The SKCC Centurion

The official newsletter of the Straight key Century Club

Straight Key Century Club Third Anniversary Celebration

QST QST SPECIAL EVENT QST QST

Once again, the Straight Key Century Club is celebrating another spectacularly successful year. Yes, we are an organized club of CW enthusiasts, with a decided preference for generating Morse code symbols by purely mechanical means. Sure, many of us have paddles and can use keyers if we want to, but for SKCC purposes, it is all about Straight Keys, Bugs and Cootie Keys. We love 'em, collect 'em, and many of us build our own. The SKCC is the one place where amateur radio CW traditionalists, minimalists, craftsmen, experts and novices can all meet on an equal footing and exchange information. As of this writing, we can boast a membership of over 4,800, worldwide, with more applications arriving every day. CW, contrary to the opinion of many, is alive and well, as our continued rapid growth bears ample witness.

The SKCC has secured the call K3Y for the month-long special event, and a clever choice it is. "3Y", meaning 3 years, and "K3Y" looks distinctly like the word KEY, a particularly appropriate reference.

Special Event Announcements have been placed with QST, CQ, World Radio, and have been listed with many popular on-line event calendars. Non-members are more than welcome, as many of them will become members, once they see how the club works.

The Special Event will commence on Jan. 1, 2009 at 00:00Z, and conclude on Jan. 31, 2009, at 23:59Z. SKCC members are encouraged to get on the air and make as many contacts as possible to help celebrate our success. Contact your Regional Coordinator and schedule the times you would like to operate as K3Y/X.

The following is a list of the SKCC Regional Coordinators:

Area 0:	**Brad, K0DBK**
Area 1:	**Barry, WB1EDI**
Area 1a:	**Ulf, K1ULF**
Area 2:	**Drew, AF2Z**
Area 3:	**Michael, KC2EGL**
Area 3a:	**Ron, AC2C**
Area 4:	**Damon, W4HDM**
Area 4a:	**Karen, W4KRN**
Area 5:	**Cookie, K5EWJ**
Area 6/KH6:	**Gordon, N6WK**
Area 7/KL7:	**Mark, KJ7BS**
Area 8:	**Ted, K8AQM**
Area 8a:	**Rich, K8UV**
Area 9:	**Jeff, K9JP**
Area 9a:	**Randy, KB4QQJ**

NOTEs: Alternate coordinators are listed as "**a**". All e-mail addresses are:*call@ skccgroup.com*.

The Special Event call sign can only be used by one operator at a time in each of the 10 call areas. The Regional Coordinators will maintain the schedule for their area, and make sure that each time slot is assigned to only one operator.

Members and non-members are equally welcome to QSO with K3Y stations and qualify for a unique QSL, or, for the real paper hangers, working all 10 call areas will get you a K3Y Sweep Certificate.

Anyone who hasn't operated with the SKCC Special Event call sign, doesn't know what they are missing. People actually want to talk to you, and will create a pile-up to do it. It is the closest most of us will ever get to being DX. This year, I operated K2A/6 both at home, and while camping at the Blythe Bluegrass Festival, and operated K2A/7, while camping at the ham radio Quartzfest, in AZ. I went through both the Area 6 and Area 7 Regional Coordinators, who made it so easy, even I couldn't mess it up. I expect to repeat the whole thing next year, since I am already registered at the same two events. All you need to do is download the K2RFP Logger, or use your favorite logger to upload your ADIF log file for each day's activity to your Regional Coordinator. Also, K3Y operators are expected to use traditional, purely mechanical, keying methods. If you missed out on this unique operating opportunity this year, don't miss out next year. For full information, go to: www.skccgroup.com/k3y.

Roger (Al) , W6SQQ, SKCC PIO

ARRL Petition To FCC

On Monday, October 20, the ARRL filed a Petition for Modification or Cancellation of Experimental Authorization (Petition) with the FCC with respect to WE2XRH. According to the FCC, this experimental license -- issued to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART) -- proposes to "test digital transmissions in 4.50-5.10 MHz, 7.10-7.60 MHz and 9.25-9.95 MHz for a terrestrial digital radio service to the citizens of Alaska."

