

2019 Straight Key Night Results

More than 185 hams around the world joined in ARRL's classic New Year's Day event.

Bart Jahnke, W9JJ,
bjahnke@arrrl.org

ARRL Contest Branch Manager

During the 2019 Straight Key Night (SKN), more than 185 participants made over 1,200 contacts around the world, all enjoying sending Morse code manually (using code keys or bugs).

Soapbox Comments

Here are just a few of the highlights shared by SKN participants on the ARRL Soapbox page (www.arrrl.org/soapbox):

- Ralph Bane II, KC9PKF, enjoyed his first CW contact. He said, "Jim, W1IK, came in after a while of calling... I told him right away that he was my first CW QSO and he was very patient with me."
- Paul Huff, N8XMS, had a goal of making one contact per straight key he could find. His keys consisted of a Codemaster toy key from the 1960s; a homebrew hacksaw key; a 1941 J5A Signal Corps flameproof key; a RadioShack plastic practice key; a Straight Key Century Club Marconi key; a Speed-X key; an antique strap key, and a Whiterook MK-11 micro key.
- Scott McDonald, KA9P, said that he "really enjoyed five great ragchews with all homebrew stuff and a Type 51 RAF key as used on the venerable Vulcan bomber aircraft."
- Roger Rauvola, NA6DX, said he only had time for one contact during SKN 2019, "but it was a good one." He connected with Greg Triplett, WA6HNA. Roger said, "As it turns out, we are the same age and were Novices in the same year (1973)."
- Carl Young, K5HK, said he used six different straight keys this year, including a J-38; a Wesclox No. 9; a Winslow 66150 KY-116/U,

and a Spanish Llaves Telegraficas Artesanas mini key.

- Karl Zuk, N2KZ, reminisced that the event marks a special occasion for him. He said, "It is the anniversary of my very first QSO on January 1, 2000, and my becoming a ham — now 19 years ago... How could I not love Straight Key Night?"

Best Fist and Most Interesting QSO

Each year, SKN participants are asked to vote on who had the Best Fist and who gave them their Most



Joe, KA4WJB, made four contacts using this T-784A. This unit (later designated GRC-109) first appeared during the Cold War and was intended for use by CIA agents. Joe said, "The rig even has a built-in key." [Joseph Scoglio, KA4WJB, photo]

Interesting QSO. This year, Best Fist was a four-way tie between Richard Geordan, W6SGJ; Clifford Marks, KB3VQU; Camilo Castillo, HP1AC, and last year's winner, Thomas Warren, K3TW. Most interesting QSO went to Henry Wyatt, W2QF.

Remember, you don't have to wait a year to enjoy hand-sent CW. Get on the air, have fun, and enjoy what your straight key has to offer! ARRL will

hold the next Straight Key Night on January 1, 2020.

Participating Stations

AA2MX, AA4AI, AA4Q, AA4TB, AA5KV, AA7FV, AA8UU, AA0QZ, AB6QK, AB7MP, AB8FJ, AC6AC, AC7AF, AD0BI, AD0KH, AE1T, AE3A, AE7AX, AE7CG, AE8EA, AI9IN, K1APJ, K1EEE, K2GBH, K2HT, K2NPN, K2PQ, K2TV, K3AFS, K3BVQ, K3MD, K3SWZ, K3TW, K4DS, K4EOR, K4HGX, K4RT, K4TRH, K5HK, K5LDA, K5MBA, K5SOH, K6DF, K6GPB, K6KQV, K6LQ, K6PBQ, K6SQL, K7NTW, K7SU, K7ZYV, K8JV, K8NB, K9VKY, K9YA, K9ZTV, KA4WJB, KA7T, KA8NNY, KB5NJD, KB8TL, KB0LMB, KC2LM, KC4HW, KC7YE, KC9PKF, KC0GXX, KD2BD, KD6WKY, KE7LOY,

KG4KGY, KI0G, KJ4M, KN5L, KN7NN, KO8S, K0CVN, KQ7TJ, KQ9J, KT3A, KW6G, KZ3W, N2BE, N2BZD, N2KZ, N2RC, N3HCN, N4HA, N4HAI, N4NYK, N5XE, N6FVY, N6JJA, N6TCZ, N8DNA, N9BOR, NC6Q, NF8M, NI0R, NJ3K, NN7A, NO0V, N0UMP, NR4M, NV6W, NW3V, NW0M, NY0O, VA3AMX, VE3AIH/W5, VE3CBK, VE7AHT, VE7NI, VK6GX, VO1MRC, W1DUW, W1GF, W1PID, W1TPB, W1TS, W1UJ, W1WEF, W2EB, W2GIW, W2IY, W2LID, W2NTN, W2VTV, W2WSC (WS2C & N2HM, ops), W4RK, W4SGP, W4YE, W5AKU, W5CYF,

W5LRP, W5NZ, W5PDW, W5QLF, W5ROS (+ club ops), W5XW, W6JHQ, W6KN, W6KOW, W7AIT, W7EEE, W7FOX, W7OS, W8DPK, W8FDV, W8WTS, W8WZ, W9ABD (W4RK, op), W9KMP, WA1CFX, WA1PMA, WA2ALY, WA2CHV, WA2ELW, WA3VXJ, WA4KFZ, WA5FRF, WA6ARA, WA6HNA, WA7OET, WA9PWP, WA9ZBW, WA0VQY, WB3CEG, WB3JKQ, WB6AAJ, WB8CFO, WB9AYW, WB9DLC, WB9HFK, WB0B, WB0CJB, WD4ERM, WD8RIF, W0AAA, W0FUN, W0KIZ, W0YBS, and WU4B.

DX stations included HP1AC, HP1IBF, and HP1RIS.