

Handbook 2024

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Participation Guidelines

SKCC was created to keep the spirit of the annual *Straight Key Night* (*SKN*) event alive all year round. We take our name and our heritage very seriously and remind members to use only fully mechanical keying devices – straight key, semi-automatic key (*bug*), or sideswiper (*cootie*) – for all SKCC related QSOs, events, awards and activities. Please abide by the <u>Club Policy on Key Types</u>

Online Community

SKCC has an active online community. Our official discussion forum/list is hosted on <u>Groups.IO</u>. It contains current topics of discussion plus archives, photos and files dating back to the Club's founding in 2006. As a new member you should

automatically receive an invitation to subscribe via email. Or you can subscribe at the link above.

Be sure to visit our <u>SkedPage</u>. (See Addendum I) This is a unique and popular meeting place for arranging on-air contacts in real-time. You can post the frequency you are CQing on, or one that you are monitoring in the shack; also, request signal reports, chat with other active users, or just "lurk".

Unlike our Groups.io forum the <u>Facebook</u> page is open to non-members. Some content may be unrelated to SKCC activity or may not correspond with official policy.

CW Operating Guidance

Would you like some help with your Morse Code studies or operating practice? You may be interested in our Morse <u>Elmer program</u>. Here you will find experienced and dedicated members offering individual help in CW operation and practice.

The SKCC Elmer frequency at 7114 kHz is monitored by members who are looking for an opportunity to help others complete their first CW QSOs, or who just want to make themselves available for on-the-air code practice and slower speed contacts. Sending mistakes are expected; repeats are not a problem!

Please take a look at the <u>Beginner's Corner</u>. There is a wealth of helpful info there of interest to new Morse operators and Old Timers alike: example QSOs, common Q-signals, operating procedure, hints and tips, etc.

<u>MP3 Learning Center</u> John KF7BYU, SKCC #6666 provides CW MP3 files for practice. Each audio file has a matching text file that you can follow along with. Some are full length books starting at a slow speed and increasing by 1 word per minute with each new chapter.

Logging and Award Applications

Please visit the <u>Files and Downloads</u> page for software tools that can help you manage your logs and award applications. (*See Addendum II: Operating Awards.*)

The <u>SKCC Logger</u> is an invaluable tool for logging, tracking progress toward operating awards, and generating award applications.

The <u>SKCC Skimmer</u> app alerts you to members' activity and indicates which stations you may need to work to attain various operating awards and goals.

Monthly Events

SKCC conducts several CW events each month, all featuring mechanical key CW of course! Check out the <u>Event Calendar</u> for currently scheduled events.

The 36-hour <u>Weekend Sprintathon</u> (aka "WES") starts at 1200z on the 2nd Saturday of the month. A different theme every month. Like all SKCC events participation level is relaxed and everyone is welcomed regardless of skill level or speed.

The 2-hour <u>Straight Key Sprint</u> (*SKS*) is our original and oldest event. The 4th Wednesday of the month at 0000z, which is Tuesday PM for members in the Americas.

The 2-hour <u>Straight Key Sprint Europe</u> (*SKSE*) takes place on the 1st Thursday of the month during early evening European time (afternoon in US time zones). Special QRS slow speed segments at start and end. All SKCC members regardless of geographic location are encouraged to participate.

The <u>Slow Speed Saunter</u> (SSS) is a 24-hour informal event on the first day of each month that brings operators together at a slower CW pace.

The <u>Straight Key Sprint Asia</u> (*SKSA*) is a two-hour contest that promotes manual key CW contacts with ITU Region 3 operators. SKCC members and non-members alike are invited to participate regardless of their geographic location.

The 12-hour <u>Oceania QRS Saunter</u> (*OQS*) is a slower pace event, 12 WPM or less, with a specific focus on our members across the Pacific. Members in all geographic regions are invited to participate.

The <u>Monthly Brag</u> encourages contacts among SKCC members outside of sprints and contests. See how many different members you can log in a month!

Annual Events

January is <u>Straight Key Month</u>, (aka *SKM*) the Club's anniversary special event. More than 200 SKCC members around the world sign up as event operators and log tens of thousands of QSOs during the month; all using straight keys, bugs and sideswiper keys.



