

The American Radio Relay League



The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is a noncommercial association of radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation, for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies, for the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare, for the representation of the radio amateur in legislative matters, and for the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

ARRL is an incorporated association without capital stock chartered under the laws of the state of Connecticut, and is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Its affairs are governed by a Board of Directors, whose voting members are elected every three years by the general membership. The officers are elected or appointed by the Directors. The League is noncommercial, and no one who could gain financially from the shaping of its affairs is eligible for membership on its Board.

"Of, by, and for the radio amateur," ARRL numbers within its ranks the vast majority of active amateurs in the nation and has a proud history of achievement as the standard-bearer in amateur affairs.

A *bona fide* interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership; an Amateur Radio license is not a prerequisite, although full voting membership is granted only to licensed amateurs in the US.

Membership inquiries and general correspondence should be addressed to the administrative headquarters:

ARRL
225 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111 USA
Telephone: 860-594-0200
FAX: 860-594-0259 (24-hour direct line)

Officers

President: Rick Roderick, K5UR
P.O. Box 1463, Little Rock, AR 72203

Chief Executive Officer: Howard Michel, WB2ITX

The purpose of QEX is to:

- 1) provide a medium for the exchange of ideas and information among Amateur Radio experimenters,
- 2) document advanced technical work in the Amateur Radio field, and
- 3) support efforts to advance the state of the Amateur Radio art.

All correspondence concerning *QEX* should be addressed to The American Radio Relay League, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111 USA. Envelopes containing manuscripts and letters for publication in *QEX* should be marked Editor, *QEX*.

Both theoretical and practical technical articles are welcomed. Manuscripts should be submitted in word-processor format, if possible. We can redraw any figures as long as their content is clear. Photos should be glossy, color or black-and-white prints of at least the size they are to appear in *QEX* or high-resolution digital images (300 dots per inch or higher at the printed size). Further information for authors can be found on the Web at www.arrl.org/qex/ or by e-mail to qex@arrl.org.

Any opinions expressed in *QEX* are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the Editor or the League. While we strive to ensure all material is technically correct, authors are expected to defend their own assertions. Products mentioned are included for your information only; no endorsement is implied. Readers are cautioned to verify the availability of products before sending money to vendors.

Kazimierz "Kai" Siwiak, KE4PT

Perspectives

QEX Morse Input Design Challenge

Dave "Doc" Evison, W7DE, a new *QEX* subscriber, has issued a challenge to the Amateur Radio community. He writes that he's been licensed since 1954, and that Amateur Radio has been an active part of his long life. Now 86 years old, he's experiencing difficulties with typing skills. He's not alone. Dave writes that many of his daily activities involve keyboarding, and observes that he can send Morse CW faster and with greater ease than he can type. The use of a paddle to input text to a personal computer in Morse format seems like a promising solution to the age-related and disabilities-related keyboard handicap. Since the Amateur Radio community is overflowing with exceptional people with technical skills, resourcefulness, and compassion, a design and construction article by a radio amateur author to remedy this real-life problem seems to be a natural fit.

We agree, and are pleased to implement this as a **QEX Morse Input Design Challenge**. The Morse text input device should also implement a small control box, or other method, to be operated with the other hand with keys for Shift, Backspace, Enter, Tab, and so on. The text generated by the Morse input device will require standard keyboard editing for professional formatting and editing. But the Morse input system will work well as a raw text generator for even a professional writer. Morse text input to a personal computer can have significant benefits beyond helping the typing challenged. Finally, use of this device will obviously enhance the operator's Morse code skills, and this will help preserve the legacy and utility of Morse code communications.

The Official Rules

(1) Each entry must appear in the form of a *QEX* construction article that adheres to the *QEX* author's guide and must include:

- Detailed plans (hand drawings are acceptable) and schematics that implement the Morse key input along with a control box or other adjunct implementing Shift, Backspace, Enter, Tab, and other non-Morse characters.
- A list of materials and sources.
- Copy of all software needed to implement the solution.
- Photographs of the completed Morse input solution.

(2) The Morse input device and control box adjunct must be an independent device, not an integral part of another device such as a keyboard or a PC.

(3) Only one entry per individual or team will be accepted. Entrants must be ARRL members. ARRL Headquarters staff and commercial manufacturers, or those associated with commercial manufacturers, are not eligible.

Send your entry article files (photos, text, drawings) to the postal address given below, or via email to qex@arrl.org with "QEX Morse Input Challenge" and your call sign in the subject line. Do not send zip files as our email system will reject these.

(4) Non-commercial designs only; Morse input devices must be the sole creations of the entrants.

(5) Submission deadline: December 1, 2019.

(6) Judging and prizes: The first five complete articles received (post mark for postal submissions, email time-stamp for electronic submissions), which satisfy all of the listed criteria will be awarded a one-year subscription or extension of your subscription to *QEX*, and will be considered for publication in *QEX*. The decisions of the judges and *QEX* editorial staff are final.

(7) Disclaimer: By participating in the competition, you are verifying that you are the owner and producer of the *QEX* Morse Input Challenge device and its software, and that no third-party ownership rights or patents apply to your design. ARRL acquires no rights to your design, but through your participation you are granting ARRL a perpetual, worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free right to publish your entry materials in all media now known or hereinafter created, anywhere in the world, for any lawful purpose.

Writing for QEX

Keep the full-length *QEX* articles flowing in, or share a **Technical Note** of several hundred words in length plus a figure or two. Let us know that your submission is intended as a **Note**. *QEX* is edited by Kazimierz "Kai" Siwiak, KE4PT, (ksiwiake@arrl.org) and is published bimonthly. *QEX* is a forum for the free exchange of ideas among communications experimenters. The content is driven by you, the reader and prospective author. The subscription rate (6 issues per year) in the United States is \$29. First Class delivery in the US is available at an annual rate of \$40. For international subscribers, including those in Canada and Mexico, *QEX* can be delivered by airmail for \$35 annually. Subscribe today at www.arrl.org/qex.

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Very best regards,

Kazimierz "Kai" Siwiak, KE4PT