

2025 ARRL Straight Key Night Results

“The bands were hopping and chirpy like the good old days!”
— Paul Roche, K3STX

Paul Bourque, N1SFE, ARRL Contest Program Manager

Morse code (CW) enthusiasts from across the world look forward to the yearly tradition of Straight Key Night (SKN). As the calendar turned to 2025, 144 participants joined in the fun of hand-sent Morse code, reporting a total of 945 contacts. While many are seasoned CW operators, some participants noted that they made their first CW contacts in many years during this year’s event.

Roger Gray, W8VE, participated in SKN this year for the first time since he was licensed in 1961. He reported that it had been 63 years since he used a straight key. Randy Smith, W4AUB, dusted off his old J-38 key and participated in his first SKN this year. He completed his first straight key contact in 50 years with Enrique Preciado, HP1IBF. Daniel Camp, AF7O, reported that he made his first CW contact in more than 20 years during the event.

It was also wonderful to see some newcomers operating CW for the event. Dan Flanagan, W3DF, reported a 30-minute-long contact with 9-year-old Maggie Flowers, KE2AIZ. Maggie, who has been licensed since she was 7, comes from a family of hams and is currently working on upgrading to the Extra-class license.

Some participants prefer to use their own home-brewed keys in favor of off-the-shelf models. Igor Zdorov, W0IZ, used a key that he made from a wooden clothespin. He used the key to operate a 1970 vintage Yaesu FT-200 transceiver that he restored. Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, used a key that he made from an old relay by adding a knob to the top. By tapping on the knob, he could send Morse code as well as with a commercially manufactured Morse code key.

Best Fist and Most Interesting QSO

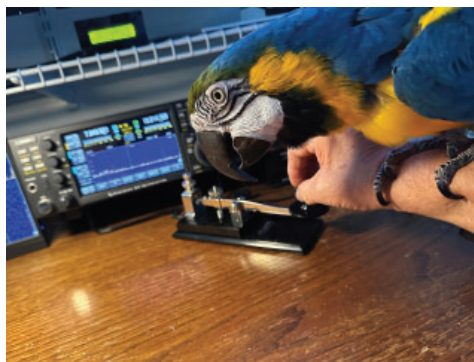
Each year, we ask SKN participants to cast their votes for “Best Fist” and “Most Interesting QSO.” This year’s vote for “Best Fist” is a five-way tie between Dennis Monticelli, AE6C; Robert Null, N4QR, and Ron Farris, WA1RF, operating at the Marconi-RCA Wireless Museum in Chatham, Massachusetts, using the call sign W1WCC, and Michael Marx, WB0SND, and J.

Parke Allen, VY1JA. For “Most Interesting QSO,” there is a tie between Dennis Monticelli, AE6C, and Ron Farris, WA1RF. The next ARRL Straight Key Night will be held on January 1, 2026.

Participating Stations

AA8UU, AB8FJ, AE3A, AE7AX, AE7CG, AF7O, AJ6T, AL7JK, AL7LO, K1EEE, K2AL, K2GBH, K2TV, K3BVQ, K3KKA, K3MD, K3STX, K3SWZ, K4CBW, K4ESE, K4RCW, K5IX, K5MBA, K5NZ, K5RIX, K5SOH, K6CTW, K6DF, K6KQV, K6TY, K8BZ, K8CU, K8NB, K9MMS, K9PFA, KA4WJB, KA7T, KA8HOK, KA0LDG, KB8TXZ, KB9W, KC2LM, KD8RV, KE1R, KE5NJ, KE0TT, KF8KS, KG7BF, KI4EZC, KI5JF, KI5PED, KJ7BS, KQ9J, KR4EE, KW3U, KW6G, N2BE, N2COP, N3EQF, N4ARY, N4GG, N4UJ, N5BF, N6KZ, N7CQR, N7ZZ, N8GU, N9OL, N0ENO, N0KWA, NC6Q, NE3I, NF8M, NI0R, NM8U, NY0O, VA2GJ, VA3RKM, VE2KZW, VE3CBK, VE7CNF, VE7NI, VO1NA, W1BF, W1DGL, W1ETC, W1TS, W1VIV, W1WEF, W2IY, W2NTN, W3DF, W4AUB, W4CMG, W4LSV, W4QLF, W4RK, W5ESE, W5NZ, W6LX, W6PAP, W7AIT, W7HB, W7IY, W7QH, W8AWE, W8MND, W8VE, W8VQ, W8WTS, W8WZ, W9ABD, W9TOX, W0BTS, W0EJO, W0ESE, W0IZ, W0OJW, W0UI, WA1CFX, WA1PMA, WA2CHV, WA6ARA, WA9ZBW, WA0JLY, WB3CEG, WB6AAJ, WB7AEA, WB7EHX, WB8CFO, WB8RFB, WB9HFK, WB0B, WB0CJB, WB0CNK, WB0IXV, WD4ERM, WD5ABC, WD6EGW, WD8RIF, and WY2U.

DX stations included HP1IBF, JA5EXN, and JH5OJH.



Robert Auiler, W4QLF, received some assistance from his pet macaw, Bo, during the 2025 ARRL Straight Key Night. Bo likes to sit on his wrist while he’s sending Morse code. [Robert Auiler, W4QLF, photo]