

Straight Key Night Results

SKN 2016 brought vintage and new keys to the bands for an evening of fun.

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This year's running of ARRL's classic event drew 199 participants who returned to ham radio's roots and sent code by hand. These stations reported more than 1400 contacts with domestic and DX stations. Here are some snippets from their terrific Soapbox entries, to sum up the 2016 event.

Colin Phoon, AE3A, reported, "Despite a lot of QRN on 40 meters, I had a very pleasant couple of hours making a few QSOs. Equipment: Yaesu FT-840. ...to a dipole hung out a window, with a J-37 'Mae West' straight key."

James Zimmerman, N6KZ, also used multiple keys this year, stating, "As usual, I enjoyed operating the ARRL SKN event, this year using my recently restored Vibroplex 1956 Blue Racer bug (with plenty of speed weights) and my trusty 1939 Lightning bug."

Richard Miller, KW4RM, wrote, "I used a J-38 made by Lionel Toy Train Company in World War II that was given to me by my father, Hank Miller, W4HCM (SK). I've used it every SKN for years and this time, for the first time, I ran into another brass pounder using the same type key...in the fist of Dan Pond, NØTK."

Gerald Chouinard, K5YAA, wrote, "My most interesting QSO was with WB9CAC, who was using a Vibroplex Serial Number 6 that he had just completed refurbishing. It had a real bug sound to it and it was playing some nice music." [By the way, Gerald topped the reported 2016 SKN contact totals list with 44 claimed QSOs. — *Ed.*]

Bob Sullivan, W5RE, used a Christmas gift on Straight Key Night: "I've enjoyed SKN for many years but have never sent comments. I usually use my old German Junker or the J-44, but this year is special. My old friend Ewan Moore, N4LMI, sent me a home-built key for Christmas and it was the only one I used this year. Ewan made it from a cedar tree he cut down and told me [the key is] a Russian design. I told him that after



Richard Cochran, AG6QR, reported that while he is a bit new to CW, he enjoyed his first SKN! Richard set up a portable station with KX3, Hardrock amp, Buddipole antenna, and Nye Viking Speed-X straight key while at a gathering (setting up on his "host's backyard deck.") Richard said, "I demonstrated the 'wireless telegraph apparatus' for my nieces and their college-age friends, and they were impressed. They heard me make a nice coast-to-coast QSO from my California location to Carl, KJ4WD, in North Carolina, and though the kids couldn't understand it, they could tell he was coming in loud and clear. Great fun!" [Richard C. Cochran, Jr, AG6QR, photo]

pounding brass for about 65 years, this year I'm pounding wood. Ham radio is still fun!"

Each year, SKN participants are asked to vote on who had the Best Fist and who gave them their Most Interesting QSO. This year, the title of Best Fist vote resulted in a divided ballot amongst five participants with equal votes: Daniel Flanagan, W3DF; Kelly Klaas, K7SU; Paul Boller, W8IRT; Paul Kemp, WBØCJB; and Victor Kieffer, WAØUSA. Most interesting fist recognition was also shared by several participants: Dan Flanagan, W3DF; Dennis Monticelli, AE6C; Paul Carreiro, N6EV; James Hilt,

N8NSN; and George McCarville, WBØCNK.

ARRL will hold the next Straight Key Night on January 1, 2017. Remember, you don't have to wait a year to enjoy hand-sent CW. Each day, feel free to get on, have fun, and enjoy what your straight key has to offer!

Participating Stations

AA4AI, AA4Q, AA4TB, AA4ZS, AA7FV, AB8FJ, AC8AI, AE3A, AE7CG, AF7DK, AG6QR, HP1AC, HP1IBF, K1EEE, K1FPV, K1PDY, K1YPP, K2AL, K2BIO, K2GBH, K2NPN, K2TV, K3BVQ, K3KKA, K3MD, K3OQ, K3PX, K3SWZ, K4BAI, K4DS, K4EOR/4, K4HGX, K4IV, K4XG, K4YND, K5BZH, K5HK, K5MBA, K5SOH, K5YAA, K6CTW, K6KQV, K6PBQ, K6SQL, K6TY (WB6VRN, op), K7SU, K7TFW, K7UA, K7ZVY, K8JRE, K8JV, K8SB, K9PFA, K9WWT, KA1J, KA3P, KA4WJB, KA6JLT, KA7T, KAØLDG, KB2FCV, KB3TEL, KB5IRC, KBØQHZ, KC2LMX, KD2JC, KD5QHV, KE4TH, KEØG, KF6C, KF8KS, KG4KGY, KG7Q, KIØG, KJ6CA, KJ6MBW, KJ9M, KK5FX, KK6BJ, KK6CHF, KN4JDD, KN5L, KO4OP, KO8S, KØCDJ, KØCVN, KØCY, KØMIS, KT3A, KW6G, KY4C, N1DC, N2BE, N2GJ, N2KZ, N3HCN, N3JIT, N5AF, N5DY, N5TOO, N5XE, N6TCZ, N8GM, N9NM, N9SE, NA4O, NF8M, N13F, NIØR, NJ3K, NJ6A, NMØL, NØEAX, NØQLT, NP2F, NQ4Q, NW6V, NW8L, NY2G, NYØO, PS7AW, PS7HD, TI2CLX, VE3AIH/W4, VE3CBK, VE7BQO, VE7DS, VE7NI, VO1NA, W1DUW, W1FP, W1MJ, W1PID, W1TPB, W1TS, W2GIW, W2LG, W2LID, W2SFD, W2VS, W3DF, W3GK, W4MPS, W4RK, W4YE, W5AKU, W5NZ, W5QLF, W5ROS, W6JHQ, W7FOX, W7GB, W7LNG, W8FDV, W8GP, W8IX, W8PDI, W8WTS, W8WZ, W9ABD (W4RK, op), W9ILY, W9WI, WA1ABI, WA1JXR, WA2KBZ/4, WA2QQF, WA2TBQ, WA2YSJ, WA5OLT, WA6BXX, WA7YAZ, WA9STI, WA9ZBW, WA9ZJI, WAØVQY, WB2FCV, WB3DPS, WB5KSD, WB6CGJ, WB6SCA, WB8CFO, WB8YYY, WB9DLC, WB9HFK, WBØCJB, WBØCNK, WBØIXI, WD4ERM, WD8CMS, WD8DSB, WD8RIF, WG8Y, WK4U, WØAAA, WØCZ, WØESE, WØKIZ, WØUI, WW4DX, WW6P.