

# 2023 Straight Key Night Results

182 amateurs worldwide started off the new year by participating in ARRL's classic operating event.

## Paul Bourque, N1SFE, ARRL Contest Program Manager

Every year, hams from around the world look forward to Straight Key Night (SKN) as one of their favorite on-air events. Friends old and new ring in the new year by operating hand-sent Morse code. This year, more than 1,250 contacts were reported during the 24-hour event.

While many operators used vintage equipment and keys for the event, others operated using less traditional methods. Some operators even utilized Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) to make their contacts. Courtney Duncan, N5BF, contacted Alan Sias, N0OY, via 23-centimeter EME.

Operators new to CW as well as seasoned regulars participate in SKN. Tom Dandrea, N3EQF, reported that his single SKN contact was with Teri Beard, KO4WFP. She was first licensed in January 2022 and recently upgraded to General class. Tom stated that his 45-minute contact with Teri was "very enjoyable." Daniel Dresser, KO6YG, contacted Martin Kirk, WA7JMA. It was Martin's very first CW contact. Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ, reported a contact with Ken Grant, VE3FIT, during SKN this year. Glenn and Ken were both licensed in 1962 at the age of 15. They first worked each other 60 years ago in 1963.

Some participants feel very passionate about the event. Richard Hayer, AA7IR, said, "The spirit of ham radio lives on in those patient [and] kind amateurs pursuing their love of CW." Many operators are already anticipating the next SKN. Brian Roberts, K9VKY, noted, "SKN 2024 can't get here fast enough!"



Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ, displays the QSL cards he received from Ken Grant, VE3FIT. Glenn first worked Ken as a Novice operator back in 1963. Almost 60 years later they enjoyed a QSO on Straight Key Night. [Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ, photo]

## Best Fist and Most Interesting QSO

SKN participants are asked to cast their votes for "Best Fist" and "Most Interesting QSO." This year's vote for "Best Fist" is a three-way tie between Thomas Billings, AA4TB; Albert Bianchi, K4UX, and John McKee, WN4OFT. For "Most Interesting QSO," there's a four-way tie between Larry Anderson, K5LDA; Bryan Braunschweig, W0ESE; Randall Jackson, WB6ZFG, and Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, who operated from ARRL Headquarters' Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW.

The next ARRL Straight Key Night will be held on January 1, 2024.

## Participating Stations

AA1ZX, AA4TB, AA7IR, AA8UU, AA9WJ, AA0QZ, AB8FJ, AB9BZ, AB9NZ, AC8JU, AD8Y, AD0KH, AD0YM, AE3A, AE7CG, AG4T, K1APJ, K1EEE, K2AL, K2NPN, K2NV, K3BVQ, K3KKA, K3LO, K3MD, K3SWZ, K3TW, K3WU, K4ETW, K4RCW, K5AEB, K5LDA, K5MBA, K5NZ, K5RIX, K5SOH, K5WSN, K6GPB, K6KQV, K6PBQ, K6SQL, K6TY, K7SU, K7ZX, K7ZYV, K9LA, K9SB, K9VKY, K9YA, K0PK, K0VIR, K0WOI, KA4WJB, KA5HRF,

KA7T, KA8NNY, KA0LDG, KB2MN, KB6NTW, KB8PGW, KB8TL, KB8TXZ, KB9W, KB0LMB, KC2KWA, KC2LM, KC3AM, KC0GXX, KC0INP, KD2BD, KD5QHV, KD8RV, KE1R, KE3V, KE0TT, KF4IZE, KF8KS, KG4KGY, KG5IEE, KG7BF, KI5PED, KI0G, KN4SA, KN7NNN, KO4UHE, KO4WFP, KO6YG, KO8S, KQ9J, KW6G, N2BE, N2KZ, N3EQF, N3HCN, N4HAI, N4QR, N4UJ, N5BF, N5DTF, N6KZ, N6VOH, N6ZO, N7ZZ, N8PEM, N9BOR, N9EP, N0QLT, NJ3K, N08V, NW0M, NY0O, W1AW, W1DGL, W1PD, W1PID, W1RO, W1TPB, W1TS, W2NTN, W4CMG, W4GSP, W4NNF, W4RK, W5ZA, W6KN, W6SGJ, W6TDX, W7IY, W7UUU, W7VHW, W8DPK, W8FDV, W8JNO, W8WTS, W8WZ, W0EJO, W0ESE, W0FUN, W0KIZ, W0NB, W0QJW, W0VLZ, WA1CFX, WA1PMA, WA2CHV, WA6BXV, WA6LE, WA7LNC, WA7YAZ, WA9PWP, WA9ZBW, WA0JLY, WA0VQY, WB2AWQ, WB4ABY, WB4YDL, WB5NOE, WB6OVV, WB7AEA, WB7EHX, WB7WHG, WB8CFO, WB8SJE, WB9HFK, WB0B, WB0CJB, WB0IXV, WD4OQH, WD5ABC, WD8RIF, WN7Y, WU6P, and WY2U.

DX and VE stations included EA8NQ, HP1DCP, HP1IBF, KP4CR, SN3V, VE3DN, VE3GFN, VE7NI, VO1NA, and YS1MS.