

# 2017 Straight Key Night Results

On the first day of the new year, nearly 200 stations participated in ARRL's classic event.

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This year's running of ARRL's Straight Key Night (SKN) drew 190 participants, who tapped their keys or slapped their bugs to make over 1,350 hand-sent Morse code contacts in the US and abroad.

## Soapbox Comments

To help sum up the 2017 event, here is a sampling of comments from SKN participants, via the ARRL Soapbox page ([www.arrrl.org/soapbox](http://www.arrrl.org/soapbox)).

Theodore Smith, W1TPB, said:

I used my old Navy key again — it's approximately 100 years old. Conditions were good and the QSOs were interesting, as usual. I've been a ham for 66 years, and now, at 84 years old, I am operating from a senior complex station... and looking forward to the next SKN.

Ken Knox, KD2KEH, from Buffalo, New York, wrote that he is sort of a new ham — licensed first in 1972, then re-licensed in January 2016. He made his first CW contact in the December 2016 Rookie Roundup. He worked three stations during Straight Key Night using a J-38 key and his Kenwood TS-2000 at 50 W.

Noel Beardsley, K8NB, had a unique approach to every contact. He wrote, "I only found time for 15 contacts. I used a different key or bug for each contact. My first contact of SKN 2017 was made using an old Speedex Key that I used for my first QSO 40 years ago."

Steve Bookout, NR4M, said, "I've been a ham for 37 years, and this was my first SKN...I was able to use a pair of my old collectable rigs — a Heathkit TX-1



Robert, KI0G, used this World War II British McMurdo key during SKN 2017. [Robert Cutter, KI0G, photo]

Apache and a Heathkit RX-1 Mohawk."

Carl Young, K5HK, came across an old friend during SKN. He wrote:

I made only three QSOs, all on 40 meters, this year. My nomination for Most Interesting QSO and Best Fist goes to George Kelly, K9WWT, a Navy buddy in the Panama Canal Zone (he was KZ5NV and I was KZ5BY).

## Best Fist and Most Interesting QSO

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 goes to Richard Newsome, WØHXL. Voting for Most Interesting QSO resulted in a four-way tie between Frederick Maas, KT5X; George Kelly, K9WWT; Brian Roberts, K9VKY, and Hank Preciado, HP1IBF.

Remember, you don't have to wait a year to enjoy hand-sent CW. Get on the air, have fun, and enjoy what your straight key has to offer!

ARRL will hold the next Straight Key Night on January 1, 2018.

## Participating Stations

AA4AI, AA4H, AA4ZS, AA5N, AA6E, AA7FV, AA8UU, AAØQZ, AB2AN, AB8FJ, AE1T, AE3A, AE7CG, AF5Q, AF7DK, AI6II, K1EEE, K1PDY, K2AL, K2NPN, K2PI, K3AJ, K3BVQ, K3MD, K3STX, K3SWZ, K3VYY, K3ZL, K4JYS, K4MDF, K4TRH, K5BZH, K5CAO, K5HK, K5MBA, K5NZ, K5SOH, K5YAA, K6CSL, K6CTW, K6KQV, K6LG, K6PBQ, K6TY (WB6VRN, operator), K7WA, K7ZYV, K8JV, K9DJT, K9LA, K9PFA, K9VKY, K9WWT, KA4WJB, KA7T, KAØIQT, KAØLDG, KB4DXV, KB4IRR, KB5NJD, KB6A, KB8TL, KB8TXZ, KBØLMB, KC2KNX, KC2KWA, KC2LM, KD2BD, KD2JQG, KD5QH, KD6LM, KD6WKY, KEØTT, KF4IZE, KF8KS, KG4KGY, KG4LLQ, KG7RS, KIØG, KK4EOU, KK6BJ, KM4FO, KN5L, KO4OP, KO6YG, KO8S, KØCVN, KØJW, KØKLR, KT3A, KW6G, N1DN, N2BE, N2CG, N3HCN, N3QE, N4KS, N4RM, N5DY, N6FVY, N6KZ, NB1U, NE7D, NF8M, NIØR, NJ3K, NN7A, NOØV, NP2X (K9VV, operator), NP3CW, NQ4Q, VE3AIH/W5, VE3CBK, VE7CA, VE7NI, VE9AA, VO1NA, VY1KX, W1AA, W1DUW, W1PID, W1TPB, W1TS, W1UJ, W2GIW, W2LID, W2RS, W2VTV, W2WSC (WS2C, operator), W3CB, W3GMS, W3TTT, W5AKU, W5LRP, W5QLF, W5ROS, W6COW, W6JHQ, W6KOW, W6PHO, W6VNR, W7AIT, W7PAZ, W7SK, W8FDV, W8IX, W8WTS, W8WZ, W9ABD (W4RK, operator), WA1ABI, WA1CFX, WA1GXC, WA2CHV, WA2QQF, WA5OLT, WA7YAZ, WA9STI, WA9ZJI, WAØCFQ, WAØJLY, WAØLIF, WAØVQY, WB3CEG/5, WB5KSD, WB6SCA/6, WB8CFO, WB8LZG, WB8RFB, WB9HFK, WBØB, WBØCNK, WBØIXI, WBØIXV, WD5ABC, WD6EGW, WD8RIF, WDØBCT, WG4S, WK4U, WM3X, WN3TIS (WW3S, operator), WN7Y, WØAAA, WØCZ, WØFUN, WØPV, WW6P, HP1AC, HP1IBF, and PS7AW.