

2024 Straight Key Night Results

“CW is music to my ears!” — Rich Zott, WA2ELW

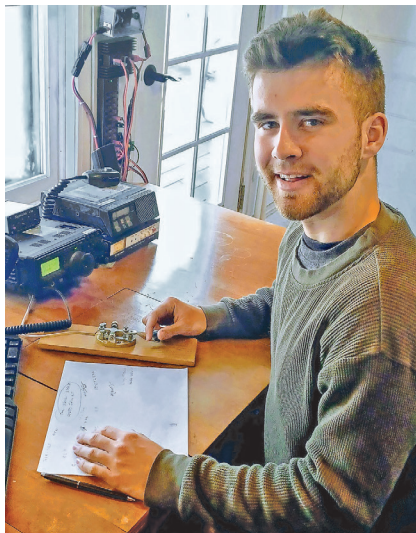
Paul Bourque, N1SFE, ARRL Contest Program Manager

Many hams look forward to starting the new year with the sounds of Morse code. 2024 was no exception, as 161 participants reported 1,360 contacts on Straight Key Night (SKN). Stations throughout the United States and Canada submitted entries. There were also DX entries from stations in Guatemala, Panama, and the Netherlands.

Craig Bishop, W2NTN, noted that the event is “a fun and terrific way to start the new year!” Thomas Brede-mus, KC0INP, commented, “Straight Key Night was a nice way to start 2024 on the radio, meeting some new friends and having some longer and interesting QSOs.” Howard Holden, WB2AWQ, said he hasn’t missed SKN since its inception in 1971.

Seasoned operators and those new to CW can enjoy the leisurely pace of SKN. On holiday break from his re-search studies at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Michael “Mac” Cullen, K6MAC, made his first-ever CW contact with John Magliacane, KD2BD, on 40 meters using a key that was last used by his father, Michael Cullen, K1NPT, in 1972.

For some hams, SKN is more than just a night to get on the air using Morse code; it’s a way to remember relatives and friends. Richard “Woody” Linwood, W0UI, used a 1920s-era Signal Electric Manufacturing Co. key that belonged to his grandfather, who served in World War II. Colin Phoon, AE3A, used a Ten-Tec Omni VI Plus transceiver with a Lionel J-38 straight key that



Michael “Mac” Cullen, K6MAC, made his first-ever CW contact during the 2024 Straight Key Night. Licensed since 2011, he recently upgraded to Extra class in 2023. He used a key that was last used by his father, Michael Cullen, K1NPT, in 1972. [Michael Cullen, K1NPT, photo]

belonged to his father-in-law, Barry Cohen, K2JV, who was licensed for more than 75 years.

Best Fist and Most Interesting QSO

SKN participants are asked to vote for “Best Fist” and “Most Interesting QSO.” This year’s vote for “Best Fist” is a five-way tie between Mark Melchiori, N9AK; David Miller, N9SS; Dennis Sokol, W0JX; Robert Sauvan, W0YBS, and Jim Wickstrom, W1IK. For “Most Interesting QSO,” there is a tie between Scott Overholt, KA6IOM, and Ed Moxon, K1GGI, who operated the WHNJ Amateur Radio Association’s club station, W1HNJ, from the Marconi-RCA Wireless Museum in Chatham, Massachusetts.

The next ARRL Straight Key Night will be held on January 1, 2025.

Participating Stations

AA1HO, AA4RA, AA4TB, AA8UU, AA0QZ, AB8FJ, AB9BZ, AE3A, AE7AX, AE7CG, AF4MY, AK4KM, AL7JK, K1AJ, K1EEE, K1TW, K2AL, K2RP, K3BVQ, K3LO, K3MD, K3SWZ, K3TW, K4DS, K4FOY, K4TRH, K5EC, K5MBA, K5NZ, K5RIX, K6DF, K6GPB, K6KQV, K6MAC, K6PBQ, K8EG, K9MMS, K9PFA, K9SB, K9YA, K0JW, K0WOI, KA4WJB, KA5HRF, KA7T, KA9FZR, KA0LDG, KB8PGW, KB8TXZ, KB9W, KC2KWA, KC2LM, KC6MIE, KC0INP, KD2BD, KE1R, KE4Q, KE0TT, KF8KS, KF9AQ, KG5IEE, KG7BF, KG7CW, KI4DEF, KI5PED, KK7B, KQ6BZ, KQ9J, KR4EE, KW6G, N1SFE, N2HM, N2KZ, N4FTD, N4HAY, N4QR, N5LB, N6KZ, N6TCZ, N6ZO, N7MM, N7QR, N8GU, N9BOR, N9EVP, N9RU, N9SS, N0QLT, N0ZB, NA5N, NC6Q, NI8W, NN3E, NV5P, NW6V, NZ0T, VA3RKM, VE3CBK, VE3FIT, VE7CA, VE7NI, VO1NA, VY1KX, W1AST, W1FJ, W1PID, W1RO, W1TPB, W1TS, W2NTN, W2WSC, W3GW, W3SOX, W3TIM, W4NNF, W5ESE, W5NZ, W5ZA, W6LX, W6SGJ, W7AIT, W7FOX, W7IY, W7VHW, W8DPK, W8FDV, W8WTS, W8WZ, W0CTX, W0EJO, W0ESE, W0UI, W0YBS, WA1CFX, WA2ELW, WA3WAW, WA9LKZ, WA9PWP, WA9ZBW, WA0JLY, WB2AWQ, WB3JKQ, WB6VRN, WB7AEA, WB7EHX, WB8CFO, WB8DQT, WB8RFB, WB9HFK, WB0B, WB0CJB, WD8RIF, WD4OQH, WI5ARD, WK0X, and WN4OFT.

DX stations included HP1IBF, HP1RIS, PA3AAA, and TG9ADM.