his application for the Automorse patent on 11 April 1918 and which was subsequently recognized and awarded the patent number 7023/18, so came into the market the first mechanical “fully automatic” key in the world. Although the Automorse was used by the PMG Offices the officers using them bought them privately. The construction and distribution of these great keys was entrusted to the Hitchcock Bros. Company, located in Flinders Street in the city of Adelaide.



If you look at the key from the paddle end you will see that on the top tier we have, what is essentially a double lever key similar to the “Double Lever Vibroplex” invented by Horace Martin in 1907, where the automatic dots are produced with the left hand lever and manual dashes produced by the right hand lever. That is where the similarity ends as there is a lower tier housing a third lever which is used to produce automatic dashes. In operation the upper left hand lever produces dots automatically by

means of moving the pendulum off its stop position allowing it to oscillate. The lower lever differs as it is under constant spring tension and is allowed to oscillate after the pendulum stop is moved away from the pendulum by moving the paddle to the left, commonly called the “tension release” method.

In some publicity at the time, the key was described as being available as standard in right and left handed versions, both initially sold at the modest sum of £5. Then with the rise of his fame, just two years after, the purchase price was raised to £35. The first question that may arise is why the first fully automatic mechanical key was developed in Australia and not in the USA, “the home the bug was born in”? A plausible answer to this question may be in the fact that in the USA, telegraphy by wire was always based on use of the American Morse code, while in Australia the American Morse code was used only until International Morse became compulsory from 1 July 1897. At Eucla in Western Australia, east met west. Telegraphers in one room used American Morse to the west and messages were passed to another room where Telegraphers used International Morse to the east. As is known, the American Morse code has some of the letters formed with dashes of different lengths. The International Morse Code uses the same length of dashes for all characters, allowing Thomas to develop the first fully automatic key, which would not be usable for the American Morse code.

Editor.....Information from; <https://www.brundrit.co.uk/australian-new-zealand-keys>

SKSA November, 2023



Results for SKSA: 10-Nov-2023

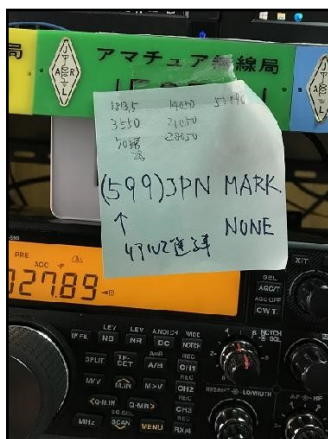
Overall | QRPp | QRP | QRO | QRO+ | Multi-Op | By SPC

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC#	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Score
JA1IAZ	NORI	25300T	JPN	41	12	6/1/3	607
JF1UOX	MISA	26413C	JPN	36	12	6/2/2	552
JJ1FXF	HIRO	22608T	JPN	21	7	3/2/2	222
JK1BVN	KAT	26584C	JPN	30	2	1/4/2	125
JF2FIU	Mark	NONE	JPN	22	1	0/5/3	87
JR2AWS	Shin	26453	JPN	28	1	0/4/3	83
JR2IUB	Take	11167S	JPN	7	4	1/1/3	68
JM4AOA	KEN	26423	JPN	15	1	1/2/2	60
JF1EPL	YOSHI	26458	JPN	14	1	0/2/3	49
JF1JUG	HIRO	26409	JPN	26	1	0/1/2	46
JE1WOY	Yasu	27670	JPN	14	1	0/2/2	44
JK1AKA	Kei	25478	JPN	10	1	0/2/2	40
JF1NHD	Ino	NONE	JPN	18	1	0/1/2	38
JA0IND/1	Jin	8240	JPN	13	1	0/1/2	33
JA9MAT	HIDE	12796	JPN	9	1	0/1/1	24
JA7KED	SAKU	27804	JPN	9	1	0/1/1	24
JJ4JGD	TAKA	5393	JPN	6	1	0/1/1	21
JFORRH	KAZU	27884	JPN	4	1	0/1/1	19
JJ0SFV	Aki	26384	JPN	3	1	0/1/1	18
JO1ZZZ/1	A1CLUB	16199	JPN	8	1	0/0/2	18
W9DLN	Dan	3635S	WI	1	1	0/0/1	6



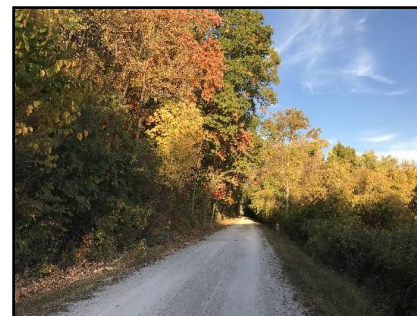
Thank you for FB QSO. Winter is just around the corner hear in OME city. 73, Yoshi JF1EPL



Thank you all stations. 73, Mark JF2FIU (photo)Mistake-proof memo... hi!



Using whip ant. TNX. 73, Aki JJ0SFV

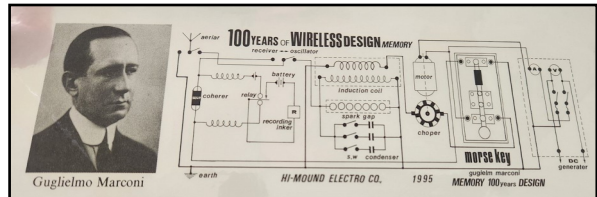


Fun sprint on 10 and 15 M ! I have attached a recent photo from a bike trail along the Missouri River! 73, Gene W9KMK

Now This Is A Key!



It was the Hi-Mound Marconi Commemorative key, marking the 100th anniversary of Marconi Wireless (1895-1995). Only 30 of these keys were made. This key is a beast. It's almost 12 inches long and weighs 8.5 pounds (3.9kg) and made by HI-Mound. The key is actually a replica of the spark key used on the Japanese Battleship Mikasa which saw action during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. The Mikasa is now a museum docked in Yokosuka Japan. The original key can be seen at the museum.de Doug Palmer...Facebook...CW Bugs, Keys and Paddles



Odds and Ends



PARASET et [Vibroplex](#). De Paul F6EGV - SKCC 9642 --...
...--



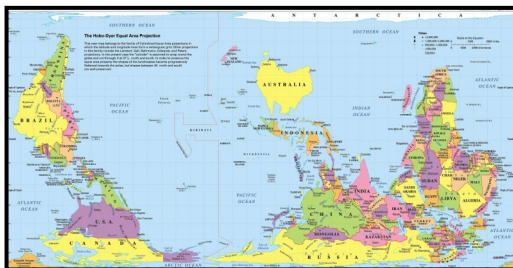
De George N2JNZ



Picked up this wooden serving tray at Hobby Lobby. Looks like it will work just fine. Now to get it mounted. Anyone else ever try anything like this? 73, Jim KE8EON