September is <u>Canadian Straight Key Month</u> SKCC members in a number of Canadian Provinces and Territories operate as special event stations.

The <u>SKCC QSO Party</u> is an informal 36 hour get together on the third Saturday in June.

Web Page

The <u>SKCC Home Page</u> headlines the latest Club activities and news. Make sure to bookmark this page and visit it often to keep informed of updates. It is your gateway to all SKCC events, resources and happenings. Please browse the Index column for links and resources too numerous to detail here.

Newsletter

The <u>Rag Chew</u> is published quarterly. Each issue contains comprehensive coverage of club activity and *many* interesting articles and photos. Back issues from 2007 to present are available for download.

QSL Bureau

SKCC operates a <u>QSL Bureau</u> for participating members. You can save a lot on postage costs by bundling cards for distribution to Bureau members. Also save the time and effort of addressing individual cards.

Print Calendar

SKCC publishes a printable <u>PDF Calendar</u>. It contains items of interest to CW operators, on-air events, historical radio-related items, astronomical events, etc. It is illustrated with selected QSL card designs submitted by members each January for the Club's annual Straight Key Month special event & anniversary.

Comments and Suggestions

As you can see, there are lots of fun things to do in the SKCC. We are always open to ideas or suggestions for making the Club more interesting and informative to its members. Our goal is to keep SKCC an active force in promoting brass pounding and filling the bands with the distinctive sound of hand-formed Morse Code.

If you have questions concerning your membership or anything related to the SKCC, please send an email to the Board of Directors. We want to hear from you. Please email us at skccboard@skccgroup.com

Addendum I: SkedPage User Guide

Following is an annotated screen shot of the <u>SkedPage</u>. Brief descriptions of interactive features are shown in red text. If you have any questions feel free to post them on the SkedPage.

