

2015 ARRL Straight Key Night Results

Whether you used vintage equipment or a cutting-edge key, SKN offered an enjoyable evening of hand-sent code.

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2014 saw a lot of tradition celebrated in Amateur Radio. During the ARRL's Centennial, members gave themselves a collective pat on the back for achieving such a milestone. As the last Centennial QSO Party QSOs were made at 2359 UTC on December 31, 184 radio amateurs decided they still hadn't had their fill of radio, and spent January 1 making QSOs during the 2015 Straight Key Night, an ARRL tradition for many years.

For the first time in his long ham radio career, Bob Sauvan, WØYBS, entered SKN. As a member of the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC), one of the organizations dedicated to preserving the art of manually sent CW, he's an "old hand" at this. Bob connected several old keys — a 1910 Horace Martin, 1912 Model X, and a 1914 Vibroplex Original bug — to his collection of vintage Hammarlund and Hallicrafters gear. Many SKN participants do this, though it's not required. He had a grand time making 38 QSOs.

Amid all the nostalgia and reminiscing SKN always produces, I was quite pleased to see the entry from Matt Williams, W2MDW. As you see in the photo, perched atop his modern Kenwood transceiver is a straight key he made with his own 3D printer! If you're not familiar with the trends in the Maker movement or DIY communities, 3D printing is *the* hot technology. To see a bridge between one of ham radio's oldest modes and one of the newer pieces of technology was quite a treat. Look for an article from Matt in an upcoming issue of *QST*, on how to print your own straight key.

Each year, SKN participants are asked to vote on who had the Best Fist and who gave them their Most Interesting QSO. This year, the title of Best Fist was split between two SKCC members: Bob Sauvan, WØYBS, and Paul Carreiro, N6EV. In addition, Paul also shared the Most Interesting QSO title, along with Willie Carr, N4XE. Congrats, gents!

ARRL will, of course, hold the next Straight Key Night on January 1, 2016. But why wait



Matt Williams, W2MDW, put a 21st-century twist on SKN, using a straight key he made with his 3D printer. Matt modeled the key a few days before the event, which is why "2014" is printed on the key. You can learn how to make your own straight key with a 3D printer thanks to an article Matt has penned for an upcoming issue of *QST*. [Matt Williams, W2MDW, photo]

until then to enjoy hand-sent CW? If you enjoy it, do it more often than once a year!

Participating Stations

AA0QZ, AA4H, AA4Q, AA4TB, AA4ZS, AA5D, AA6GI, AA7FV, AA8U, AB7MP, AD0DA, AE3A, AE7CG, AF4O, AI6II, HP1AC, HP1IBF, K0CY, K0JQZ, K0JW, K0MIS, K1EEE, K1FPV, K2AL, K2HT, K2SA, K2TV, K3BVQ, K3MD, K3PX, K3STX, K3VYY, K4HGX, K4IV, K4JYS, K4TP, K4XG, K5BZH, K5HK, K5MBA, K5SOH, K6CTW, K6HTN, K6KQV, K6PBQ, K6TY (WB6VRN, op), K7UA, K7ZYV, K8AB, K8JV, K8MIH, K8SB, K9PFA, K9VKY, KA3IHS, KA3YNV, KA4WJB, KA6JLT, KA7T, KB3TEL, KB5IRC, KC0PMH, KC2FOL, KC2KWA, KC2LMX, KC8UR, KD5QHV, KD9QS, KE0G, KE0OG, KE7AV, KF8KS, KI0G, KI4IO, KK5FX, KN5L, KO4OP, KO7X, KT3A, KU3V, KW0B, KW6G, KX1NH, KZ1X/4, N2BE, N2KZ, N3HCN,

N3JJT, N3QE, N4HAI, N4KS, N4XE, N5AF, N5NT, N7CQR, N8GM, N8KC, N8XMS, NF7R, NG2T, NI0R, NJ3K, NJ6A, NM0L, NO0V, NQ4Q, NT4Z, NW8L, OH3WD, PS7AW, PS7HD, VE3CBK, VE7BQO/VY1, VE7NI, VO1NA, W0AAA, W0CZ, W0YBS, W0YZZ, W1DUW, W1HNI, W1PID, W1RO, W1TPB, W1TS, W2DPT, W2LG, W2MDW, W3GK, W3MT, W4RK, W4RKC (N8GM, op), W4YOK, W5AKU, W5NQ, W5PDW, W5XW, W6AQ, W6GRT, W6JHQ, W6VNR, W7AIT, W7IZE, W7LNG, W7QH, W7UUU, W8FDV, W8IX, W8WTS, W9ABD, W9KMP, W9RAS, WA0CFQ, WA0VQY, WA1ABI, WA1CFX, WA2CHV, WA2QQF, WA2SON, WA5KBH, WA5OLT, WA6ARA, WA6BXV, WA7CS, WA7YAZ, WA9PWP, WA9STI, WA9YI, WB0CJB, WB0IXI, WB4JJJ, WB5KSD, WB5LRP, WB6SCA, WB7EUX, WB8CFO, WB8FJ, WB9MII, WD8RIF, WG8Y, WK4U, WM4P, WN9U, WW6P