November Oceania QRS Saunter



Oceania QRS Saunter Results

Results for Oceania QRS Saunter: 18 Nov 2023

Overall | Soapbox

Overall results

Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's
VK2GAZ	Garry	5460C	AUS	0
VK2GR	Allan	7823S	AUS	2
VK3ACU	Jordan	NONE	AUS	1
VK3BAP	Brendan	27533	AUS	1
VK4EV	Ron	10775	AUS	2
VK4JM	David	26246	AUS	1
VK4TJ	John	4474S	AUS	2
KD0FNR	Hamilton	27539	CA	1
ZL1KR	Anton	28023	NZL	1
ZL1PX	PETER	26551	NZL	4
ZL3TK	Stan	16208	NZL	5
NP3CW	JULIO	2632S	PR	8

Participants and QSOs by SPC

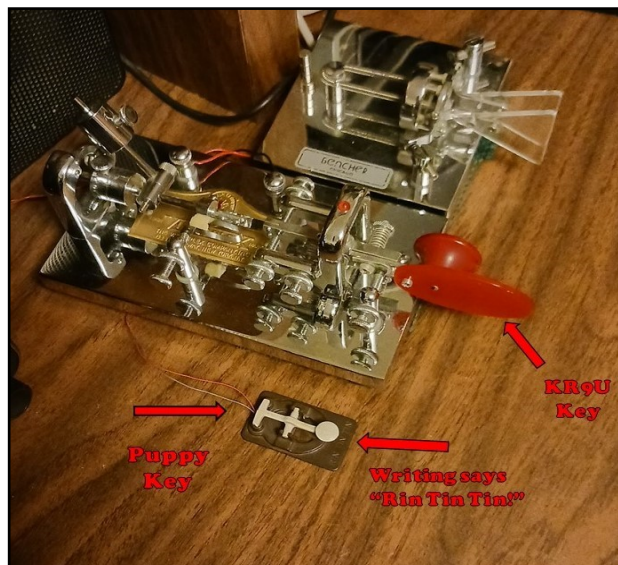
AUS: 7 / 9	CA: 1 / 1	NZL: 3 / 10	PR: 1 / 8
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Stan ZL3TK		SKCC OC QRS SAUNTER 18 NOV 2023						
TIME Z	FREQ MHz	CALL SIGN	REPORT		SPC	NAME	QTH	SKCC #
			SENT	RCVD				
1 0550	14.051	VK2DVA	521	559	AUS	COLIN	SYDNEY	23507T
2 0609	14.049	VK4EV	321	539	AUS	RON	BRISBANE	10775
3 0750	14.049	VK1AM	431	55N	AUS	ABHAY	CANBERRA	24434
4 2308	21.049	VK4JT	551	579	AUS	JOHN	MURPHY'S CR	4474S
5 2320	21.049	JR2IUB	441	559	JPN	TAKE	SHIZUOKA	11167S

Condx generally poor, no DX worked on RandomGram, however, just 'cos 15 m sounds dead, as in zero atmospheric noise, it doesn't mean opportunities aren't lurking there. Thanks to all for a grand time, 73, Stan ZL3TK

Puppy Key...The "Rin Tin Tin" Award!



Jim KR9U has a new puppy which rumor has it, is taking quite a bit of time from Jim's operating schedule in the shack. To help Jim spend more time training his new puppy AND more time in his shack; those greatly concerned over Jim's loss of operating time decided he needs to train his puppy to send CW with him in the shack. Thanks to those SKCCers in the Fort Wayne area who are concerned, they gave Jim the "Rin Tin Tin" Award and key for puppy training so Jim can teach his puppy good CW techniques! It was presented at the Fort Wayne SKCC and DX banquet...to the enjoyment of all...and at the expense of Jim! LOL!!!

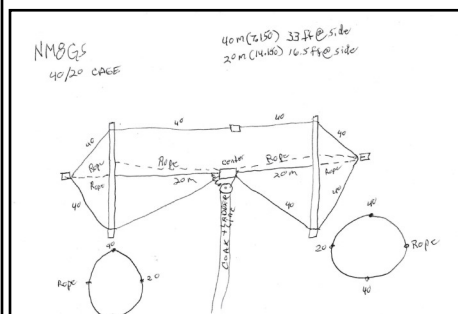
An Interesting Antenna Project AC8W & K8AQM

It's a limited antenna we're working with and I'll try to explain; the Huron Lightship "had" a cage antenna strung between two masts (see ship photo) which provided a radio beacon (3.0 MHz something) back in the day to provide a beacon as well as a light on a shoal north of Port Huron 6 miles out in Lake Huron. Back in 1973 the ship became a "museum" for the city of Port Huron (1973). Well, the cage broke and they wanted it fixed; Chuck KG8EF (SK) and I (K8AQM) offered to repair and replace it. As it happened the distance between the masts was exactly the distance for a 20m dipole! I made a 20m dipole for one of the four "wires" of the cage and used "black rope" to replace the other three "wires". The museum folks were happy we repaired and replaced the antenna for them, the local radio club was happy because now they had a great 20m antenna for Museum Ships Weekend.



2023...I'm back in PH now (K8AQM) and belong to the Lightship Huron Radio Club (NM8GS SKCC 19777T). We do "Jamboree on the Air" but only have 20m for the Scouts to talk to other Scouts. We tried several versions of 40m antennas but there is just too much "iron" around for the antenna to work well. As "luck" would have it, last month the RG-58 we had tie-wrapped to the 450 ohm ladder line (not feeding the disguised dipole) finally gave out..... So my crazy mind went to work on how to mesh a 40m antenna with the 20m antenna. The museum folks won't have anything but a "cage" antenna up...no traps...must "look" like the original cage..... So, here's the deal.....

The 20m antenna that fits in the cage distance was cut for about 14.150 MHz, or 33ft and that is 16 ft 6 inches a side. If we make a 40m dipole for 7.150 MHz, the antenna is 65.5 ft



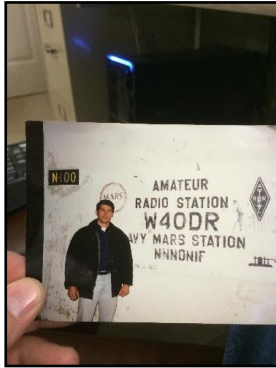
or 32 ft 4 inches a side. That's about perfect for fitting into the cage! I can remove two of the rope elements, use the same 20m existing feed point, connect the center of the 40m "dipole" there (using the same coax as the 20m), run the wires out the distance of the 20m to the cage rings (removing a rope element) and back through the rings (thus removing another "rope" element) and join the two 40m wire ends via a small insulator (almost invisible at 30 ft). The result is a "kinda" 40m folded dipole! See if my drawing makes better sense. The rings are about 12 inch diameter, that's pretty close for a folded dipole and I'm sure there will be interaction with the 20m dipole as well but I'm thinking a good tuner (Dentron MT2000) will make all work well enough that both bands will be operational. The museum folks will be happy and with new coax attached to 450 ohm ladder line all will be well....we hope!