A PM from ZL2BLQ Tue 02/20 09:33 PM here if co	Enable PMs L	Active Users: 9 Go Inact
Announcements [close] (click on the tab to view) Enable or Dis	able PMs	Connections: 103
The Monthly Brag bopus member for February is Dave, N9EEN (ex-KD9VT). (Private Mes		1 AF18M cg 7 057
	Your call & statu	AF2Z status
Everyone ZL2BLQ 3 PM -Click for PM Manager Click any blue callsign to a	send them a PM Setting	6 AH6AX (QRP/QRO)
		AK4NY PM for QSO PSE
02/21 02:18 KOKEX AHGAX GN Larry about ready to shut down here also	reply	- 10 KOKEX
02/21 02:18 N9EEN K2PI - Bragger	-Change your Grid	5 KZP1 100 Warm for
02/21 02:17 AH6AX Well, had no takers for my call earlier - See y'all tomorrow! 73 - Aloha from	MDChange your Grid reply Square, Password reply	rebruary. /or
02/21 02:15 KOKEX K2PI I hope for warm wx tomorrow, my truck is frozen shut LoL 73 rick		10 KASLUC
02/21 02:14 K2PI K0KEX yes, ice and all, worked fine. Was 78F here today. Crazy.	& email Address reply	18 104000
02/21 02:13 KOKEX K2PI tks Harv with an ice covered ant it's good to know I can get a signal ou into No West Mo 73 rick	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	51 NIVIOPT
02/21 02:12 K2PI KOKEX mice. You were very light at first, but came up, and I used the West fac which helped too. Tks QSO on 160M!	ing beverage on you reply	Active SPCs
02/21 02:07 K2PI — K0KEX heard something. Not very strong here.	reply	V PL GA KS WD WO NC NJ VA
02/21 02:04 K2PI KØKEK I'll be listening Rick	reply	
02/21 02:03 KOKEX going to tune up on 1.813.5 If anyone hears me please report hereTU rick	reply	
02/21 02:00 KOKEX AH6AX Larry it ls slow tonight. we had an ice storm this morning that left us on everything exposed. may go to 160 to listen for awhile rick	with 1/4 to 1/2 in ice reply	from that SPC in
02/21 02:00 KB4QQJ AH6AX - Hate I missed you in Orlando Larry :-(I left Saturday to get a head s	tart on Hamcation	the msg pane
02/21 02:00 K2PI Evening Mouse over any call to hi-lite all posts from that cal.	L & see user info reply	Click Go Active
02/21 01:51 KOKEX GE as Larry AH6AX has notedDon't be bashfulI'll monitor the sked page IF coptactrick	someone wants a reply	hide/show your c
02/21 01:38 AH6AX / E All: According to Skimmer there are several onboard that could use my call chase Don't be bashful - I'm locked and loaded to play larry in md	for their C or T	on the Active Us list.
02/21 01:19 N7EDK I'll keep watchingthanks	reply	
02/21 01:19 KN4GPT Another timeon here quite a bit	reply	Activity Timer.
02/21 01:19 N7EDK I hear a faint signal, but no copynot tonight I guessthanks Tom. Ed	reply	DITOND CTING DITIOG
02/21 01:18 KN4GPT N7EDKcalled	reply	ust s tast mouse
02/21 01:17 N7EDK I'm therecall	reply	or keyboard activity
02/21 01:17 KN4GPT 3550	reply	on Sked Page
02/21 01:16 N7EDK I don't have the best antenna for 80, but sometimes it works. Name a freq and		(After 60 mts user
02/21 01:15 KN4GPT can you do 80?	reply	drops from Active
02/21 01:15 KN4GPT And 40 is pretty long tonightI may be skipping right over ypoiu	reply	Tist)
02/21 01:14 N7EDK Not hearing a thing Tom, I have a high noise floor on 40 here at nightsor daythanks Ed	ry, another reply	y
02/21 01:14 KN4GPT N7EDKhear anything?	reply	X
02/21 01:12 KN4GPT N7EDKCalling	reply	Click on Reply to
02/21 01:11 N7EDK Call me	reply	post a public reply
02/21 01:11 KN4GPT sure	reply	to posted men
02/21 01:11 KN4GPT N7EDK	reply	
02/21 01:11 N7EDK KN4GPTHi Tom, Ed here on the west coast of Florida. Can we try 7110, could and FISTS number	use your both your SKCC reply	9
02/21 01:08 KD8DD NA9E - not working here as well George - try 3.550 for a number exchange?	reply	X
02/21 01:07 NA9E Thanks. Sri it isn't working but makes me feel better ;)	reply	×.
02/21 01:07 KN4GPT Na9E not working here either	reply	
02/21 01:06 NA9E Haven't been able to access http://pa4n.xs4all.nl/bandmap.html all day. Anyone	else having problems ? repl	
Alessage to Everyone		earlier posts

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Addendum II: Operating Awards & Endorsements



The <u>SKCCLogger</u> is highly recommended for award hunters. It keeps track of your progress and simplifies the application process.

<u>Centurion</u> or "C". The first of three basic operating endorsements. Work 100 other SKCC members. Endorsements of Cx2, Cx3, etc can be attained by working additional multiples of 100 members.

<u>Tribune</u> or "T". The mid level endorsement. Centurions work 50 other C, T, or S members. Additional endorsements for Tx2 (100 contacts), Tx3 (150 contacts), etc.

<u>Senator</u> or "S". The top level endorsement awarded to a Tx8 Tribune who works 200 additional Tribunes or Senators; a total of 600 contacts.

<u>Canadian Maple</u> Work SKCC members in ten Canadian provinces and territories.

DXC and DXQ Contacts with members in other countries in multiples of 25.

<u>PFX</u> Point system award for working unique call sign prefixes among SKCC membership.

<u>QRP</u> Low power SKCC contacts; both 1-way and 2-way QRP awards are available.

<u>QRP Miles Per Watt</u> Contacts attaining 1,000 miles-per-watt and multiples.

Ragchew QSOs with SKCC members of 30+ minutes duration.

Marathon The premier rag chewers' award: 100 QSOs, each of 60+ minutes duration.

<u>Triple Key</u> 300 QSOs demonstrating proficiency with the three SKCC manual key types.

WAC Worked All Continents: contacts with members in six continental regions.

WAS Worked All US States; plus C, T & S, single band, and QRP endorsements.

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