The League's Petition states that DART's hopes that this experimentation "will lead to a terrestrial, high-frequency (HF) digital aural (domestic broadcast) service in Alaska. Ostensibly to study the operation of this 'shortwave' system at high latitudes, and apparently in order to roll out this domestic broadcast service, DART specifies exceptionally high power operation in various segments of the HF spectrum. ARRL's interest in this matter is limited to the fact that the experimental license includes the band

7.1 -7.3 MHz, allocated domestically exclusively to the Amateur Radio Service."

"It is astonishing that the FCC would grant this experimental license for operation at such a high power level in a band that is allocated exclusively to a service with which such operation is clearly incompatible," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "The only possible explanation is that it was an error; the only reasonable step for the FCC to take is to correct its error immediately, either by cancelling the license or by amending the frequency ranges to delete 7.1 -7.3 MHz."

It is the ARRL's view that "Simply stated, there is a 100% certainty of severe, continuous, harmful interference from operation of the DART facilities as authorized by the Commission to ongoing Amateur Radio operation at 7.1 to 7.3 MHz. This authorization must be modified immediately (if not cancelled completely), so as to delete the band 7.1-7.3 MHz" from DART's experimental license application.

The ARRL ascertains that DART has been permitted operation in the

7.1-7.6 MHz band using a 20 kHz bandwidth digital emission at a transmitter output power of 100 kW and an ERP of 660 kW within a radius of 1500 kilometers of Delta Junction, Alaska. In the Petition, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, points out that while DART says it will coordinate with the High Frequency Coordination Conference (HFCC), "[i]t does not propose any coordination with any individual or entity in the Amateur Service.

There is no showing whatsoever how DART proposes to avoid interference to Amateur Radio operation at 7.1-7.3 MHz. In fact, there is no indication that DART is even aware of the allocation."

Calling the 40 meter band "perhaps the most heavily-utilized Amateur HF band in the United States," the ARRL states that it can see "no compatible use that DART can make of this band in any state or territory of the United States, at any time of the day or night" and will cause "preclusive interference" to amateurs using that portion of the band. "The entire 7.0 - 7.3 MHz band is used heavily within Alaska, especially by radio amateurs located in its remotest areas, at all times. It is particularly critical in times of emergency due to its daytime and nighttime propagation characteristics. The band is also used at all times of the day and night for worldwide communications by radio amateurs."

The League's Petition points out that the FCC's Rules at Section

5.83(b) state that experimental license grants are subject to change or cancellation by the Commission at any time without hearing if in the Commission's discretion the need for such action arises: "ARRL submits that this application should never have been granted as applied for in the first place, and there is an urgent need to prohibit operation of the DART high power transmitters in the entirety of the 7.1-7.3 MHz band. It is likely that DART has been under a misapprehension that the band is among the international broadcast allocations, because, in ITU Regions 1 and 3, the band is allocated to that Service. However, in Region 2, in Alaska, it is not." After March 29, 2009, 7.1-7.2 MHz will not be available for broadcasting anywhere.

The League goes on to say that Section 5.85 of the Commission's Rules governs the selection and use of frequencies by holders of experimental authorizations and adamantly states that "there is no justification submitted by DART for the use of the frequency bands requested, particularly with respect to 7.1-7.3 MHz. It is unclear why such large segments of spectrum were specified by DART, given its stated course of experimentation, and given its narrow occupied bandwidth" and notes that DART "should have been required to conduct its frequency coordination efforts in advance of the filing of its application."

