

PA3CLQ's Leuke Linken Nr. 525

Dit is inmiddels heel erge oude meuk, antiek, history en sommige items niet meer van toepassing.
Is Nr. 525 die moest er toch noch even uit.

Greetings, The March issue of the Rag Chew is on the web and can be found here:

https://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/newsletter/

This 57 page issue is packed full of interesting articles, pictures and results of SKCC activities.

Be sure to read the K3Y wrap-up, quests for the TKA, product review of a QRP transceiver, antenna tower work in cold weather and much much more.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue and I hope to hear from more of you sending in stories and articles for the next issue.

73,

Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM #1629s

Editor of The Rag Chew

A Rant

Was just reading the 2019-03 SKCC Rag-Chew and came across this on page 16.

While, we all know the "73" came from the Philips Code which is/was a numerical code.

But, here is a 1925 QSL card from the ARRL and Hiram Percy Maxim himself.

If you look close and the lower right corner...

No need for the "Etiquette Police" to educate us.

If it was good enough for Hiram and 1AW, it should be good enough for all of us.



There is no such thing as "73s."
The meaning of 73 is....."Best wishes"....a plural. "73s" would mean "Best wishess"....duh!

American Radio Relay League Station 1AW
Hiram Percy Maxim, Owner 276 No. Whitney Street, Hartford, Conn.
Radio W-934 1-29-25
Your _____ signals were worked here on _____ at about _____
_____ heard _____
A.M. P.M. E.S.T. _____
on Tuska three-circuit tuner and two stages audio amplification, Baldwin phones.
Audibility _____
Remarks: *The Q.S. is your best. I am on 73 quite and have lots of fun as I ought to be getting on.*
Would like report on 1AW's signals if you hear them. Best 73's.
Hiram Percy Maxim Operator

Wave-length _____
QRM _____
QRN _____
QSS _____
Weather _____
Tone _____
Wave _____

73 - Bill KA8VIT #2593.

I don't think most of us care one way or the other.

I have always used the singular form but am not bothered by seeing the plural.

It is very rare to hear it on CW.

Wes Linscott

Hi Bill:

LOL.....

Perhaps so, but understanding the correct historical antecedents is important to the proper understanding and application of terminology.

Maxim may be a great man and an important historical figure in Amateur Radio, but. "73's" is not only incorrect grammatically, but a misuse of the original meaning Maxim or no Maxim, I choose NOT to use improper grammar nor do I care to communicate "best regardses" to my fellows.

You, of course, are quite welcome to do so and I will hold no ill will if you do so. LOL.

By the way...."73" does NOT originate with the Phillips Code.

It originates with the early Western Union wire codes, which were utilized and adapted to various telegraph practices over the years, some of which are specific to certain industries (19 and 31 apply to train orders, 1 = wait, 33 = car report, and so on.).

73, James Wades (WB8SIW)

A counter rant:

Not so much Etiquette Police as grammar police, who can be helpful for clear communication.

Hiram was a great organizer as well as a tech-savvy guy, but his QSL card is, er, intriguing on two levels.

His card reads: Best 73's.

So, that would be best best regards (needless repetition, stutter, or key bounce?) and a possessive S in a closing that never identifies what 73 owns.

I suspect that is odd usage even in the context of 1920s grammar and punctuation.

What he printed on his card may be different than what he actually sent.

Would that we had a recording of the end of one of his QSOs!

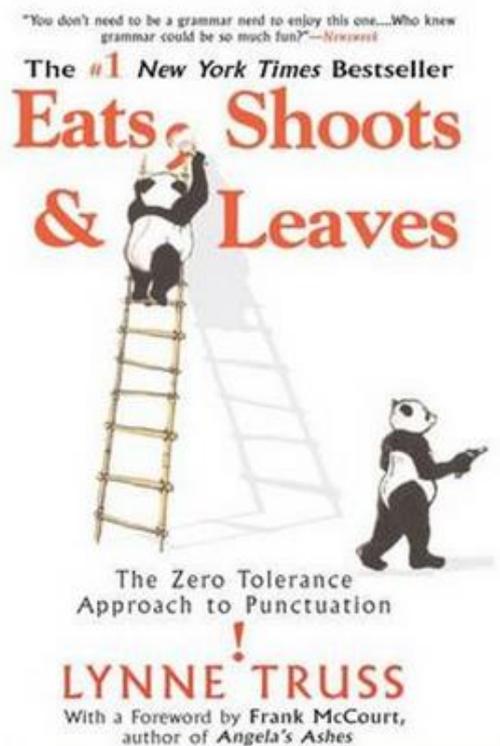
I know, w-a-a-a-y too much time in my hands.

With best regards,

Peter N. Spotts -- NM5PS

Pete have you read the book "Eats shoots and leaves"?