My plan is to model the antenna this winter using 144 MHz (1/2 wave dipole) representing the 40m and 288 MHz (1/2 wave dipole) as the 20m. We can make the rings with rulers cut to 6 inches, glued and criss-crossed. An MFJ SWR Analyzer meter could tell us how bad the coupling might be. I'm not smart enough to use EZNEC for this modeling!...LOL!

Follow up to this article after as tests are conducted. We would appreciate any thoughts on the project via k8aqm1629t@comcast.net or AC8W@comcast.net.

73, AC8W & K8AQM

WES November, 2023



Picture is USN, Millington, TN. Navy Mars station on north side of base. 73, Mark AA0YY



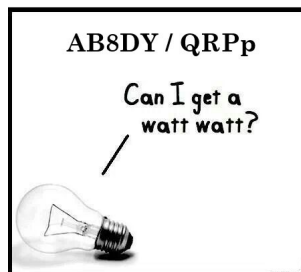
Finally managed to get on the air for WES in between bagging Indiana leaves. Great fun as always (WES that is!) Thanks to everyone! 73, Jeff AA9WJ



73, Mats SM7BUA



Another good weekend, was able to have contacts on 80 thru 10meters. Thanks to all our veterans for their service. 73, Bill AA2MX



I hope everyone had a great time, I know I did and I can't thank the many I contacted that had to struggle to hear my 1w I could not have done it without you. 73, Craig AB8DY



Thank you for honoring veterans, and for making this day of remembrance special for us all. I am a retired US Navy Reserve Captain with 24 years of active service in the Medical Corps. Military patients are real heroes deserving of our support. This picture is me, 40 years ago. 73, Bill AG5ZN



Another enjoyable weekend, and thanks to all the veterans who participated. By the shape of the key's lever it appears to be a pre-triumph Bunnell key which would have been made from 1844-1881. Could it have been used during the civil war? Note it has no adjustment for the spring tension but no problem using it for the entire WES. 100 watts into a Carolina Windom up 40 feet. Next WES listen for my Christmas Bug. 73 till then, Frank AA2XB



More time to operate this month and I used my new Penntek TR-45L transceiver (5watts) to my 80m inv vee fed with OWL. 80, 40 and 20 all worked well at times. Thanks all... very enjoyable. 73, Jim AF3Z



Just a little chasing to get the last Q's for my Centurion! Pic of my Nye Viking Master and mouse. Can you figure out which is which? :-). Oh, did I mention I'm a member of the Frankford Radio Club? Proficiency Through Competition! 73, Mark AA3K



Thanks to all the veterans, current and past, who have served and protected our country through the years. This was my most enjoyable WES. 73, Master Sergeant Bob Helms, USAF, retired/20 years, AF5Z



Got to spend a little time in my permanently portable (ergo my Home QTH) shack. My set up was an ICOM 7300 operating at 5 watts into an EagleOne 31' vertical. My key is CWMorse Sideswiper. 73, Brad AI6DS

WES December, 2023 II



Just played a little. Ten-Tec Omni VII to end-fed wire. Key is Vibroplex Vibrokeyer wired as side-swiper. 73, Steve AI9IN



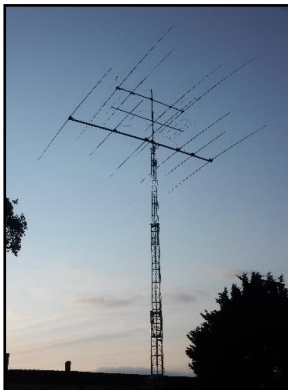
Great activity this Saturday which decreases on Sunday. Great activity over 40m from 1 hour UT to 5 hours UT. Thanks for all the QSOs and to the WES in December. 73, Bob F6EJN



"Thank You to all Veterans" My Dad, along with Mom's influence I am able to enjoy the events with the SKCC group. 73, Rick k0kex



Fun weekend. Thanks for the QSO, we'll hear you in the next. 73, Leo /EA7Q



Thanks everybody for the QSOs. It's good to be back with you after a few months' radio break. My participation time was limited, but I was still able to be on air for a dozen hours or so. Very good conditions on 10 and 15m. The bands on which I was most active. The antennas were only 10m high instead of 20m, but the signals from the US and notably the West Coast were very strong. I hope to be more present next time. 73 to everyone. Bert F6HKA



From K0AF, Andy



TS-590SG, GP Antenna, 90 Watts CW, Lionel J-36 bug key nd Junker for QRS contacts. 12 new SKCC members were logged. Main band was 28 MHz with beautiful openings to NA. Many thanks to all and see you soon ! ! 73, Bernard F5DE



Very little time available, but I was still able to validate my "T"!!! Thank you all. 73, Frank F8DTU



Glad to get back into a sprint again. Condx on a couple of bands pretty good. 599's from France on 20 and west coast on 10 - all with my attic trap dipole. Looking forward to the next one. Many tnx to all the vets. Vy 73, Lee K1LEE



Thank you to everyone who answered my calls. And a big THANK YOU to the veterans of the various countries. en image, la QSL pour TM01CNR infos on: <https://www.qrz.com/db/TM01CNR> 73, Andre F5JBR



Great fun and had QSOs on 40, 20, 15 & 10m. Rig TS-440s 100w to a fishing pole vertical ant.. Two keys used - one Marconi PS No213A pump key, and a GPO telegraph key as pictured. 73, John G0RDO



Thank you to all our veterans. Your dedication and sacrifice is appreciated. The higher bands are looking better. QRPp DXCC count this weekend 6. 73, Gary K1YAN

WES November, 2023 III



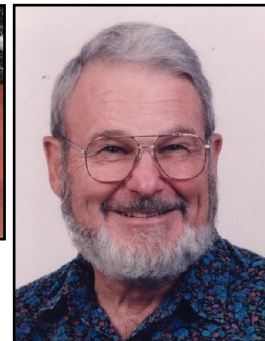
My favorite theme of the year. Just too many distractions to take my time. USN CTMC 1966-86. 73, Ron AC2C



WOW 15M was great! 73, Jim AD0AB



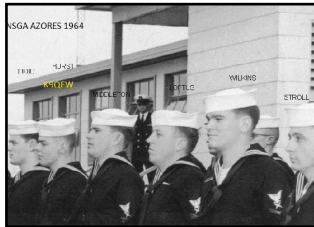
First participation in a SKCC activity with great pleasure. The key used is Swiss, from Hasler, duplex model 1876. Very silent with its shock-absorbing blade. I hope to see you soon. 73, Fred F5NBX



Thanks so much to our vets, both foreign and domestic. This pic is my favorite vet, my dad, RIP. 73, Dan K7NXL



I had a busy weekend but managed to sneak in a few windows of operation. Nice to work CT7AUP on 15M. 73, Steve K9NUD



Band Conditions very good on 10,15 & 20 meters. Managed several DX QSOs. 73 and STAY TUNED Daryl former CTR2 USN 1961-65.