The ARRL contends that DART's proposed facility cannot meet the FCC's requirements, as outlined in the Commission's Rules, Section 5.111(a)(2), "and there is no showing that the transmitter power is the lowest practical value consistent with the program of experimentation. Nor has it even taken Amateur Radio operation into account." This portion of the Rules state that when transmitting, the experimental licensee "must use every precaution to ensure that the radio frequency energy emitted will not cause harmful interference to the services carried on by stations operating in accordance with the Table of Frequency Allocations of part 2 of this chapter and, further, that the power radiated is reduced to the lowest practical value consistent with the program of experimentation for which the station authorization is granted. If harmful interference to an established radio service develops, the licensee shall cease transmissions and such transmissions shall not be resumed until it is certain that harmful interference will not be caused."

Calling for DART's WE2XRH experimental license to "be cancelled entirely, or at least modified so as to delete the reference to any Amateur HF allocation," the ARRL reminded

the FCC that DART failed to make any showing as to how it would avoid interference to Amateur radio operation at 7.1-7.3 MHz: "ARRL submits that such a showing could not be made in any case."

FCC Responds To ARRL Petition

On Monday, October 20, the ARRL filed a "Petition for Modification or Cancellation of Experimental Authorization" (Petition) with the FCC with respect to WE2XRH. According to the FCC, this experimental license -- issued to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART) -- proposes to "test digital transmissions in 4.50-5.10 MHz, 7.10-7.60 MHz and 9.25-9.95 MHz for a terrestrial digital radio service to the citizens of Alaska." The League's protest was prompted by the certainty that high-power operation in the frequency range 7.10 to 7.30 MHz would cause unacceptable and harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service in this part of the 40-meter band, which is an exclusive amateur allocation in ITU Region 2 (North and South America).

On October 24, the FCC responded by issuing an amended license that redefined one of the station's frequency ranges to eliminate conflict with the Amateur Radio Service. The amended license narrows the range to 7.30 to 7.60 MHz and gives as the reason for the change, "operation in the band 7.1-7.3 MHz will cause harmful interference to Amateur Radio Service licensees."

"We are delighted that the FCC acted so promptly to correct this error and are pleased that the matter has been resolved," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

WE2XRH will be using a 20 kHz bandwidth digital emission at a transmitter output power of 100 kW and an ERP of 660 kW within a radius of 1500 kilometers of Delta Junction, Alaska. According to the amended license, the transmissions will take place in the frequency ranges 4.4 to 5.1 MHz, 7.3 to 7.6 MHz and 9.25 to 9.95 MHz.
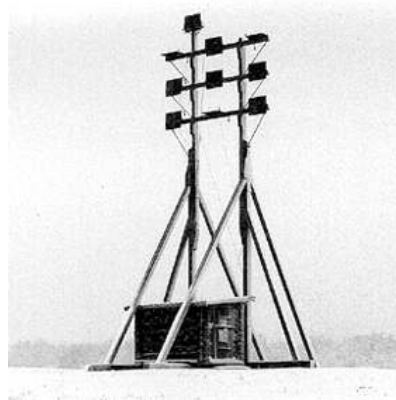
Answers To What Are These?

Hear ye, hear ye, let it be known to all members of the Straight Key Century Club that Walt LW3EX correctly identified the four mystery items and their inventors. For his feat of intellect, Walt receives five (5) SASE in the SKCC QSL Bureau.
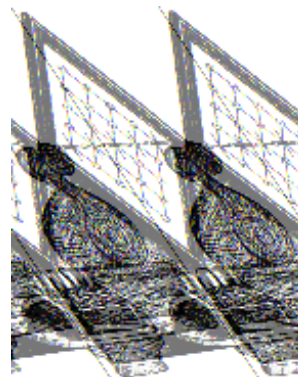
Claude Chappe invented the Optical Telegraph, often referred to as the Visual Telegraph, in 1793. His design consisted of two small rotating arms on the end of a longer rotating bar. This bar, called the regulator, could be aligned horizontally or vertically, and each of the small arms, called indicators, could be rotated into one of seven positions in forty-five-degree increments. The design allowed for a total of 98 different combinations, 6 of which were reserved for "special use", leaving 92 codes to represent numbers, letters, and common syllables. A special code book with 92 numbered pages, each of which listed 92 numbered meanings, meant that an additional 92 times 92, or 8,464, words and phrases could be represented by transmitting two codes in succession. The first indicated the page number in the codebook, and the second indicated the intended word or phrase on that page.