Regards Tony Pattinson VE2KM



Editor

Good to know

I have my degree in Electrical Engineering and I'm well aware that temperature, tolerances, connector performance will effect ERP as will the loss in tuners, baluns etc. But my question remains - are the losses from all the minutiae worth worrying about, and is it applicable to the WES?

A guess that is even 1 watt off could make a big difference in bonus points.

No, I don't think so.

What is the db loss from 20W to 19W ? -0.2 db.

You're not even going to notice that. 100W to 99W? -0.04 dB.

Again,

you're not even going to notice that

Yes, it might! 2W to 1W ? -3.0 dB or ½ S Unit.

You'd probably notice that.

So the answer Dave, is "it depends".

If a "QRPer" runs 5W into a gain antenna then as far as I'm concerned it is not QRP.

QRP to me is 5W ERP.

And, if you have 2 dB path loss in your system, then running 8W output from your transmitter is running QRP.

If you don't know about path loss, then just accept the 2dB loss, pump out 5W, and settle for 3W ERP.

Dave, I challenge you to consider that your views are QRP-centric and not necessarily applicable to all operating tastes and styles within SKCC.

73 Mark K3MSB

Hi Mark,

I am not disputing your math or your statistics.

I believe everything you have said.

My only point is that if someone figures their ERP wrong and puts themselves in the wrong power class, they would be either helping or hurting their score.

I am a retired Systems Engineer with a degree in Electronics.

Neither makes me an expert on transmission lines or antennas.

Let's look at your situation without all of the variables.

You are going to set your power at 5 watts.

Your feed line has 1dB/100 ft loss and your antenna has 7 dB gain.

This gives you a net gain of 6db.

Right?

OK, you know that your ERP is 20W so you said you were going to claim the 20W bonus category.

That's great, you made an honest effort to calculate your ERP and enter your score fairly.

The thing is, you are an Electrical Engineer and you know exactly what you have.

What about the guy that uses a G5RV at 20' over poor soil with around 75' of generic RG8x feeding it.

Oh, both ends are at different heights and since the antenna is only up 20 feet, some of the ladder line is on the ground.

I am not saying any SKCC member has that setup but, how would you figure the ERP of that antenna and be reasonably close?

Even if there is a way, no one is going to take the time and try to do it.

They will guess and most likely, they will guess high or low right?

So, if they guess 6w and their ERP is really 4w, well, they are missing bonus points and if they make only 20 QSOs, they have lost 200 bonus points.

Now, think about this.

At 5w with 20w ERP, you are likely to make a lot more QSOs than the G5RV guy did running 5w.

Say G5RV guy did get 20 QSOs at 90 points per QSO and with the 200 extra point bonus, he has 2000 total bonus points.

Now, because you have 20w ERP and better ears, say you get 10 more QSOs than G5RV guy.

You have 30 QSOs for 2400 bonus points without the 200 extra points.

So, I don't believe you are penalized at all.

In fact, don't you think that in this example, you still have an advantage?

There is no 100% accurate and fair way to do it.

Like you said, " this is a WES, not the CQ WW CW.....".

Thanks Mark, I really do appreciate your input.

Davi NI9M

Are we at the fun part of amateur radio yet?

Steve AI9IN

While it is clear that 73s is inappropriate, maybe not so clear with an apostrophe.

An apostrophe signifies possession.

There for the 73's indicates it belongs to you.

73 Art W2NRA

It implies that something belongs to the 73.

This is the same use of an apostrophe as used in "That is Bob's radio", meaning the radio belongs to Bob.

Steve AI9IN

My post was really made tongue-in-cheek.

Sometime I just like to tweak people.

I personally use 73 even on voice.

But, like I said, if it was good enough for Hiram... HI HI.

73 - Bill KA8VIT

[slowspeedwire] Bunnell's Last Run of Tgh Equipment ? (

continuation of PLL Nr. 524)

Please skip to 27:00 minutes to hear the story from Joe Jacobs about Bunnell sales to Mexico and other countries as late as 1988:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zefA5U3MAb--Nk0a2_Az6vgv8ZPd4am0

73 Greg

Sometime in the very late 1970s, or the very early 1980s,,,,,,,,,,,,, there was a story going around that Bunnell had received one last order for telegraph equipment for some Central American railroad (perhaps it was one of the Mexican roads) and made a production run just for that customer.

I seem to recall that it was mentioned in D&D. Does anyone remember that article?

Also, shortly thereafter, Bunnell had a sale, apparently to clean out its telegraph inventory. I purchased a nice, brand new, mint-condition two-line peg switchboard from them, and as I seem to recall, there were no instruments available for sale by then.

Does anyone know the details of Bunnell's last run of tgh instruments ?

-- 73 SW & (abram burnett)

I've been looking through old D&D's lately and there is an article in the summer 1997 issue by a Dr. Joseph Jacobs,,,,,,,,,,,,,

who the article says headed J. H. Bunnell from 1979 to 1989.

