

By Dan Henderson, N1ND

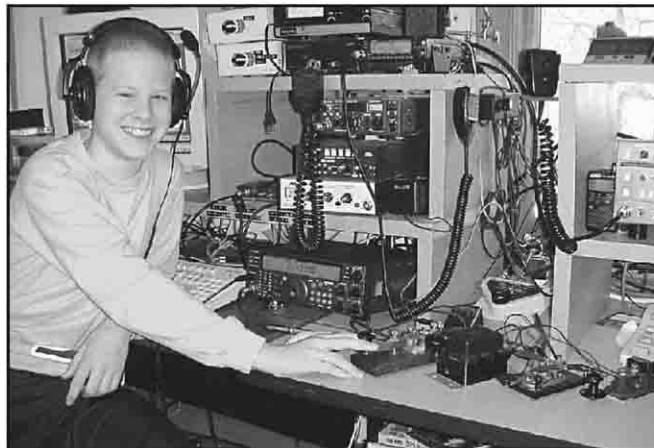
# Straight Key Night 2003

Does the name Harvey Savage mean anything to you? Probably not, unless you are a *real* old-timer. But looking back at the results of the original Straight Key Night—held December 31, 1970 starting at 8 PM local for five hours—you will find that Harvey, K4MD, is credited by former ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, WINJM, as the person who originated the idea of SKN.

SKN hasn't changed much since the original version—except it is now a 24-hour event. The purpose is still the same—dust off the old straight key and enjoy some ragchewing the old-fashioned way. For 2003 we received a total of 164 entries, accounting for 1516 QSOs. Congratulations to Steve, WA4VWV, of Mystic, Connecticut, who reported a total of 56 QSOs for the event. Runner-up was Don, KA7T, of Meridian, Idaho, who logged 50 contacts.

SKN night has no score or “winners” but it does honor the ones whose peers feel did an exceptional job during the event. Garnering the most votes for Best Fist in 2003 was Bill, K0CDJ, with four. Seven other operators each pulled in the support of two participants to tie for second.

There were lots of interesting QSOs being made during the weekend, as *nine* different operators tied for Most Interesting QSO with two votes each. These included Ellen, K3LN; John, WA2QQF; Richard, K8QLM; Carl, WA7CS; Ken,



Andrew Slater, K4PUF, of Sandston, Virginia, logged QSOs on five different keys.

KF3DC; Dan, W2AU; Brice, W9PNE; Bill, K0CDJ, and Bob, WR3K. We'll let them share their tales of interest and duke it out for the *real* most interesting QSO.

New for 2003 is the addition of Straight Key Night to the ARRL On-line Soapbox. Be sure to visit [www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox](http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox) where 26 SKN participants have posted photos and stories of their participation. Very often you will see that SKN participants will also utilize vintage gear during the event. The

marriage of old Collins, Heathkit and Viking gear meshes well with a wide range of personalized hand keys.

The charm of SKN is that straight key can really mean low key. You don't find QSO rates of hundreds an hour. Perhaps SKN should be measured by the number of times metal strikes metal to close the circuit to create a dot or dash. And perhaps Harvey Savage would be pleased with the outcome of his idea so many years ago.



National Contest Journal Editor Carl, K9LA, used an old Ranger II and Drake 2B (his General station back in the early '60s) with a J-38 key.

## Participants Submitting Entries

AA9DH, AA9K, AB1BA, AB2AF, AB2AN, AB7MP, AD4E, AD6YU, AG6RT, HP1AC, JJ1BDX/3, K1PDY, K1RDD, K2NPN, K2NV, K3LN, K3MD, K4BYF, K4NCG, K4PUF, K6CTW, K6ETM, K6PBQ, K7TUC, K7ZX, K7ZYV, K8AG, K8BBM, K8QLM, K8SB, K8SOM, K9KEU, K9LA, K9LCK, K9PS, K9QH, K9UQN, K9VKY, K9YA (N9BOR, op), KA1BNO, KA2HDO, KA2SSX, KA3AVB, KA3LOC, KA7T, KB1JFC, KB3AAY, KB8PGW, KB8SCI, KB8TXZ, KC2EQB, KC2HRP, KC2KFC, KC5EXU, KC6T, KC7PM, KD1XU, KD5JOM, KD5RFC, KD7CNJ, KE6QR, KF3DC, KG2OR, KG4KLR, KG4LDD, KG4SZM, KG4TJQ, KG6TH, KG6ZR, KJ6CA, KK5FX, KN5L, KN6YD, KO6YG, KO0Z, KW7D, K0CDJ, K0LWV, N3BF, N3IW, N3MVX, N4BV, N4EDE, N4NTO, N5AF, N5KY, N5PV, N5SR, N7CFO, N8CDN, N8XMS, N9ADG, NJ3K, NM0L, OH3WD, ON6ZJ, OZ1EQC, UX7CQ, VE3NBJ, VE3WMB, VE7NI, W1NJN, W1RO/7, W1TPB, W1TS, W2AU, W2GIW, W2JSF, W2LID, W2TI, W2WSC (W2USF, op), W3CEI, W3DCG, W3MGL, W3TZW, W3UHP, W4AGI, W4QBE, W4YE, W5CN, W5EKF, W5ETK, W5KL, W5WAX, W5XU, W6ABX, W6PRI, W6RLF, W6SGJ/7, W6VNR, W7BGA, W7FOX, W7IZE, W7KTY, W7TVI, W7ZMD, W8HYD, W8WTS, W9PNE, WA1ABI, WA1RGS, WA2QQF, WA3GQU, WA4CIT, WA4OAB, WA4PSO, WA4VWV, WA6BOB, WA7CS, WA8OKR, WA9PWP, WA9QWX, WA0VKC, WB2AWQ, WB4FDT/3, WB5LLI, WB6IYM, WB8DQT, WB9CIS, WB9LPU, WB9MII, WD4CBZ, WY7W, W0CGV, W0CUX, W0TF

QST