

Straight Key Night 2001

Celebrating the new millennium in style!

“Having the chance to hear each fist makes it easy to recognize former contacts and you don’t have to wait for a call sign”—AA9DH

Back in my early days as a Novice, you could find me checking into several of the once numerous Novice training nets almost any evening. You quickly learned the rhythmic styles of the individual operators. A long, drawn-out “C” announced that Anita was on frequency. A short, peppy “hi” was the trademark of Max. A good net control station would instantly know which of the regulars was checking in by simply hearing one or two letters and recognizing their distinctive “accents.”

Since its inception back in 1970, Straight Key Night has presented hams a chance to kick back and enjoy a favorite part of the hobby in a low-key, relaxed atmosphere. The purpose of SKN isn’t to rack up hundreds of contest-style contacts. Rather, it is to demonstrate your personal style of sending Morse code the old-fashioned way: by hand.

Perhaps SKN2001 took on special meaning, as it was the first official operating event of the Third Millennium. Maybe nostalgia waxed poetically across the airwaves. Whatever the reason, a record number of entries were received for this year’s event. A total of 138 logs were received from participants that represented 1346 QSOs. Looking at the various call signs in those logs, it is easy to see that many more stations participated, but did not submit an official entry to the League.

Ninety different stations received votes for Best Fist. WA8DXB and K9JXW tied with three votes each for top place in the

2001 Logs received from the Following Participants:

AA7EH, AA9DH, AB5XP, AB5YY, AB8FJ, AD6GI, HP1AC, K1FP, K2GBH, K2NV, K4JSI, K4TP, K4TWJ, K5OI, K5RB, K6ETM, K6HRT, K6PBQ, K7FD, K7JIZ, K7ZYV, K8AB, K8KTY, K8PUJ, K8QLM, K8XF, K9JXW, K9KEU, K9SB, K9VKY, KA7T, KB2QIU, KB7BIY, KB8PGW, KD1XU, KD5CTJ, KD5OJM, KE3C, KF5ND, KG2OR, KG4FXG, KJ6CA, KK5FX, KN6YD, KO6YG, KS4RX, KV4EE, KW4JS, KØCDJ, KØHT, KØLWV, N1SKM, N2CG, N2KZ, N3MVX, N3RSD, N4BP, N4KN, N4QX, N5AE, N5BF/6, N5SR, N7CQR, N8KC, N9EXY, N9KO, N9SE, NA8P, NMØL, NN7A, NO7UP, NV4T, OH3WD, ON6ZJ, VE3GMC, VE3KHZ, W1LIC, W1QF, W1RO/7, W1TPB, W1TS, W1TW, W1YT, W2LID, W2VMX, W2ZP, W3CEI, W3KSQ, W3TZW, W3UHP, W4AGI, W4IT, W4QBE, W4SEA, W4STX, W5KL, W5MJ, W5USJ, W5WAX, W6BNB, W6PRI, W6SGJ/7, W6TDP, W6VNR, W6YQQ, W7BMI, W7EBQ, W7HB, W7LBV, W7TVI, W7YS, W7ZMD, W8DO, W8FEJ, W8JZI, W8WTS, W9ZC, WA1RGS, WA2QQF, WA5BDU, WA5CSH, WA7GSN, WA8DXB, WA9PWP, WA9QWX, WB3DSJ, WB4FSF, WB8QXL, WB8RRQ, WB9MI, WDØHSP, WKØB, WN8VIX, WO3B, WØAP, WØCZ, WØFCL, WØLQ



W8DO cracks a big smile as TA3DD answers his CQ SKN on 10 meters.

competition. Seventy-three stations received votes for Most Interesting QSO. WØFCL, K2RSK, KD5JOM, W2NTS and W7ZMD each received two votes in the category.

W8DO chimed in with 51 SKN QSOs while K9JXW reported 49 followed by N3RSD with 44 and WA8DXB with 40. Popular in this year’s SKN the ARRL Rag Chewer’s Club Award. The “Old Sock” himself was busy signing certificates as 30 stations applied for membership in the RCC based on contacts from SKN 2001.

Judging from the soapbox comments, SKN continues to be a wonderful blend of experienced operators having fun, and new operators capturing some of the spirit of the day. SKN 2002 promises to be a renewal of the old-time magic of brass meeting brass. Why not try it next New Year’s Day? [QST](#)