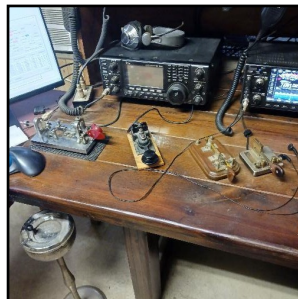
Thanks to all who participated. To all the veterans, thank you for their service. I was able to work a few new "T's", for my next upgrade. God bless you and your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



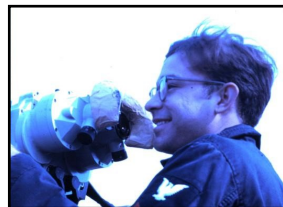
28 and 15 meters were hot in morning and afternoon. Lots of fun and good signals. 73, Pat K7GUD



Fun time as always. 73, Bruce KA3YGL



Good conditions on the upper bands. Got 4 on 10mtrs and 13 on 15mtrs. Did real good on the bonus, thank you guys for all your service! Good to see lots of new numbers out there. Rainy Saturday but then antenna tuned up. Wow we got 28k members now. 7610 at 75 watts and inverted vee at 30ft. SS/Bug/SK as required. 73, Allen KA5TJS



USN RM2 1967-1971 (don't have to worry about the hair blowing around so much these days, hi hi) Good WES, lots of activity. 73, Alan KA5VZG



Nice to be on again. Missed a couple of months. 73, Rich KB1FGC



Bands were in great shape for a change in NC. I brought out a little Heath Kit HW-8 with 800mW out. Got to use the bug, sideswiper and straight key for the WES. I enjoy answering CQ's with whatever the other station is using. A genuine Thank You to all the Veterans and to the ones who brought us home safely. 73, Randy KB4QQJ



Nice band conditions this weekend. Thanks to all who participated, and a special thanks to all our Veterans for their years of service. 73, Warren KC9IL

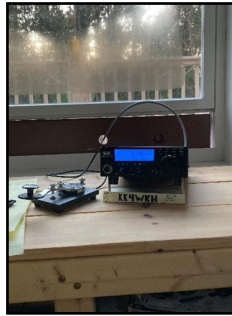
WES November, 2023 IV



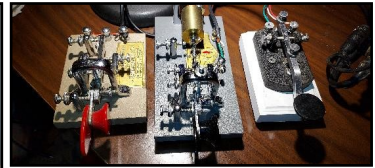
My thanks and gratitude to all who served our country - you are greatly appreciated. Thanks also to the SKCC volunteers who make these Weekend Sprints possible. 73, Bob KC9UR



Had a nice time with WES. Nice to get back to ham radio after a summer of other things keeping me busy. Thanks to all the veterans that participated! 73, Paul KD0SVI



Thank you Veterans for your military service to the United States ☐☐. 73, and hpe to wrk u agn soon. 73, Christine/Ke4wkh



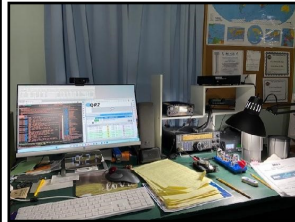
Had a great time! 73, Ron KE8PX



I had a great Radio time FUN as always 28MHz 4ele Yagi - <5W - Homemade DSK + Luftwaffe SK TU everyone for the QSO. BCNU 72, Walt LW3EX - ... ZUT



Thanks for all the great contacts, I was operating portable QRP in the towns of Acworth and Cumming GA. WES is always a fun time with all fine folks! God's Blessings es 73, Adam KN4HAQ



Tnx to all the veterans who participated in this WES. Many FB QSO's! 73, Carolyn KX4QF



It was another great WES. Bands were reasonable and activity level high. I ended up with two more QSOs than last month and even worked the Timor-Leste DXPedition 4W8X on 40M along the way. A shout out to Phil, K3EW, worked on four bands for a total of 108 bonus points. Great calendar timing for WES to start on the actual Veteran's Day, November 11th. Special thanks and appreciation for all who have served in the past or are in the present or plan to in the future. Better feed the reindeer, polish your Santa boots and get that big red suit dry cleaned in time for the next one! 73, Chuck N0CW



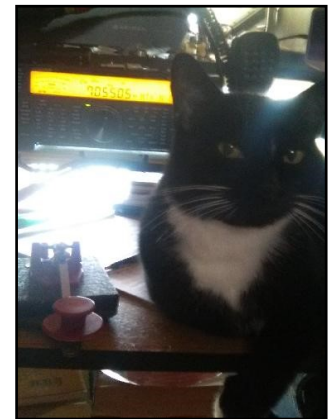
Another great Veterans weekend event! Thanks, 73 Joe N0HOV



Great WES! I had to split my time between operating and fall cleanup outside. Still lots of fun! 73, Dan N1BYT



Fun, as always....Good conditions....Thanks for the contacts....73, Jim N4EES

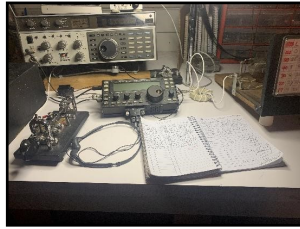


First, thanks to all the veterans who participated and their service. I never served, but was a cop. their service enabled me to do my job for my 21 years. Lastly, the bands were very good! Ten opened and I made some contacts into Europe and into 4X. Fantastic! Thanks to all who gave me Qs, see you all next month, 73, Jerry N3KRX

WES November, 2023 V



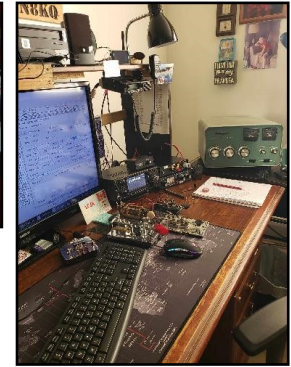
Many very strong stations heard. Bob, F6EJN was 599 on 40m Saturday night ... amazing! Lots of fun. This is my favorite theme of the year. 73 de AL/4 N4OW