One paragraph in this article says as follows: "The company produced telegraph items through 1988 for Mexico and other Latin countries."

This isn't much detail but it is all I have found to date.

Some issue I was looking through recently from the late 1980's had a photo of a Mexican operator using the telegraph said to have been taken in the mid to late 1980's IIRC.

If I find anything else I will let you know.

73, Chris

Bug Descratcher III kit.

Just wondering if any in the group has ever heard of "Bug Descratcher III kit".

www.wb9kzy.com/bugde3.htm

If anyone is using this I would appreciate any feedback (positive or negative).

Thanks, Jim...N3MVX

Hi Jim,

I have that unit here.

I just went down in the basement shack and found it.

I have it mounted in a small mini-box.

I had almost forgot about it.

I unhooked it when I started using a cootie a few years ago.

I am going to hook it back up and play with it again.

I can't give you any useful input at this time.

It didn't have any adverse impact on my bugs but can't say for sure if it did anything of a positive note. I know that some earlier solid state rigs were more sensitive to the lighter "contact" of a bug (especially if the bug was not set up properly). I had several Ten Tec rigs that liked having a capacitor across the key line from the bug. I will hook the unit back up as I have several bugs in use now along with the sideswipers and straight keys. I will let you know how it goes. I don't think the intention of the little interface was to make up for dirty or poorly adjusted contacts. 73, Dave - W3NP - 3182S

Hi Jim...

I built the original WX7G circuit from 1992 QST, but find the W0EB Dot Stabilizer much more satisfactory for my Mac bug.

<http://wb9kzy.com/bugde.htm>

<http://www.w0eb.com/Dmain.html>

Rich K4DJ

I use that kit on a regular basis.

It works well and I added the solid state relay kit as I often use it with boat anchors and it gets the high voltage off the key.

I have it in a mini box with three input jacks paralleled up for the bug, straight key and keyer outputs.

Don Richards 73 Don ve3ids

The W0EB add-on is an interesting idea, and looks like it would help clean up your dots...

I used to have scratchy dots from my 1924 Vibroplex,, but had another equally serious problem resulting from the very low current level on the key input of a modern rig. (Approx. 0.07 mA on a Knwd TS-590.)

A lot of older keys need just a little more current.

A small relay in-between also works, but I'd like to try something smaller and quieter.

I'm looking forward to trying one of WB9KZY's Descratchers.

I have previously used his Keyall kit for some of my older rigs, and Chuck puts out a nice kit of parts, board, and instructions...

-- Dave - WB7WHG

Jim,

Don't have that kit, yet, just located a bug today.

Chuck always does a good job with his kits. and I've used several of the electronic keyers.

I'm going to buy that kit. In the mean time, when I had a bug years ago, I put a piece of foam behind the dit contacts so there would be a more solid pressure. Also I kept the dit contacts polished with a sheet of clean paper.

The bug I'm getting is an older model with the rectangular cross section dit bar.

I'll be looking for ways to tame the speed. Any suggestions?

Thanks.Chuck Carpenter, W5USJ

Jim,

Switch debouncing circuits have been in use for eons, and I suspect this board would be effective (I question: would a bug so-equipped would still qualify under SKCC rules?

It uses electronics to clean up mechanical issues).

While I don't know what circumstances prompt your question, I believe such debouncers are generally unnecessary other than to isolate a key from the HV present on the key when using older rigs, and/or avoid sparking.

But on modern rigs those are not an issue.

Having said that, I'm a member of a BUG group, now with 130 members, which was created by Benny, K5KV.

To join, one must spend at least 50% of their operating time using a bug.

As you may imagine, clean dits are of great interest to the members, and the topic has "sparked" lots of recent active discussion.

And while we're not quite at the point of consensus, a couple of things have emerged:

First, make sure the contacts are clean and all connections tight.

Second, the two most important things in getting clean dits are:

- a. proper adjustment of the bug, and;
- b. proper adjustment of the operator.

While many resources on bug adjustment can be found, the single best thing I've seen for beginners is this video by Jim, WB8SIW:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=qekmyx31Uxw>

As for adjusting the operator, it's not a joke: a bug is a vibrating mechanical device and the operator needs to sync their movements with those of the key.

This is NOT hard, but it requires a properly adjusted key, proper technique, and practice, practice, practice...

a. The single most common operator error is to set the bug up with paddle-like close spacings. With very few exceptions this is almost guaranteed to give scratchy dits (I've heard of a bug designed to use close spacings, but I've never seen or used one). Rather, the spacing of the "hard stop" of the dit lever has to be large enough that the pendulum gets enough speed to make the first dit cleanly, and enough momentum to keep making dits until released.

b. The second most common error is to set the spacing of the dash and dit "hard stops" differently - You don't need a micrometer for this, but you want approximately equal movement to both sides (hard stop left to hard stop right), to minimize "swing" in the sending - which is just timing errors.

