

# 2022 Straight Key Night Results

206 hams worldwide participated in ARRL's classic operating event.

## Paul Bourque, N1SFE

ARRL Contest Program Manager

Every year, hams from around the world dust off their vintage keys and gear for Straight Key Night (SKN), one of ARRL's most anticipated on-air events. Many operators enjoy the leisurely pace of making contacts with hand-sent Morse code, making it a great opportunity for hams looking to operate CW for the first time.

This year, over 1,500 contacts were reported during the 24-hour event, and several ARRL employees once again activated W1AW. ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA; Director of Operations Bob Naumann, W5OV, and Public Relations and Innovation Director Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, all took turns at the key during the event.

## Soapbox Comments

Stan Levandowski, Jr., WB2LQF, who earned his license in the early '60s, noted that "SKN brought back many fond memories of those days, when 40 meters was wall-to-wall CW." Bob Stohlman, K4RCG, operated using a Vibroplex Original "bug" key that he received as a gift from his parents in 1971, when he was just starting out as a 15-year-old Novice operator.

While many SKN participants are seasoned regulars, some are relatively new to operating CW. Dennis Nolan, KD6PLU, reported that he made two memorable contacts with stations located in his hometown of Bend, Oregon. Both of the stations he contacted had only been operating CW for a few months. The three hams have since started a local CW net on 2 meters, with hopes of increasing their CW skills and attracting other newcomers to the mode.



Robert Gold, W0KIZ, enjoyed operating 2022 Straight Key Night with vintage gear. Pictured are a Collins 75A-4 receiver and a Johnson Viking Ranger transmitter. Robert has been licensed since 1954. [Robert Gold, W0KIZ, photo]

For other operators, SKN reminds them of a time when contacts were more casual and conversational in nature. Eric Norris, WD6DBM, said, "I had a great time talking to old friends and new friends alike. I wish this event lasted for a week!" Craig Bishop, W2NTN, noted that it was a "nice relaxing way to start the new year."

## Best Fist and Most Interesting QSO

Each year, SKN participants are asked to cast their votes for "Best Fist" and "Most Interesting QSO." This year's vote for "Best Fist" is a four-way tie between Harry Pardue, K4IBZ; Aaron Ray, N4ARY; Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ, and Larry Newby, WB0B, who all received two votes each. For the "Most Interesting QSO," there's also a four-way tie. Winners are Steven Bockman, K2FW; Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW; Richard Fleischer, WA1SKQ, and the Radiomarine Commemorative Association, WA1WCC. Thank you to all those who cast their votes.

The next ARRL Straight Key Night will be held on January 1, 2023. Join us for another evening of fun!

## Participating Stations

AA4TB, AA8UU, AA9WJ, AA0QZ, AB4IX, AB8FJ, AB0TO, AC6YY, AD6JF, AE1T, AE3A, AE4OK, AE6JV, AE7AX, AE7CG, AE0EE, AF4MY, AF4T, AG4W, K1EEE, K1ILR, K1TW, K1VTF, K2AL, K2HT, K2MR, K2RP, K3AJ, K3BVQ, K3MD, K3STX, K3SWZ, K3TW, K4EQ, K4HGX, K4RCG, K4RCW, K4RT, K5DP, K5LDA, K5MBA, K5RIX, K5SOH, K6CTW, K6GPB, K6KQV, K6LG, K6PBQ, K6SQL, K6TY (WB6VRN, op), K7NNO, K7ZX, K8FB, K8LBQ, K9MMS, K9PFA, K9SB, K9VKY, K0PK, K0TQ, KA2DHZ, KA3EHL, KA7T, KA0LDG, KB8ANY, KB8TXZ, KB9W, KB0LMB, KC2KWA, KC8MFF, KC9CRM, KC0INP, KD2BD, KD5QHV, KD6LM, KD6PLU, KD8RV, KE1R, KE4Q, KE0TT, KG2OR, KG4LLQ, KG7BF, KI0G, KJ6MBW, KM6RI, KN4SA, KN5L, KO6YG, KO8S, KQ7TJ, KR4U, KW3U, KW6G, N2BE, N2KZ, N3JJT, N4ARY, N4NTO, N4QR, N5BGZ, N6DHZ, N6KZ, N6TCZ, N6UA, N7QR, N8GAS, N8GU, N8LA, N8XI, N9BOR, N9NM, N0IMJ, NO0V, NW6V, NW0M, NA6DX, NC6V, NF8M, NI0R, NJ3K, NN3E, NN7A, W1AW, W1BCC, W1DGL, W1FP, W1IK, W1PD, W1PID, W1TPB, W1TS, W1UJ, W1VR, W1WV, W2GIW, W21Y, W2LID, W2NR, W2NTN, W3DKT, W3HMS, W4CMG, W4IC, W4NNE, W4RK, W4SGP, W4UR, W4YE, W5GW, W5NZ, W5QLF, W6PAP, W6QQ, W6WYN, W7VHW, W8WTS, W9ABD, WN0P, W0EJO, W0ESE, W0GJ, W0KIZ, W0JW, WA1CFX, WA2CHV, WA2NYY, WA4ONV, WA6BXX, WA7YAZ, WA9ZBW, WA0DTH, WA0VQY, WB2AWQ, WB2GAI, WB2LQF, WB3JKQ, WB6AAJ, WB6OVV, WB7EHX, WB7WHG, WB8CFO, WB8DQT, WB8RFB, WB9AYW, WB9CYY, WB9HFK, WB0B, WB0CJB, WD5ABC, WD6DBM, WD6EGW, WE5TM, WS1L, and WY2U.

DX and VE stations included HK3CCQ, HP1IBF, M0KTZ, VA3AMX, VA3RKM, VE3CBK, VE3DQN, VE6KK, VE7NI, VO1NA, and VY1KX.