I had my KX3 throttled down to one watt. The pic shows it together with my left-handed bug and home brew antenna tuner for a doublet. 73, Gene N5GW



Thank-you to all of our Veterans!!! If you like the SKCC decal on my car, visit hamradioframes.com , select ALL PRODUCTS, then CLUB DECALS. My good friend Leo does a great job on making these. Easy to apply and holds up well through car washes! 73, Ken N8KR



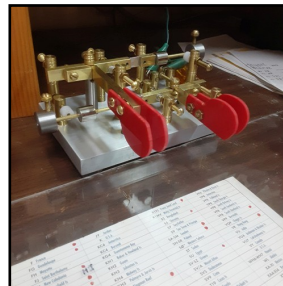
Just too many interruptions again. Highlight was working JR2IUB (Take) es JS1DEH(YU) on my homebrewed 4L 6M Yagi up 15ft...w/80w...Works better on 10&15 then 6.... Thank You to all the Veterans! 73, Randy N8KQ



God Bless all of our veterans especially those that gave it all, like my nephew Tim Johns. 73, Bruce N9DGL



Not much play time this weekend, but did manage a few contacts. Thanks to all those who served, and thanks for the QSO's. 73, Leo CPO USN RET N9QU



Argo6 rig. G5rv and ma5b . 5 qsos at 1 wt. 25 at 5 wts. Tnx to all veterans. Tnx to SKCC board mbrs. And another 100plus new mbrs each month.. ha. That makes LEGAL QRM..ha..so, ill c u only one more month this yr..ha. then 2024 for more QRM..hihi..ha.. i now have 92 keys. I'll be making nmbr 93 soon.. this pix is my hb key nmbr 91. Another DUBBUG, my fun designs to make on my 3 lathes and 3 mills.. ha. So tnx, 73 and if qrp qso, i send a "7two", 72. DAVE N9ZXLQRP@GMAIL.CO M



Really enjoy this WES. To all Veterans.....Thanks for your Service !!!!! 73, Enrique N5LU



One of my favorite WES themes to honor our Vets. Was fun to work several stations on 3 or 4 bands. Had no idea who the QRP stations were until I saw the QRP results. Good sigs for all. Spent 9 years in the submarine service 1968-1977. Photo is us (SSBN-601) coming off a Pacific patrol into Pearl Harbor in 1976 for the 200th birthday celebrations of our country. For many of us, our military years were good times. 73, Paul NASN



I had a great time and want to say thank you to all the Veterans. The time served ranged from 2 years to 32 years. Thank you all for signing that blank check when you joined the military, not knowing how much it would cost you. 73, George NE5A



Great conditions on the high bands. A good time with two operators...AC8W and K8AQM. Great theme to honor all veterans worldwide. 73, Crew NM8GS

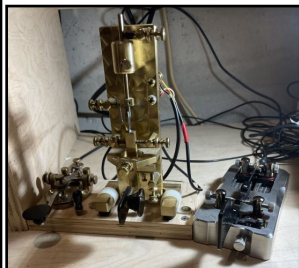
WES November, 2023 VI



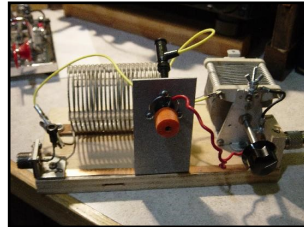
A big thank you to all veterans. We appreciate your service. Limited time for operating as we had company this weekend. Jury is still out on how my SKS - straight key stand - works to reduce wrist fatigue. Thanks for the QS and the opportunity to participate. 73, Will NQ2W



73, Mats SM7BUA



Had limited time this weekend, about half of my usual, so the results were modest. Conditions were reasonable, though odd with echoes and flutter at times. The participation level seemed about average. It's sure nice to have 10 meters being so useful to EU and elsewhere. Thanks to all. 73, John W1TAG



An excellent activity to recognize those who served our country. TNX! to all who make SKCC such a vibrant organization. 73, Steve NQ8T



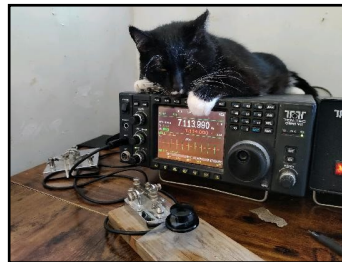
In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place, and in the sky, The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard among the guns below. 73, John McCrae VE3WH



Fun WES using my new Yaesu FT-991A for the first time in one of our events! 73, Cathy W4CMG



10 meters was not as good as expected but lots of fun and worked many new stations. Lots of QRP activity also. See you in the next WES! 73, Jo PG4I



Great condx. Pretty much limited to saturday only due to ministr commitments Sunday but had a solid effort on first day. Nice to have fall conditions. A little disappointed that there was not more action on 80 meters Sat night but got couple dozen. The RTTY contest pretty much saturated parts of 40 meters but lots of action 7110-7120. See all next month / dit dit, 73, Dave W1DV



Well that was fun. Bands were open so my 5W made many cross country hits and some into Europe also. Some condx made it possible to hear short skip and long skip at the same time. Thank you to all the big ears that picked my QRP signal up for a QSO. 72, Andy W4NLT



Thanks to all veterans. Really nice to work on 10 and 15 meters. On Saturday I made some qso's from the Radioroom at Lelystad Airport (PI4ADL) where I am a volunteer. On Sunday qso's were made at home. 73, Joop PA3JD

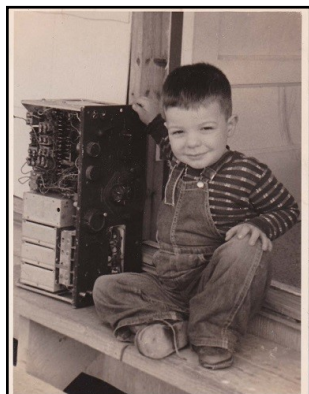


Promotion to Corporal taking the oath. Semper Fi and 73, Howard W1HSB

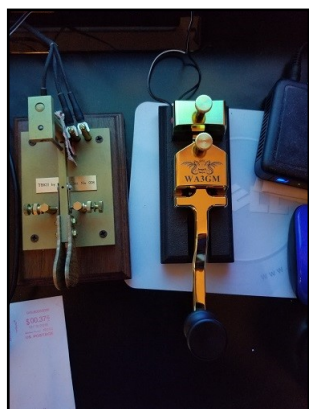


Best WES of the year so far. I'm glad to see the bands finally cooperating. 73, Bill W2EB