While the amount of swing is clearly a matter of taste, and can be both pleasing to hear and fun to do, I'm of the opinion that one is best served by learning to send with minimal swing, then having mastered that, introduce whatever swing pleases you.

One is you controlling the key, the other is the key controlling you.

For an example of a true master of the bug, check out this video of Denice Stoops, aka "DA," sending the final transmission from KPH, the ship-to-shore radio station.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYhrSEERvbl>

One way or the other, enjoy.

73 Chris NW6V

I've done extensive testing of speed keys since I first used them in 1958.

Ted McElroy invented the dot stabilizer and I have a large number of his Mac keys.

I kept having difficulty adjusting the Mac keys until one day I noticed something odd about the dot contact assembly on the Mac keys..

I placed a magnifying lens on the dot contact leaf spring assembly and noticed on every Mac key I tested.. they all suffered from self oscillation.... where right after making a string of dots, the long U shaped leaf spring of the dot contact assembly goes into self oscillation at a high rate of speed.

And that's why McElroy invented the dot stabilizer--- was to stop the self oscillation of the dot contact assembly on his keys.

But what I've noticed about placing a mechanical arm against the dot contact assembly== was it actually kills the dots unless it's just barely touching it.

So I found the best fix was to simply place thin foam in-between the U shaped-- dot contact leaf spring and hold the foam in place by wrapping very thin sewing string around it.

Otherwise the foam would eventually slide off.

And since I have examples of most all speed keys ever made from 1905 through today..

I tested all of them for self oscillation of the dot contact assembly.

I only found one older Vibroplex that had a minor self oscillation problem..

All of the Vibroplex keys, Les Logans, Speedoplex etc.. had a properly made dot contact assembly that didn't suffer from self oscillation.

It was only the Mac keys that had the problem.

All Ted McElroy would have needed to do was to copy the design of the Vibroplex dot contact assembly== which would have prevented the self oscillation.

The worst case of self oscillating dot contact assembly that I ever came across was on Mac keys from later in production.. especially the P500 Mac key..

One thing McElroy did do correctly on a few of his keys .. was he provided a way to adjust the damper wheel vertically up and down.

So that you can set the damper wheel so that the dot arm pushes the damper wheel up.... rather than sideways.

I noticed that when the damper wheel was pushed up--- that it provided better dampening of the dot arm .. rather than pushing the damper wheel sideways.

Something else I noticed about Vibroplex keys with the articulated damper assembly... was when the dot

arm hits the articulated damper it can force the entire assembly upwards and when it comes crashing back down, it causes the dot arm to produce dot stutter... so on all Vibroplex keys with the articulated damper, I always lock the articulated damper assembly in place by wrapping fish line or dental floss around it.. That way all the dampening takes place on the damper wheel itself.. and the entire assembly can never flop up in the air!!!

And here is some other info worth noting... the best speed keys ever made are the Vibroplex Deluxe keys with the jeweled bearings.

Vibroplex used braid from both the dot and dash arm to ground to providing a perfect keying ground.

All other keys rely on the ground path passing through the keys pivots.

So a proper fix on all other keys is to provide thin braid from dot and dash levers to ground..

Some Vibroplex keys also used gold plated contacts that can only be cleaned with a thin piece of paper.

Other keys require burnishing of the contacts fairly often.

So if you want the worlds best speed key, pick up a Vibroplex Deluxe Jeweled bearing key with the gold plated contacts!!!

Nothing compares to its smooth high quality keying characteristics and it dosnt need a dot stabilizer !!!

Frank W7IS

Adjusting the dot contact so it produces a very long stream of dits can make a bug overly sensitive to the self oscillation you mentioned.

In this condition the dot contact bounces too lightly against the fixed contact.

This also produces light weighting of the dit elements: i.e. contact closure time is significantly less than the contact open time.

The dits will sound light over the air and be difficult to read through QRN-- a common complaint against bugs.

Also, the contacts can be more susceptible to tarnish and require frequent cleaning because they touch so slightly.

Adjusting the dit contacts to produce no more than 10 or 12 dits maximum per thumb strike makes the weighting heavier; meaning the contact closure time will equal or exceed the space between dits.

This is desirable for better copy in weak signal conditions and QRN.

The [attached](#) jpeg shows a comparison between light and heavy weighting of bug dits.

