

2006 Straight Key Night Results

Once again this past New Year's, it was the annual celebration of our heritage —

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ARRL Contest Branch Manager

The popularity and growth of the annual ARRL Straight Key Night continued during this year's running. A record 349 entries were received for this annual New Year's Day operating event. To put this into perspective, we received only 80 entries SKN 1985 and 90 for SKN 2000.

So the question begs to be asked: "Why this increase in popularity for SKN?" I don't think it is because of any one reason. Rather I think the increase comes from a variety of sources. Over the past few years there has been an increase in the use of vintage equipment — and SKN seems to be a natural time to put these "boatanchors" on the air. Many participants are participating by using their vintage keys and "bugs" to bring the music of hand-generated CQ to the airwaves. For those who question the use of bugs, a variation of a hand key (which, is after all, what a straight key is), the CW may receive a little bit of mechanical assistance from a bug, but it is still the skilled hand of the operator that brings the magic of Morse code to the airways.

But maybe the best reason for the increased participation is that amateurs — young and old, experienced or neophytes — are drawn to spending a little time with the historic roots of our hobby. Many amateurs find going back to our earliest means of amateur communications is a wonderful way to say "Hello" to others and share our wonderful amateur heritage.

Logs were received from across the US, Canada and beyond. California led the way with 34 submissions, followed by Texas, Ohio and Pennsylvania with 16. North Carolina and Illinois both showed 15 participants. In all, 47 US states and the District of Columbia made appearances in the submissions. The missing states were Alaska, Kentucky and Utah. Canadian provinces and territories included British Columbia, Ontario and Newfoundland, while DX participants reported in from Finland, Mexico, Belgium, Panama and Puerto Rico.

Four stations received four votes each for "Best Fist" during SKN 2006. Congratulations to Gordon, WA7LNC; Linda, KC0GGN; John, N5DY, and Tom, AI4IE (who shortly after SKN received his new vanity call sign W4CU). Fourteen different stations received at least two votes for "Most Interesting QSO" with Brian, K9VKY, and leading the way with 3. Others receiving multiple votes were KM1CC, NN3SI, W2WSC, W6LFB, K6XG, W5WQG, KC0GGN, W3TMZ, K3WWW, W4TG, N17M,



Steve, WA3JJT, proudly displays the replica of his 1952 novice station.



Matthew, WW4Z, showing off his trusty straight key as he participated in his very first SKN.

K2UPI and KC8CPH. Since relaxed, unhurried communications is the main objective of SKN, it's always great to see lots of stations taking the time to share a bit about themselves during SKN.

Some find the time to complete dozens of QSOs during SKN. Others can find time to take a small break and complete only one contact. But the common spirit to celebrate the camaraderie that is Amateur Radio is found in every Straight Key Night QSO. It happens annually starting at 0000 UTC January 1 and continues for the first 24 hours of the new year. Make time during your celebrations next year to join in this celebration of Amateur Radio history. I can assure you that you won't regret it! 73

2006 Participants

AA1OQ, AA2XB, AA4ZS, AA6E, AA7DX, AA8K, AB1BW, AB6QK, AB8FJ, AC4FS, AC7AC, AD5MU, AD5VC, AD5VJ, AD6FR, AE3A, AE3J, AE6PX, AG4EA, AG4FK, AG4VA, AI4FP, AI4IC, AI4IE, AI7H, AK4RB, HP1AC, HP1BF, HP3/NC6Q, K0AQO, K0CDJ, K0EWS, K0LWV, K0RJS, K1NV, K1PDY, K2GBH, K2GLS, K2HT, K2HYD, K2JX, K3MD, K3PEG, K3PX, K3WGR, K3ZXY, K4CHE, K4CZ, K4EOR, K4HF, K4HGX, K4JPN, K4JYS, K4NVJ, K4OAC, K4RLC, K4TRH, K4ZW, K5BZH, K5GQ, K5PAX, K5SOH, K5UBS, K5WQG, K6AUC, K6FFY, K6ILM, K6PBQ, K6TOB, K6TY, K6TY0, K6XT, K7DU, K7WA, K7XC, K7YF, K7ZD, K7ZVY, K8PG, K8PUJ, K8WIW, K9AHH, K9CGD, K9DGS, K9PET, K9PFA, K9UQN, K9VKY, K9VWT, K9YA, KA0FBL, KA0P, KA2IBE, KA3NV, KA4AXS, KA4JQZ, KA5PNE, KA8KCR, KB0WBM, KB1LZH, KB2KDV, KB2KNX, KB8SCI, KB8TXZ, KB9KEG, KB9WBM, KC2AEI, KC2KWA, KC2LMX, KC4AUF, KC8MWI, KC8RAN, KC8YDU, KC9BSP, KC9FAV, KD1E, KD5JOM, KD7REM, KD7URE, KD8BSR, KD8CPH, KE0A, KE0G, KE6QR, KF3CV, KF4IZE, KF9AQ, KG2OR, KG4IUM, KG4LDD, KG4PBG, KG6TH, KG6ZR, KH6GRT, KI0G, KI4CIA, KI4DEF, KI4DGH, KI4LUH, KI5JF, KJ6CA, KK5FX, KL7FDQ, KN6YD, KO4OP, KO6YG, KQ6Q, K96CW, KU8T, KW3U, KX5F, KY8W, N0EVH, N0LUMP, N1CCF, N1EP, N1FZ, N1MG, N2BE, N2COP, N2EY, N3CJM, N3GE, N3HCN, N3IW, N3JJT, N3LL, N3NZ, N3ZOC, N4ABM, N4BM, N4CU, N4EDE, N4HAE, N4H4S, N4SDD, N4XE,