The Optical Telegraph was effective over vast distances with the use of a telescope and a clear line of sight. The Optical Telegraph was built on a tower or at the top of a hill or mountain. Miot de Melito named Chappe's invention the telegraphe or "far writer".

Abraham Edelcrantz invented the Optical Telegraph, often referred to as the Shutter Telegraph, in 1794. Edelcrantz's Shutter Telegraph consisted of ten shutters, arranged in a pattern that could be easily read off at a distance. The arrangement of the shutters formed what today is called a binary system with 10 signal elements - a predecessor of modern data signal systems. The optical telegraph employed a network of linking stations. A signal was successively repeated from one station to the next until the office of destination was reached.

William Fothergill Cooke and Sir Charles Wheatstone invented the Five-Needle Telegraph in 1837. A current was sent into the line by completing the circuit of the battery with a make and break key, and at the other end it passed through a coil of wire surrounding a magnetic needle free to turn round its centre. According as one pole of the battery or the other was applied to the line by means of the key, the current deflected the needle to one side or the other. There were five separate circuits actuating five different needles. The latter were pivoted in rows across the middle of a dial shaped like a diamond, and having the letters of the alphabet arranged upon it in such a way that a letter was literally pointed out by the current deflecting two of the needles towards it. To transmit a letter of the alphabet two switches were pressed which caused two needles to move and point to the appropriate letter. By pressing different combinations of switches any one of twenty letters could be transmitted. Unfortunately J, C, Q, U, X and Z had to be omitted making it difficult to send some words. Alternative methods were adopted to spell words such as "queen", "quiz" or "axe". Despite its shortcomings, the advantage of their equipment was that it could be used by unskilled operators.

Sir Charles Wheatstone invented the alphabetical telegraph, or, 'Wheatstone A B C instrument,' which moved with a step-by-step motion, and showed the letters of the message upon a dial. The same principle was utilized in his type-printing telegraph, patented in 1841. This was the first apparatus which printed a telegram in type. It was worked by two circuits, and as the type revolved a hammer, actuated by the current, pressed the required letter on the paper. There is a hand generator on the front, a dial with 30 keys round the edge and a pointer. The whole thing was known as a communicator. A separate receiver also had a single pointer. To work it one pressed the key for the letter wanted and wound the generator. The pointer would go round until it reached the key pressed and then it disconnected the generator. Pressing another key then allowed the pointer to rotate to the next letter and so on. The generator sent alternating half cycles of current to the line and the receiving pointer moved round a letter at a time, like a stepper motor, till it reached the letter being sent. It was pretty simple, robust, and needed little skill to operate. Speeds were up to about 15 words per minute.

Editor's Soapbox

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS SKCC 2240T

The Victorian Internet by Tom Standage is the remarkable story of the telegraph and the nineteenth century's on-line pioneers.

The title is what caught my eye. I found this book not on the best seller list, not in some obscure bookstore, not on the ARRL web site. I found it in a garbage can at work. Someone tossed it out while moving to our new building. It was not until I read the sub-title that I realized it might have something to do with telegraphy an Morse code.

At 217 pages including sources, it is an easy read in a few evenings. The first two paragraphs of the book's Preface captivated my attention.

In the nineteenth century there were no televisions, airplanes, computers, or spacecraft; nor were there antibiotics, credit cards, microwave ovens, compact discs, or mobile phones.

There was, however, an Internet.

The history lesson begins in 1746 in Paris. From there the author lays out the technological progression from an experiment that revealed electricity travels over a mile almost instantly, to a "speaking telegraph" that later becomes know as the telephone. The history lesson is fascinating and very educational. Who would have thought the first "submarine telegraph" cable or transatlantic telegraph cable would only last a week before being rendered useless from corrosion?

The subject for the challenge included in the October issue of The SKCC Centurion came from this book.