WES November, 2023 VII



I had an FB time, that's for sure...but I always have a good time with the WES. I appreciate the veterans theme, for sure. Only hiccup? When I signed off Saturday, I realized I'd forgot to note the veterans I'd worked and gave up some extra points. OH well...DIDN'T MATTER. What mattered was how many great OMs and YLs I worked! 73, Rod W4NNF



Nice Veterans day contest....Tnx to all that served...Bands were not spectacular but 10 M did have some openings. Nice to see Bert F6HKA on again. Have not seen him in while so nice to work him. 73, Greg WA3GM



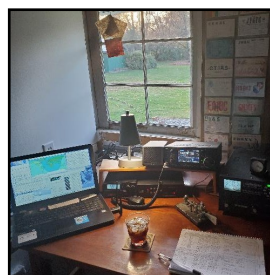
Random pic... 73, Pat W5WTH



Had multiple Veterans Day activities on Saturday (VVA Chapter 172 Color Guard) and I gave the message at our first ever Vets Day service at our church, so very little time to get on the air. Had a few Q's on 20, a few on 40, but 80 was the best band for me on Sat eve. 40 was exceptionally long and Bob F6EJN was 599+. Used my Blue Racer Deluxe again this month. Tnx to all of the Vets for the contacts. Picture is me in 1968 while stationed at Udorn AB in NE Thailand. 73, de West Virginia - Dave/6 W3NP



Another fun WES! I worked many QSO's ON 10 m and other bands and finished up my Sx5 after more than a year at Sx4. Many thanks to all our veterans from many countries. 73, Gene W9KMK



Felt great to get back into WES bigtime, thanks to an open events calendar, "time off for good behavior" and some decent conditions. Ran 100w on 40 and 600w on 20/15/10, all to the well worn Hustler 4BTV vertical. Highlight was working "the SKCC Beacon" of Japan (JR2IUB Take-san) & France (F6HKA Bert). Did not copy VK/ZL this time



Had a Great Time and thank you to all the Veterans. 73, Bob W8ARC



Great WES. Started Saturday on a wide open 10 meters. Saturday night was good to Europe on 40 and Sunday was solid on 10, 15 and 20. Nice to have options. I took my new old bug for its maiden WES voyage and only had a few instances of too many dits and related mental glitches. Only had to retreat to the J 38 straight key a few times. Hi Hi. 73, Ken WA3RSR



Enjoyed the sprint QSOs as always. Got to log some new members as well as meeting again with friends from the past. Band conditions were good both days for the few hours I was on the air. 20 of my 26 QSOs were on the 10 and 15 meter bands with 100 watts and a vertical antenna. Always Thanks to all the Veterans for their service. 73, Gerald WA5AFD

WES November, 2023 VIII



Enjoyed the event very much. 40 was a wasteland of RTTY, but other bands seemed pretty good. Once again using my boat anchors and very much enjoyed that aspect. Transmitter this time was a Johnson Viking 2 and the RX was a Collins 75A-4. Keys used included a 1938 McElroy Deluxe MacKey, Bunnell Model W Sideswiper and Begali Sculpture Swing Sideswiper. Thanks for all of the Q's! No DX this time..... 73, Mike WB0SND



The friendliest contest I've ever entered. Unfortunately for me, callsigns are a great deal more complicated since I got started in 1972 as WN4AJL with the little Japanese key I used then (with an HW-16) and used again this weekend! My brain still twists when copying all the 2x2 and 2x1 calls. I hope to catch up soon :-). Like my little 51-year-old Japanese key, it's all about what one gets used to, I suppose. Cheers, and thanks for a lovely weekend! 73, David WB4AJL



Operating Location: DM22nt BLM Camp Ogilby Road Imperial County California. 73, Dave WG0Y



Lots of fun. The most CW QSO's I've made in a weekend. Thank you vets for your service and sacrifice. See you next time. 73, Neal WD4LSS



Loved the Veterans Day theme having served 28 years active duty. 73, Bob WV7W



Thanks for nice QSOs, using oldie TS-950sd 100W and 2 el. Steppir at 10m AGL, key was Vibroplex Champion and Presentation bug. One bug like none, you should have at least 2, and 2 more in the box :-). 73 de YU7AE Kare



Yet another fun WES. First contact was on 10 meters, which was a surprise. Installed a CW filter in the FT-817ND this past week, so WES gave me the opportunity to run it through its paces. Good to see some folks up above 7100 kHz, too. See you next month! Picture is my super stealthy antenna wire - #26 enameled. 73, Jeff WN1 MB



First WES since getting my Hexbeam installed at the lakehouse (up 35 feet) and it sure paid off! GL WES and Tnx for all the QSOs! Key this month was the W1SFR "Fat Boy" cootie (my favorite). 73, Chris WX7V



This weekend I used the Flex 3000 at 5 watts into a doublet at 30', the key was a Hi-Mound coffin bug I got at a hamfest last spring. I think I'm finally getting it adjusted better but it's still hard to slow it down just like my Vibroplex. It's easy to use the right side as a straight key if I need to. That's to the guys who were patient with my 5w peanut whistle, it's great to hear 10m and 15m open again! 73, Kerry WD5ABC SKCC 12

How to Hear Those Weak Signals in the Noise

By K8AQM/VE9AQM

There is a simple answer, “get rid of the noise!” Easier said than done but there are many ways to help answer the question, “how to hear those weak signals in the noise.”

First, invest in the best transceiver you can afford with the lowest noise floor that meets all your other requirements. It doesn’t really matter what brand; Icom, Kenwood, Yaseu, Elecraft or QRP radio you prefer, “if you can’t hear them, you can’t work them.” Check out the receiver specs and get the best transceiver you can afford with the lowest noise floor figures and greatest sensitivity and selectivity.

Next, put up the most efficient antenna at the greatest height you can. Be sure to install it correctly, a haphazard installation gives haphazard results and huge problems later. Yagis, rhombics and beverages are nice but not often practical. Reading books, Google, asking what others use and ask “what do the big guns use,” all can lead you to the most efficient antenna to hear “those weak signals in the noise.”