Participation by States/DX Entities

State	# of Entries	State	# of Entries	State	# of Entries
CA	34	OK	6	SD	2
OH	16	OR	6	VT	2
TX	16	CO	6	ON	2
PA	16	NV	5	DC	2
IL	15	KS	5	LA	2
NC	15	IA	5	ME	2
NY	14	GA	5	MS	2
FL	13	CT	5	WV	2
WA	12	AZ	5	WY	1
MI	12	ID	4	AR	1
VA	12	ND	4	DE	1
NJ	11	MT	4	HI	1
MO	10	NH	4	Belgium	1
TN	10	AL	4	Finland	1
MN	8	NM	3	NF	1
MD	8	BC	3	NE	1
IN	7	Panama	3	Mexico	1
WI	7	SC	2	Puerto Rico	1
MA	6	RI	2		

N5DY, N5KEV, N5LH, N5LW, N5UW, N5VWN, N5YFC, N6CMF, N6NAX, N6RY, N6TKL, N6WK, N7CFO, N7UH, N8GU, N8XMS, N9AKF, N9BOR, NC6Q, ND4U, NF6E, NJ3A, NM0L, NN3SI (KG6ZR, op), NP3CW, NQ4Q, NS1O, NT4XT, NV4T, NW8L, NY0O, OH3WD, ON6ZJ, VA3RKM, VE3IFS/W2, VE3WMB, VE7BS, VE7NI, VE7XT, VO1NA, W0CZ, W0KIZ, W0OBF, W0PPG, W0QQS, W0RQ, W0RTK, W0TUP, W0WV, W1DUW, W1DV, W1HHU, W1OH, W1PID, W1RO, W1TLZ, W1TPB, W1TS, W1WU, W1YT, W2GIW, W2JEK, W2LID, W2OBJ, W2RJJ, W2WSC, W3CB, W3CEI, W3IZ, W3OER, W3TZW, W4CAR (KC4PWC, op), W4CYF, W4LSC, W4NTI, W4STX, W4TVI, W4YD, W4YE, W4YOK, W5ESE, W5ETK, W5PDW, W5QLF, W5WAX, W5XW, W6AQ, W6BIV, W6ESE, W6FPS, W6JHQ, W6PRI, W6SGJ, W6VNR, W6ZOH, W7HWR, W7IZE, W7LBV, W7LKG, W7LNG, W7OD, W7SK, W7VS, W7ZMD, W8AWE, W8CDA, W8FDV, W8HYD, W8IVF, W8JZI, W8WTS, W8YRB, W9AVM, W9CBT, W9FCC, W9MP, W9ORW, WA0KFP, WA0VKC, WA0VQY, WA1ABI, WA1RKS, WA1UMA, WA2JON, WA2QQF, WA3JJT, WA4GLH, WA4IAM, WA5MUF, WA5ZNU, WA6EKR, WA7CS, WA7GSN, WA7PVE, WA7WJA, WA8REI, WA8TOX, WA9ETW, WA9PWP, WA9ZBW, WA9ZJI, WB0B, WB0CNK, WB0TRL, WB2KLA, WB2MIC, WB4FSF, WB4NNY, WB5AZC, WB6CGJ, WB6IYM, WB6VRN, WB7O, WB8CFO, WB8DQT, WB8LZG, WB8NVN, WB9CIS, WB9DLC, WB9HEK, WB9MII, WD0K, WD4CBZ, WD4PTJ, WD8RIF, WF5V, WN2DX, WN7Y, WN9U, WFOE, WU7R, WW4Z, XE1NK **QST**