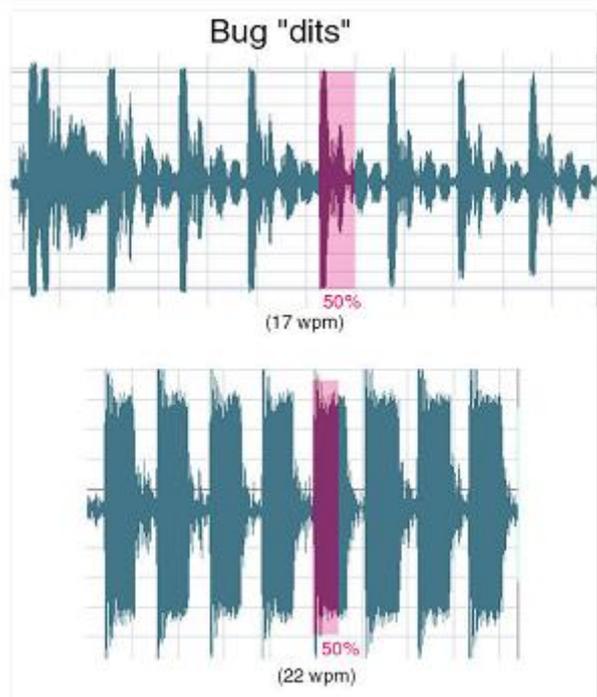
It's easy to see which will sound better over the air.

For some reason some bug users think that having an endless stream of dits per thumb strike is a good thing.

Probably it is just fun to watch the contacts bouncing for 20 or 30 seconds.

Or maybe to emulate an electronic keyer.

This would be useful if we needed to send long streams of dits, but we never need to send more than five at a time.



Drew,

The subject of how many dits a bug should make is a source of much debate on the BUG group.

No one argues over whether dits should be heavy or light; I think we all aspire to "just right."

But how to achieve that is the subject of considerable conversation.

I am among those who interpret your findings somewhat differently.

You are right: the lightness or heaviness of dits is clearly effected by the setting of the dit contract spacing.

Set very light, to where the contacts barely close, the pendulum will swing for the longest time, giving the greatest number of dits, because only the force of the contact's spring and the internal resistance of the pendulum bring it to rest.

But those dits will be way too thin and scratchy - and will look just like your first example, which is bad.

And again, you are right: screw the dit contact further in, and the contact is both more positive and of longer duration.

And because the contact spring is being further compressed with each dit, the opposing force will bring the vibration of the pendulum to extinction sooner.

You get fewer, fatter dits, and on a scope it looks like your second example.

Which is good.

Screw it in further still, and you'll get just a few mushy dits.

Which is bad.

The "sweet spot" of course exists somewhere between the extremes.

However, the setting of the dit contact and the setting of the swing interact, **STRONGLY**.

By increasing the swing of the pendulum (giving it more momentum) that same bug will generate more dits when set to its sweet spot, because the resistance of the dit contact spring contributes proportionally less opposing resistance to the momentum.

This is where "adjusting the bug" and "adjusting the operator" meet, as mentioned in my previous post.

You are also right that no more than 8 dits are ever needed for Morse.

But as the pendulum approaches extinction the dits become progressively heavier, to a point where they become mushy.

So deliberately limiting the bug to 8 or 10 dits can be self-defeating.

Thus I conclude that some practical minimum - perhaps 15 or 20 dits - will give a cleaner overall result.

Not all bugs can do so, but the vast majority can.

I urge beginners who are interested in understanding this better to do the following experiment: set up the bug so you can hear the output in phones or whatever (and if possible, **ALSO** use a scope or VOM to watch the lightness or heaviness).

Then, while sending dits, move the dit contact in and out (holding it **OUT** so it's threads are against the treads of its mount, to eliminate backlash) and listen carefully to the sound (and if possible watch the envelope) as you screw the contact in and out.

When barely making contact you will get scads of thin, scratchy dits, then as it moves in you will pass thru "normal," and finally arrive at relatively few heavy, mushy dits.

Somewhere between the extremes lies the "sweet spot" for any given amount of pendulum swing.

I'll confess that I have zero experience setting bugs up for slow speeds. I ***never*** use a bug at anything under, say, 22-25 WPM.

So at the slow speeds to which some aspire, it could be that "eight is enough" or perhaps even "all you can get." I have no opinion; except that maybe folks should get better at using straight keys.

Oops - there, I said it...

73 Chris NW6V

Chris,

I think dit weighting is a useful concept in bug adjustment because even if you somehow remove the scratchiness the light weighting of a mis-adjusted bug will still be difficult to copy.

For example, the electronic descatcher that was mentioned is a monostable multivibrator that outputs a 10 ms low when it detects a bug contact closure.

The descatcher might perhaps clean up the top sample in the jpeg and get rid of the secondary contact bounce and scratchiness.

But the transmitted dits could still be too brief to be copied easily-- too light.

Adjusting a bug for heavier dit weighting will indeed lead to progressively longer contact closure times in the dit string.

You can see it in the bottom image of the jpeg starting at the sixth dit.

But nobody will ever notice that irregularity.

A 50% weighting (i.e., the dit contact time is equal to the spacing between dits) might fit the ideal definition of Morse characters but my experience is that heavier weighting is always preferable, whether under poor conditions of QRN & QSB, or while listening to noiseless computer generated Morse at QRQ speeds.