I highly recommend this book to all amateur radio operators who have any interest in Morse code. You like me, will have your eyes opened and will never view Morse code or CW operations quite the same.

"I was simply fascinated by this book. It contains parallels between the reception of the telegraph and the Internet with I new nothing about. The struggles of the early telegraph builders, the rivalries, the public perception of the system — all have perspective and implications that seem relevant to today's Internet. It is well worth reading, not only for the fascinating story it offers of early successes in global communications but also for the personal stories it relates. An extraordinary book!

— Vincent Cerf, Co-Inventor of the Internet

Weekend Sprintathon Sunday November 9th, 0000-2359z

November 9th Theme: DX, Rising Stars and Sweepstakes

1) No bonus for C's and T's.

2) 10 points bonus for working SKCC numbers without a C or T. Per band.
3) 10 points bonus for working SKCC DX. This time, DX is defined as
4) any country other than your own DXCC listed country.

The entry form will not have boxes for numbers of C's and T's this time. It is up to you to count your bonus and enter the TOTAL in the special bonus box on the entry form. There will be text prompts on the form to help you.

Examples of how the bonus points apply for DX: Walt LW3EX would get 10 points for every stateside QSO. I would get 10 points for every band I work Walt. G4LMW in the U.K. could work GW4ALG in Wales for 10 points per band. G4LMW would also get 10 points for every stateside QSO.

Special Prize Drawing: A poll question will be setup to ask if you want to be included in the random drawing for a prize. Anyone who participates and submits an entry is eligible. The prize is a semi-rare and fine straight key marked Elektrisk Bureau Oslo. This key comes from the NT9K collection and has history working on board ships. http://www.nt9k.com/image/oslo_marine.jpg

Beginners are welcome in this event too! If you have never tried a sprint or don't like the big fast contests and need a little help getting started, Joe K8JP/V31JP wrote a sprint primer that will help. Find it here: http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/wes_primer.html

Still unsure? Take a look at the SKCC sprint videos that Drew AF2Z, made for us. It's fun and easy. Find the videos here: http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/av.html

Each SKCC member without a C or T is worth 10 bonus points. Each SKCC DX member is worth 10 bonus points. K9SKC is worth 25 bonus points as usual. (K9SKC still open).

WES Awards Manager Gene - KL7GLL plans to send certificates to the top three members overall and the top 3 DX scores, if there are at least 10 DX entrants. If there are not 10 DX entrants, certificates will be sent to the top three rising members, who have not yet earned their Centurion and/or Tribune award. DX is considered as any station outside the 48 continental US states, including all Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, etc.

For more information on the SKCC Weekend Sprintathons, see: http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/ 73, Bill - NT9K

SKCC Contest Results

Jim K9JWV emailed The SKCC Centurion last month and pointed out that there is a growing contingent of QRP operators who participate in the monthly SKCC Sprint and SKCC Weekend Sprint-A-Thon.

In fact, there are several operating classes from QRPp (miliwatting) to QRO (up to 1500w) each of which deserve recognition. Therefore, beginning with this issue of The SKCC Centurion the top three operators in each operating class will receive recognition for their accomplishments for each operating event.

Thank you Jim for recognizing this trend and bringing it to our attention. Well done.

SKS Sprint

October 22, 2008

Visit the SKS page http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/ for full results.

There were 60 participants and the club call K9SKC was operated by Paul N6EV with a score of 470.

Category 1 – 1 Watt or less
1st Place   John N9GGE - 11 points
2nd Place   None
3rd Place   None
Category 2 – >1 to 5 Watts
1st Place   Don WA1BXY - 449 points
2nd Place   Randy KB4QQJ as N4A/4 - 273 points
3rd Place   Jerry VE5DC - 188 points
Category 3 – >5 to 100 Watts
1st Place   Tom K4GZB - 1125 points
2nd Place   Don N7EF - 1115 points
3rd Place   Paul NG7Z - 1002 points
Category 4 –> 100 Watts
1st Place   Neil KC2KY - 470 points
2nd Place   Bill WB9CAC - 4 points
3rd Place   None

WES Sprintathon

October 12, 2008

This month's theme was the **Annual Craftsman Key Sprint**. This was a joint event with the **Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio** (SPAR). The objective of this event was to build from scratch an keying device and then operate the WES event with it. Visit the WES page http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/ for full results and to see the handy work of some or our members.