But there is even more you can do to “hear those weak signals in the noise.” Receiver noise is a combination of many factors; design of the receiver (that’s why you need to check the receiver spec data of the manufacturer) and most important, noise brought into the receiver from the surrounding environment. It would be nice if we could have a station on a desert island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean but most of us are surrounded by houses with plenty of RF generating devices whose signals get into our antennas and transmission lines. How do the “big gun” stations eliminate this RFI from their transceivers? One very important...and relatively cheap solution... they employ the use of a “common mode choke.” This isn’t the place to go into “how this type of choke works” but at the end of the article there are several pdf references well-worth the downloading, reading and saving. Briefly, a common mode choke prevents the outside jacket of your coax from acting as an antenna that picks-up RFI from sources other than your antenna (and it does!). Ideally common mode chokes should be placed directly at the antenna and again at the



1500w common mode made with RG-213



500w common mode chokes

output of your transceiver.

Often installing a common mode choke at the antenna isn’t practical but even if you just install one at the transceiver output it will help. Many stations in SKCC already employ (easy to build) common mode chokes in their stations; AC2C, KB4QQJ, W3NP, N8KR and KS8KCC are just a few using common mode chokes...and those stations hear “those weak signals in the noise!”

Will it eliminate all your band noise...no, but you will be amazed at what it does! Like my grandmother use to say about chicken soup, “try it, it can’t hurt unless you’re the chicken!”

“One of life’s most economical ways to increase receiving performance.”

— K1VR

I strongly recommend you watch the You Tube (short) presentation by KF7P, RFI in the shack and home...great stuff:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuMIM8zWQFk>

There is much more you can do to improve your ability to hear those, “weak signals in the noise.” Here are two pdf files I recommend you download, read and save:

[https://www.google.com/url?](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjnyMeV_rSCAxUp4kEHS-OALYQFnoECBUQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fremoteqth.com%2Fimg%2FZAW-WIKI%2Fcmcc%2FCom-monModeChokesW1HIS.pdf&usg=AOvVaw39r8PQ0FfVOjrFVeHIHpvV&opi=89978449)

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[2FCom-](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjnyMeV_rSCAxUp4kEHS-OALYQFnoECBUQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fremoteqth.com%2Fimg%2FZAW-WIKI%2Fcmcc%2FCom-)

[monModeChokesW1HIS.pdf&usg=AOvVaw39r8PQ0FfVOjrFVeHIHpvV&opi=89978449](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjnyMeV_rSCAxUp4kEHS-OALYQFnoECBUQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fremoteqth.com%2Fimg%2FZAW-WIKI%2Fcmcc%2FCom-)

<http://www.audiosystemsgroup.com/K9YC/K9YC-old.htm>

A Ham's Guide to RFI, Ferrites, Baluns, and Audio Interfacing

Revision 7 Jan 2019

by Jim Brown K9YC

<http://k9yc.com>

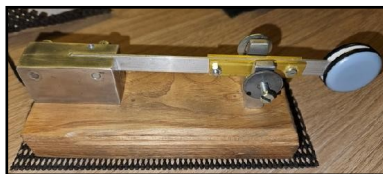
Christmas Keys From Morse Express

De Bill W3SI



Marshall Emm, N1FN proprietor of the online shop Morse Express (and related enterprises) became a Silent Key in February of 2020. Christmas keys are no longer produced but there are many for sale and what a great collection they are....Hint to the “significant other,”... what a great Christmas gift this could be for several years...just sayin”editor

Brag October, 2023



Thank you for the QSOs during this month of October. 73 de F4GOU/Tom



Thanks for all 73, Andre F5JBR



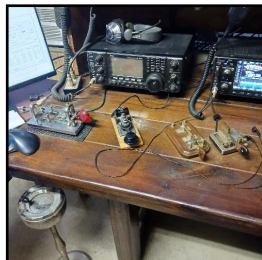
Thanks all for qso. I was Brag Bonus this month and enjoy it! Propagation was fine, lots of qso on 10 meters. 73, Duc F5UQE



Thank you so much for the QSOs. Glad to be back after a few months' break and to find the high bands in good shape. 73 and see you probably next month. Bert F6HKA



Thanks to all who participated. Family activities severely limited my On-Air-Time, hope to do better next month. Every have fun and God bless you & your families. 73, Ric KA3LOC



Not bad this month, got Duc on 10 meters early this month! That was great. Had fun and got some rain in ETX for a change. Heard Bert F6HKA for the first time in a while. Sure glad to see he is back with us. 7610 @ 75w and the doublet at 30ft. Using the bug more and getting a little better with it HI HI. CU in November. 73, Allen KA5TJS



Thanks for the QSO's. Not much CW time this month. CU agn in November. 73, Leo N9QU



From NJ3B, Jim



A slow month but still fun. 73, Tom KB3CVO



...where did that month go? 73, Jack KK0I

Brag October, 2023 II



"I was working on the bands, late one night when my ears beheld an eerie sound. For my monster from his CQ began to call and suddenly to my surprise, he did the Brag the Monster Brag, The Monster Brag, it was an HF smash. The Monster Brag it caught on in a flash. He did the Monster Brag." OK, seriously folks, brags could have been more plentiful but shiny new DX stations kept popping up on 10 meters so that was the siren song that tempted me. Earlier in the month I had a QSO with Calvin, KQ4LNE in NC on 15M. He seemed like a natural for our group so I suggested he check out the SKCC website. A few days later when the new members for the week were posted, there he was as #27955. In his application comments he stated that he joined at the suggestion from a QSO he had. I had the great pleasure of running across him today and had a great QSO. I wish to claim credit for this new member (at least I am hoping so). Best wishes for the start of the Holiday season and good hunting. 73, Chuck N0CW



Random pic...
73, Pat
W5WTH



Been a busy past couple of months and just getting back on the bands. Photos are the recent eclipse as seen just a few feet away from my vertical antenna in New Mexico. Temp went from 80F to 63F in 10 minutes!!! 73, Paul NA5N



Great month with many openings on 10 meters. My keys got company from a new straight key: A Lennart Pettersson & Co Swedish key. What a joy! 73, Jo PG4I



I actually had a fairly good month. The bands were great and I made some good contacts. I could only get on the air for a few days but those days were great. 73, Les WB5JWI



Thanks for the QSOs!
73, Sam VE3WH



Had a nice month but slow because of biz travel. Got some good brags in this month including F5UQE on 15M. 73 all Chris de WX7V

Fort Wayne, IN Hamfest November, 2023



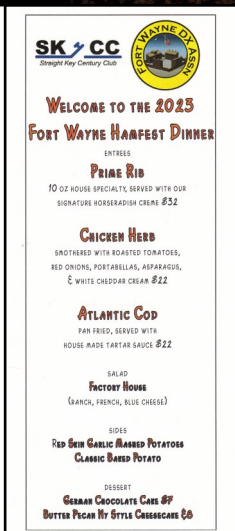
The SKCC group photo Saturday at noon. Unfortunately Rose KA9GKE, missed the photo and she certainly would have been “the rose among us thorns!” 50 members signed in and 7 new members were registered.