FWIW, sideswipers all seem to generate heavy weighted elements; at least among the several users I have copied from youtube recordings.

70-75% is typical; much beyond that starts to sound bad.

Straight keys can change weighting by adjusting the spring tension-- a light spring tension gives heavier weighting.

If anyone wants to know how different weighting values sound you can hear it in the Fldigi software which allows full adjustment of weighting.

Just load some text and vary the weighting value while it is playing.

73, Drew AF2Z

CW Skills

Dave, NI9M,

I read your message about use of decoders.

What I find most irritating is when you contact a station (he is a T or an S) and he gives you a 599, and after the exchange you ask him a question out of the ordinary , such as how many dots does your bug make before coming to a rest.

He then asks for a repeat.

I send the question again sending slower this time.

His reply is " thanks, 73 dit dit.

How did he reach T or S status???

73 De Frank, AA2XB, SKCC Group

See eventual:

https://www.skccgroup.com/operating_awards/centurion/

https://www.skccgroup.com/operating_awards/tribune/

https://www.skccgroup.com/operating_awards/senator/

Editor

I am a new member here. (confession?)

I find this discussion very interesting.

I have been "learning code" since I was about ten, more than sixty years ago.

You would think I would know it by now.

I learned to send easily but practice materials were not as readily available then as they are now, and I did not have a friend to practice with.

So, I did the best I could with what my S-38B could access.

I had a couple of military instruction books so I learned to "take it down".

The method of printing in the Army books works up to perhaps 15WPM.

I did not know for years that old time Morse operators took it down in longhand, which is much faster.

At some point I began to teach myself to "read in my head".

I can sometimes copy up to about 40 WPM but once I loose a letter I have a hard time getting back on the track.

I have a fairly severe hearing loss now which I think limits my speed.

At any rate at some point my ears begin to ring and I have to stop.

I can touch type but learning how to take code on a typewriter seems to be a skill of its own.

I can do it but slowly.

I am convinced that sending and receiving are two different skills and perhaps use different parts of the brain.

Also, that taking code in writing or typing is a different skill from reading in your head, and again, my use some other part of the brain.

I have tried all sorts of methods for getting my speed up and would like one day to get up the speed merchant rate of fifty or more WPM.

I try to practice some every day.

I listen to W1AW and the streaming server at:

<http://cw.dimebank.com:8080/>

I also have the G4FON Koch trainer which will send any text file as code.
I also find short practice sessions a couple of times a day more effective than long sessions.
At some point I become fatigued.
I would like to know how the old time Morse operators and Navy ops did it.
I have seen recommendations in old (1900's) books to listen all day.
Not sure I could stand that.
I worked a lot of CW when I first got on the air (with a General BTW).
CW works a lot better than phone when you have low power.
At some point I took a hiatus from ham radio (work got in the way) and when I came back several years later found I had to learn receiving all over again, sending was fine.
At one point I also taught myself American Morse and had an on air friend, a retired railroad operator, who practiced with me.
Can't read it any more, its been too long.
Enough, I am babbling.
Anyway, I am glad I discovered this list.
Thank you.
Leslie Hock WB5JWI

I have always been a typewriter CW copier ever since I was 17 years old and became a USAF morse intercept op.

I had never touched a typewriter til then. The USAF taught touch typing the code and after doing it 8 hours a day for 10 weeks at USAF morse intercept school I was easily typing CW at 20 to 25 wpm. Today I don't use a "mil" typewriter, but instead use a wireless keyboard to my flat screen monitor. I use Notepad to copy and can easily erase text after each QSO. I like that the text wraps automatically as I type. Up to 20 wpm I just take notes, but above 20 wpm I usually type each letter. At 30 wpm I just close my eyes and let my fingers type and my ears listen. When I open my eyes and look at the screen there it all is - just like reading a book. I've been hamming for 58 years now and CW has always been my favorite mode. Thank you USAF!
Rick N3RO

SKCC Marathon Award.

W6RKE, Jerry, #12450T has joined in the pursuit of the SKCC Marathon Award. He has confirmed his first QSO with N5IR, #12357S, at 86 minutes. He has submitted a second QSO which is awaiting confirmation. His log has been posted to the Marathon Award page.
Good luck Jerry!
73's Cecil K5YQF #1820S Marathon Award Manager
See eventual:
https://www.skccgroup.com/operating_awards/marathon_award/
Editor

SKCC New Member Orientation You might find this blog post helpful

https://dsckb1wod.blogspot.com/2018_02_18_archive.html
Enjoy Dave KB1WOD

Old Novis Rig

I just joined SKCC in late December.
I am having a great time with the straight key.
I had not used a key in a very long time.
It has taken me back to my novice days in the late 60's.
I had a key mounted on a piece of plywood and a Hallicrafters HT-40 Novice rig.
The novice rig has lived in a box all these years.
I put new capacitors in it a few weeks ago and am going to fix up an antenna relay and get it back on the air.