There were **122** participants and the club call K9SKC was operated by Dave KI6BHB with a score of 1842 points.

Category 1 – 1 Watt or less
1st Place   Bruce WB8OGK - 1263 points
2nd Place   Jeff K9JP - 190 points
3rd Place   None
Category 2 – >1 to 5 Watts
1st Place   Neil KC2KY - 2540 points
2nd Place   George N2JNZ as N3A/2 - 1631 points
3rd Place   Randy KB4QQJ as N3A/4 - 1050 points
Category 3 – >5 to 100 Watts
1st Place   Lou W7JI - 5608 points
2nd Place   Russ K0LUW - 4374 points

3rd Place   Ed KG4W - 4195 points
Category 4 –> 100 Watts
1st Place   Bert W5ZR - 11354 points
2nd Place   Tony W4FOA - 3540 points
3rd Place   Joe K0IVK - 2271 points

New Members

4775, W4BUC, University Amateur Radio Club of East
       Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN
4776, KH6CC, Hilo ARC, Hilo, HI
4777, M0JRQ, Chris, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom
4778, NI1E, Marc, Goffstown, NH
4779, MM0AMV, Wallace, Port Seton, Scotland
4780, KD8IFJ, Curt, Grand Rapids, MI
4781, K8IJ, Charlie, Alexandria, KY
4782, KA4YLH, Sophia, Tucson, AZ
4783, OZ7KDJ, Klaus, Silkeborg, Denmark
4784, 3A2LS, Alain, Monaco, Monaco
4785, AE5IN, Zachary, Fredericksburg, TX
4786, MW0MUT, Andy, Llantwit Major, Wales, United
       Kingdom
4787, KB5RXL, Mark, Garland, TX
4788, N8DGD, Tom, Grand Rapids, MI
4789, W4LDA, Roger, Greensboro, GA
4790, K4KB, Jorge, Acworth, GA
4791, K0GZR, Jesse, Gardner, KS
4792, W7YSB, Eldon, Tucson, AZ
4793, M6AAE, Andrew, Rochester, Kent, United Kingdom
4794, KG7A, Ronny, Phoenix, AZ
4795, KE7RLI, Maurice, Seattle, WA
4796, W0HNI, Bill, Florence, Co
4797, N8IJG, Bill, Wickliffe, OH
4798, BD1ISI, Gordon, Ma Beijing, China
4799, ZS1CS, Clyde, Goedemoed, South Africa
4800, KW4JS, John, Kingston, TN
4801, M0RGC, Glyn, Hudderfield, West Yorkshire, United
       Kingdom
4802, VA5BRT, Bob, Saskatoon, SK, Canada
4803, K8EM, Jack, Newark, OH
4804, K0VZ, Mike, Kearney, NE
4805, G3KTC, Ronald, Markfield, Leicestershire, United
       Kingdom
4806, KA8SFF, Russ, Hubbell, MI
4807, W5GIC, Michael, Pflugerville, TX
4808, KD8HNI, Jeremy, Newark, OH
4809, DJ8EF, Franz, Weinbach-Edelsberg, Germany
4810, WN5DFH, Phil, Plano, TX
4811, N8RVE, John, Lorain, OH
4812, W5KDM, Noel, Olive Branch, MS
4813, WB2FYZ, Vince, Ilion, NY
4814, KJ4GOV, Adolfo, Weston, FL
4815, GM4EWM, Ed, Elgin, Morayshire, Scotland
4816, NC0JB, Jason, Lawrence, KS
4817, N4ST, Jim, Jersey, VA
4818, K9TXJ, Tom, Seattle, WA
4819, K8MXC, Bob, Reed City, MI
4820, AB4KH, Bill, Lauderdale, Lakes, FL