The Fort Wayne, IN hamfest provides an excellent gathering place to enjoy oneself among lots of “needed” items for the hamshack. Everything from boat anchors, high tech gear, parts and computers are there.

The greater Fort Wayne area has one of the largest and most active SKCC groups. According to records there are over 70 members in the area and “many” are Senator status! Familiar calls from the group include; W9HT, N9SE, N8KR, WA9BBN, AC9XS, KA9GKE, K9FW and NE9EE.



But it’s not just their hamfest activities; after the hamfest they get together with the Fort Wayne DX Association and reserve a banquet room and have a very FB dinner. Just check out their menu options below. Both groups get along well together and a short (very short) address by the leader of each group offer support and information to each group.



As you may have read earlier in *The Rag Chew*, Ken N8KR is one of the new nominees selected to the SKCC Honor Roll. The local SKCC guys made a small plaque to present to and honor Ken for this excellent SKCC Honor Roll achievement.

The picture on the right was taken in the N8KR hamshack. Who among us has “pinball machines” to pass the time when the bands are folded! Sheez, some guys have all the toys!

Finally, if you’re anywhere near Fort Wayne next November, come join the gang at the hamfest! You won’t be sorry!



SKS November 2023



I had a great time working lots of friends and some new acquaintances. The bug is easier to use with the Vari-Speed device. Happy Thanksgiving to all! 73, Bob AF5Z



Wishing everyone in SKCC a Happy Thanksgiving. 73, Larry K8TEZ



40 Meters was hopping tonight! My QRP signal made it coast to coast with plenty of 599's. Thanks for the great contacts & Happy Thanksgiving all! KX3 @ 5W, EFHW up 40', some cootie but mostly my 1940 Vibroplex Champion. 73, Steve K9NUD



Good conditions for a while on 20 meters, then spent the rest of the time on 40. Thanks everyone for participating. 73, Warren KC9IL



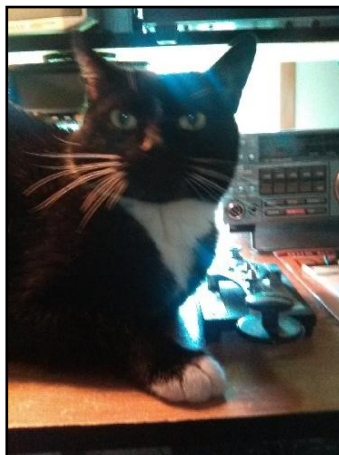
That was fun! I am learning still, and everyone is so patient with me... TU. :) I only got 3 contacts, but that's because my wife kindly asked me to go grocery shopping with her just prior to the Sprint. lol I was watching the clock more than the cart. The image is my new (to me) key! J-38 I am giving it a chance to 'talk' again. 73, Mike KK7MMN



Always a good time. Nice to start work on the "C". Multi op: KD8TTM and K8AQM. 73, "Dash" KS2KCC



Nice two hour sprint and the bands were full. Fun time as usual. 73, Dean N2TNN



This was fun! Did S&P the whole night. Bands were good, though 40 meters had some weird QSB going on. Only one contact on 20 meters. Had to move the cat twice, as he was REALLY interested in what I was tapping on, hi hi. CU all next month, Happy Thanksgiving to all, and put that Kool Whip on that pumpkin pie! 73, Jerry N3KRX



Missed all but the last half hour, but happy with 5 contacts. 73 all, Jim N4EES



SKS November, 2023 II



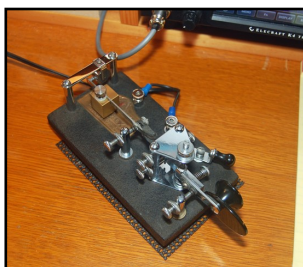
Trying out my new TS-520SE. Brings back many memories! 73, Marty N9SE



I had the pleasure of working John, our newest member #28047. I also stumbled on to Randy N8KQ which is always a treat! TNX! 73, Steve NQ8T



It had been too long since I made an SKS! Was 40 minutes late getting started but 40M was excellent with a lot of strong signals so that's where I stayed for the duration. Used my Elecraft K4 at 100 watts, OCF dipole at 25' and my KN4YB bug. Thanks all for the fun! 73, Bill NZ0T



Was not able to get on until 0100. Only used 40 meters which was in decent condition. The key was my Vibroplex Lightning Bug from 1953. Rig was K4 line and the antenna was the 160m skyloop at 50'. 73, Dave W3NP de West Virginia



Always a fun event! Not long before we had a new driveway apron poured which included a new tower base, a sign of exciting things to come! Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Day Holiday! 73, Bob W8YD

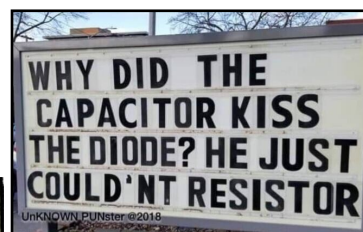
Finally....just for laughs



MOOOOOOY! DAD BOUGHT ANOTHER RADIO!

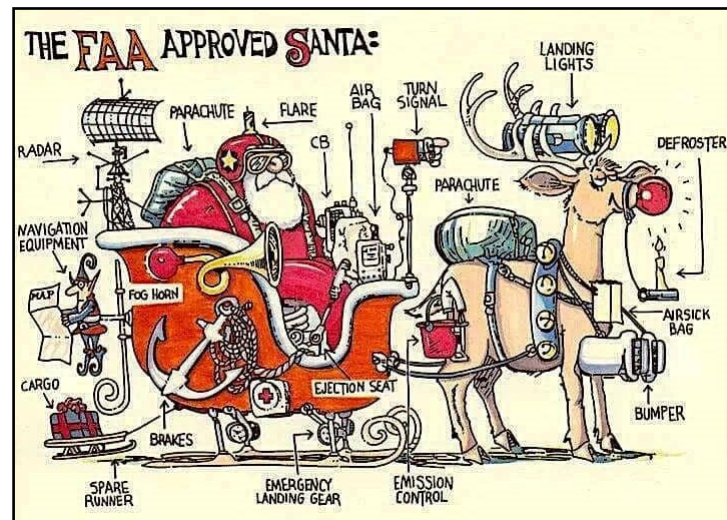


DON'T MIND HIM, HIS NET STARTS IN TWENTY MINUTES AND HE LIKES TO GET AN EARLY CHECK-IN ...



Season's Greetings!

From your Board of Directors, the event managers, award managers and all the support team of SKCC we wish all SKCC members world wide "Season's Greeting!" May the new year bring great DX, many QSOs and of course good health!



Happy New Year! 2024