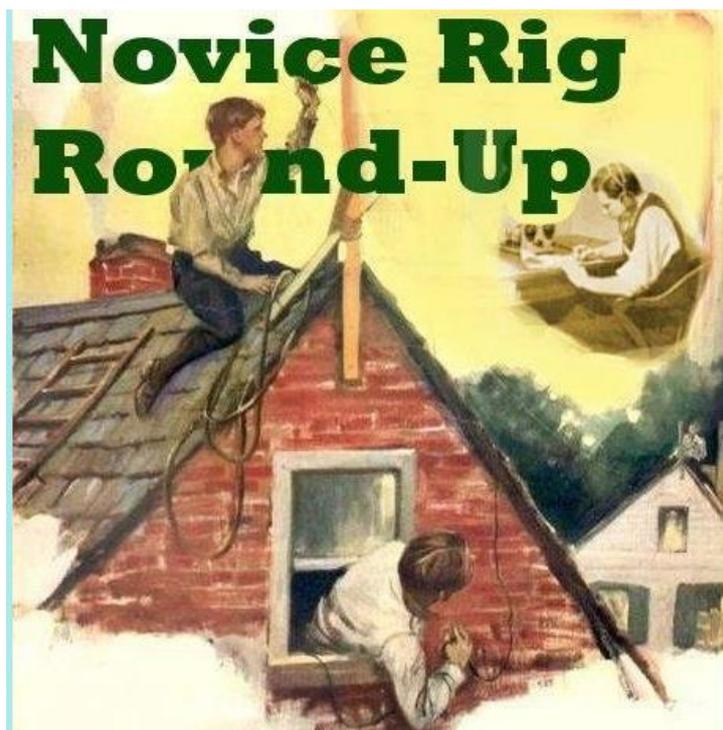
I have some 40 M crystals that I can work with so something is going to happen in the next week or two. I had not been operating much in the past few years. I was always a CW kind of guy. So I am going to settle in and have some fun. This SKCC is a great group to be a part of. GL to everyone with their goals,
Paul K8AAX



Editor

Paul,
The 2019 Novice Rig Roundup starts in a week. I will participate this year for the first time, with my new to me Drake 2NT, set at 75 watts input. 73, Rick K7MW

See:
<http://novicerigroundup.org/>



The 2019 NRR will be held 0000 UTC March 2 to 2359 UTC March 10
Editor

I printed out a Morse Code Chart on 24" X 36" paper from this site:

<http://printerprojects.com/charts/elements/morsecodechart.pdf>

The resolution isn't perfect since it looks like the chart is set up for printing on 8.5" X 11" paper, but it should be fine.

I also printed 3 copies 11" X 17", and the quality is FB.

73, Bob WB2NVR

***Build Your Own "Depot Cootie" Key for as Little as \$10!* published By: Mike Maynard, K4ICY**

http://www.k4icy.com/weekend_radio_depot_cootie.html

You can see it on my page 4X1WQ

<https://www.qrz.com/lookup>

It works nicely and does the job.....

In future, I would like to find and buy a vintage marine sideswiper key, to add it to my marine keys collection (as it's shown on my page).

I am looking forward to hear you on air and to exchange the numbers.

GL 73 Avi 4X1WQ

The only sideswiper I have before is my homebrew "Goalpost Cootie", made as sort of a joke from a disused lockpick.

I figured that enough people made keys out of keys, I would make one out of a lockpick instead.

It does work, but it doesn't have the heft and solidity of the lovely thing you sent me!

Here's a picture of the Goalpost Cootie.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/9tHNkACU3hbx6pb8>

I'm much happier with this new Cootie!

Here's a picture of my working position in my powered recliner.

The Cootie, my Te-Ne-Ke, my Bencher BY-2, and a Logitech trackball, are on a little table built into the arm of my chair.

The radios (KX3, PX3, Icom 746Pro) are on a wire "bread rack" to the right of the chair.

Above the keys is my Zoom H4n Handy Recorder, acting as my system mike, and the mike for my KX3.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/EU293rwtPnFGdwH96>

73, Gwen, NG3P

Hello Friends,

Hi all,

I am very glad for having taken part in the Net.

Now I have got antenna for 80.

After, I will ask you about it.

My reports : Really, all were great signals with a bit QSB, but OK

F5LAW, Yann, fantastic signals, 599 +.

OE8GBK, Fried, solid 599.

G4CJY, Brian, clear 589.

F6EEQ, Gérard, nice 589.

G4ZXN, Martin, good 589.

These are the STNs were CPD by me, I had to leave you before finish. SRI.

Thank you very much for your welcome.

My RIG: KWD TS440S / VERT ANT/ Jablonski cootie

Now the question:

I have set up a new vertical to work on low bands.

So far, I worked with another vertical: 8,2 m length and fed with an UNUN 4:1 and tuner.

The new vertical has a length of @ 17 m.