4821, K2JYV, Gary, Kenmore, NY
4822, KA1ULT, Justin, Augusta, ME
4823, JO3HPM, Nao, Tatsuno, Japan
4824, PY9FP, Francisco, Tangara da Serra, Brazil
4825, G8HI, Ken, East Boldon, United Kingdom
4826, EC1AE, Oscar, Oviedo, Spain
4827, AE8L, Walter, Lawrence, KS
4828, K0RCJ, Richard, McPherson, KS
4829, AH6O, James, Wellington, CO
4830, VK3QP, George, Melbourne, Australia
4831, N7YAH, George, Raymond, WA
4832, NC7K, Jeff, Tempe, AZ
4833, W9JGS, Jeff, Hebron, IL

SKCC Awards

Centurion

239, W4KRN, 4495C, Karen, Nokesville, VA, 9 October, 2008
240, W5AG, 3965C, Arch, Lafayette, LA, 15 October, 2008

Tribune

124, K1MLP, 3895C, Mark, Bellerica, MA, 13 October, 2008
125, N9CYF, 2408C, Tex, Beach Park, IL, 20 October, 2008
126, AB3AP, 2607C, Mike, Avondale, PA, 20 October, 2008
127, N9QU, 3464C, Leo, Luxemburg, WI, 23 October, 2008
128, K6JF, 4261C, Jim, Sunnyvale, CA, 23 October, 2008
129, KX3H, 2300C, Tim, Pittsburgh, PA, 25 October, 2008
130, KD6SX, 1755C, George, Oroville, CA, 29 October, 2008

Key Of The Month

This is the key used by Bart N9AKF in the Annual Craftsman Key Sprint. This is truly a key.

If you would like your key featured in Key of The Month, send your picture and a short description to kj7bs@cox.net.

Shack Of The Month

SM0PMJ, Goeran—My Swedish Rex straight key built by Lennart Pettersson unfortunately is not visible

Email pictures of your shack with a description to kj7bs@cox.net.

QSL Of The Month

QSL of N9CYF

Send images of your QSL card and see them posted for all members to see. Email images to kj7bs@cox.net

Member Products

Wooden Key Bases

George Osier, N2JNZ, makes beautiful key bases for your keys. "I have made bases in Redheart, Chechen and Santo Mahogany in 5/8 and 1 inch thickness. I finish the bases in Minwax Wipe On Poly Gloss which gives a great shine but doesn't make the wood look like its covered in plastic" says George. Samples of the bases are on the SKCC YAHOO group under PHOTOS and then to the N2JNZ Keys Folder. These are made from exotic woods and some are almost too pretty to drill holes into for mounting your key. Contact George gosier@twcny.rr.com for a list of exotic woods currently available. Key base pricing is $10 each plus $5 USPS Priority Mail shipping.

Her are two samples of his work. On the left is Redheart and on the right is Chechen.

These key bases are 8 1/2 inches long, 5 1/2 inches wide and 1/2 inch thick. These will make any key look good and will be a nice addition to your shack.

Gold SKCC Stickers

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS, is making Gold SKCC stickers available to all SKCC members. These stickers are 1 inch in diameter peel-and-stick gold foil stickers. The gold stickers come 63 to a sheet on an 8 1/2 x 11 inch page. The sticker has the SKCC key logo centered on the sticker and member numbers can be printed below the logo, including Centurion and Tribune designators. Pricing for the Gold SKCC stickers is very reasonable $0.60 per sheet of 63 plus shipping.

1 sheet (63) $1.19
2 sheets (126) $2.18
3 sheets (189) $2.78)
4 sheets (252) $3.38
5 sheets (315) $4.15
6 sheets (378) $4.75
7 sheets (441) $5.35
8 sheets (504) $6.12
9 sheets (567) $6.72
10 sheets (630) $7.32

(Prices include shipping)

Quantities over 10 sheets, please contact Mark for postage quote. Processing is 5-7 days excluding weekends. Orders and

payments via PayPal to kj7bs@cox.net ,USPS money order or check to:

Mark Saunders
13226 N. 62nd Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85304

Please include the above pricing when ordering,

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The SKCC Centurion

13226 N. 62nd Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85304
Phone: 623-606-1976
kj7bs@arrl.net

With SKCC every day is Straight Key Night!