It is also fed with an UNUN 4:1 and tuner.

It works ok on 80 m and 30m, however on 40 m the signals are usually 1 - 2

S-units worse than shorter antenna ¿? ¿? I can not explain it.

Any idea?

Thanks again, 73 José E. EA7HAA

Hello Jose and the group,

Thanks for all summaries fellows, I'll update the archives ASAP.

Dear Jose, Congratulations on your big vertical for lower bands, 17m, UFB!

Smashing signal here on 80m, steady S9 +10dB.

I don't know why the results are not as good as expected on 40m.

On 80m impedance at feed point must be relatively low, length is close to 1/4 lambda.

On 30 and 40m impedance is probably much higher, length being close to 1/2 lambda on both bands.

If no significant mismatch on 30m, I guess the 4:1 UNUN should do the trick on 40m as well.

It might be interesting to try with an UNUN of another ratio.

I know some lengths of antenna are recommended when using an UNUN of a given ratio to get the best compromise on all bands.

Are you using radials?

Keep up the good work my friend, your verticals are doing a great job, BCNU.

73, Yann, F5LAW.

<CLASS="TITLE style-scope ytd-video-primary-info-renderer?>**Space Weather News from Dr. Tamitha Skov Orbit Outlook and Meteors 02.21.2019**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHeO-5URiQU&feature=em-uploademail>

A coronal hole is rotating into the Earth's strike zone, giving us a fast solar wind.

Surface charging may be an issue for GEO satellites.

Also, a bright region is rotating into view, boosting the solar flux to the low 70s, giving marginal radio propagation on the Earth's day side over the next week.

----- Official NOAA 3-day -----				
Feb 21 Thu	Feb 22 Fri	Feb 23 Sat	Feb 24 Sun	Feb 25 Mon
Active <i>Aurora Possible</i>	Active <i>Aurora Possible</i>	Unsettled <i>Aurora Possible</i>	Unsettled <i>Aurora Possible</i>	Unsettled <i>Aurora Possible</i>
40% Major Storm	25% Minor Storm	25% Minor Storm	25% Active	20% Active

----- Official NOAA 3-day -----				
Feb 21 Thu	Feb 22 Fri	Feb 23 Sat	Feb 24 Sun	Feb 25 Mon
Unsettled <i>Aurora Possible</i>	Unsettled <i>Aurora Possible</i>	Unsettled <i>Aurora Possible</i>	Unsettled	Unsettled
30% Active	15% Active	15% Active	10% Active	10% Active

----- Official NOAA 3-day -----				
Feb 21 Thu	Feb 22 Fri	Feb 23 Sat	Feb 24 Sun	Feb 25 Mon
M-class 1%	M-class 1%	M-class 1%	M-class 1%	M-class 1%
spotless	spotless	spotless	spotless	spotless
Solar flux: 71	Solar flux: 71	Solar flux: 71	Solar flux: 71	Solar flux: 70

----- Official NOAA 3-day -----				
Feb 21 Thu	Feb 22 Fri	Feb 23 Sat	Feb 24 Sun	Feb 25 Mon
Frequent Flyers+ PN*	Frequent Flyers+ PN*	Frequent Flyers+ PN*	Frequent Flyers+ PN*	Frequent Flyers+ PN*
<small>above 40° lat & 35K ft (11 km)</small>				

**Not official NOAA prediction. Source: NASA NAIRAS radiation nowcast*

Solar Storm Forecast 02-27-2019 from Dr. Tamitha Skov

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EKJ3d3c3bA&feature=em-uploademail>

"A big coronal hole is rotating through the Earth-strike zone over the next few days, sending us some fast solar wind ... the Sun launches a solar storm (a rarity during solar minimum) that could arrive around the same time as the fast solar wind. The bulk of the storm will likely miss Earth, but we could get some wake effects that could intensify the storming starting around the 28th ... Amateur radio propagation ... will be affected, especially on Earth's night side starting on the 27th and could last through the first few days in March."

"... marginal radio propagation, but things could get worse before they get better ... dicey radio propagation over the next few days ..."

Cheers, Darrel, aa7fv.

Have a nice day / week(end) gents, BCNU.

Yann, F5LAW

<http://www.sideswipernet.org/>

By OM Yann F5LAW SideSwiperNetGroup

73, from the town at the rivers "De Bergsche Maas" and "De Dongen" Geertruidenberg (800+ years city rights) at: 51.702211N 4.853854E

Editor, PA0CLQ / PA3CLQ

Grüße von:

Jan Pieter Ulb van Ouwkerk Armee Oelp zu Ransbach Herzogtum Nassau, Preußen Deutschland. hi hi

If you want to know details about this, pse ask me.

damn it, now evil has crept into a breast vertebra to

-30-

E: pa3clq@casema.nl

W: www.pa3clq.nl/ i.e. Huge Direction Finding Antennas