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The Straight Key Century Club is the fastest growing CW club focusing on manual generation of Morse code. Founded in January 2006, SKCC has grown to over 3700 members in calendar 2007. Members enjoy a very active email list server, SKCC forums, monthly sprints, and a monthly 24 hour operating event. Information about the Straight Key Century Club can be found at http://www.skccgroup.com .

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Operating Frequencies

These are the suggested frequencies (+or - Khz) for SKCC members to congregate and look for other SKCC members. These are suggestions only, nobody owns any frequency. Be courteous and find a clear spot.

1.820 MHz	3.550 MHz	3.530 MHz
7.120 MHz	7.055 MHz	10.120 MHz
14.050 MHz	18.080 MHz	21.050 MHz
24.910 MHz	28.050 MHz	50.090 MHz
	144.070 MHz	

Operating Events

Monthly 24 Hour SKCC Operating Event: The first day of each month from 0000Z to 2359Z is designated as a monthly SKCC operating event. For SKCC members and non-SKCC members to work each other for credit. Contact with 100 SKCC members will qualify that person for a certificate of accomplishment. Visit http://www.skccgroup.com for more info or contact n6wk@n6wk.com.

SKCC Sprint: SKCC Sprints take place each month on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 0100z to 0300z. Rules for participation can be found at http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/.

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon: Every Second Sunday of each month beginning at 0000z UTC and ending 2359z UTC. This operating event is open to all licensed amateurs. Periodically themes will be announced for upcoming weekend sprints. See http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/ for more information and rules.

SKCC Member Resources

SKCC website—Everything you need to know about the Straight Key Century Club. Check back frequently as this site changes, http://www.skccgroup.com.

SKCC Yahoo Groups Email List—http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/skcc/. A moderated email list for the exchange of ideas about SKCC.

SKCC QSL Bureau—Dan Rhodes, KA3CTQ manages this free service for SKCC members. Send and receive QSL cards for QSOs between SKCC members via this service. To re-ceive your QSL cards, you need to have SASE (self addresses stamped envelopes) on file with the SKCC QSL Bureau. Dan also says non-members can send you QSL cards through the SKCC Bureau. For more information see http://www.skccgroup.com/qsl.htm.

Award Tracker—Don Kemp, NN8B (SKCC 0036) maintains an SKCC Award Tracker spreadsheet to assist members in keeping track of their current standings with SKCC awards. Don posts updates to this valuable tool in the files section of the SKCC Yahoo Groups http://groups.yahoo.com/group/skcc/files/.

The SKCC Centurion—The official newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club published monthly. The SKCC Centurion is posted on the SKCC site, in the files section of the SKCC Yahoo Groups site, and distributed via email to your email inbox. To join The SKCC Centurion email list, send an email to The_SKCC_Centurion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with Subscribe in the subject. (485 members subscribed to electronic delivery)

Spotting Cluster—Phil, AI4OF (SKCC # 600) has launched a spotting cluster and is making it available to SKCC members. Use this spotting cluster to announce your operations or to find other SKCC members to work. Point your Telnet client to skcc.matrixlist.com:7300. Login using your callsign.

SKCC Sked Page—Andy, K3UK (SKCC # 1325) maintains an interactive web page where SKCC members can arrange a meeting with other members to work towards SKCC awards or just to rag chew. Check it out at http://www.obriensweb.com/skccsked/skccsked.php.

SKCC Elmers—Jeff, K9JP (SKCC # 3008) manages the group of SKCC members serving as Elmers for the club. Anyone wishing assistance can visit the SKCC Elmers page for more information, http://www.skccgroup.com/elmers.htm .