

Eating Meeting This Month!!

Come to the Eating Meeting Thursday 18 January 2018

Our meeting this month is at the Golden Corral restaurant. Start showing up at 6:30 p.m.

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Morning Short Wave Loggings

Last month we gave you a large frequency listing sorted by time of day. This month we will pass along a few of the things heard during the past few weeks.

SHORT WAVE STATION LOG DEC 2017- JAN 2018

Page Rcvr: Kenwood TS-2000 Antenna GAP TITAN VERTICAL

Date	Time Z	Frequency	Station Identification	SINPO	Mode	Remarks	QSL	
							S	R
23 DEC	1133	4.840	WWCR	45555	AM	RELIGIOUS MUSIC.		
23 DEC	1135	5.085	WTWW	55555	AM	COUNTRY MUSIC (OUT OF BAND?) ALSO OUTREACH TO HAMS. ASKING THEM TO CALL 833-390-5085.		
23 DEC	1153	6.070	CFRX	45444	AM	MORNING SHOW. CANADIAN NEWS.		
7AM	EDT							
23 DEC	1222	5.030	??RADIO HAVANA	5		SPANISH		
23 DEC	1223	5.830	WTWW	55455	AM	HUM ON THE SIGNAL. GUN DISCUSSION ON THE ATTACK IN LAS VEGAS.		

23 DEC	1234	13.670	CHINA R. INT'L	45545	AM	NEWS AND COMMENTARY PROGRAM ACTUALLY BEAMED TO EUROPE.		
23 DEC	1237	13.680	VOICE OF HOPE	43344	AM	CHRISTMAS MUSIC. OUT OF AFRICA		
23 DEC	1246	15.465	RADO ROMANIA	45555	AM	"THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS" DISCUSSION OF CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS. OFF AT 1256. INTO ARABIC AT 1300Z		
23 DEC 8:45 AM	1345	15.034	TRENTON MILITARY CANADA	55555	USB	AIRCRAFT TERMINAL WX.		
23 DEC	1351	17.700	??	45334	AM	ARABIC		
23 DEC	1403	13.695	ALL INDIA RADIO	55555	AM	SPORTS SHOW: CRICKET		
23 DEC	2006	15.140	R. HAVANA CUBA	55555	AM	NEWS		
23 DEC	2010	15.735 11.900 12.070	VOA	55555	AM	IN FRENCH (TO AFRICA) PLAYING POP MUSIC IN ENGLISH.		
23 DEC	2013	15.825	WWCR	55555	AM	RELIGIOUS B'CAST		
23 DEC	2016	13.850	WORLD UNIVERSITY NETWORK	55555	AM	UNIVERSITY NETWORK RELIGIOUS B'CAST. THE GENE SCOTT PEOPLE.		
23 DEC	2031	12.105	WTWW	44444	AM	HAM ORIENTED SHOW WITH XMAS MUSIC.		
24 DEC	1108	7.315	WHRI	5	AM	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP HOUR		
24 DEC	1137	13.660 9.760	CHINA R. INT'L	55555	AM	PROGRAM ON CHRISTMAS		
24 DEC	1207	5.830	WTWW	5	AM	RELIGIOUS PROGRAM		
26	0241	5.085	WTWW	5	AM	COUNTRY MUSIC WITH HAM ORIENTED ADS. TALKING ABOUT ICOM GEAR FROM R&L ELECTRONICS.		
13 JAN	0811	4.050	RADIO TRUTH GUATEMALA	5	AM	RELIGIOUS MUSIC (THIS IS OUTSIDE OF THE B'CAST ALLOCATION)		

I have deleted a lot of entries, to keep it short. Some things stand out, however: Radio Romania is putting a

good signal in here in the morning. China Radio International 24 December 11:37Z a program on Christmas and the birth of Jesus. This is the Chinese government. They had interviews with Chinese Christians who mentioned their harsh treatment in earlier years. In addition they had Chinese-American Christians talking about what Christmas means to them and how they celebrate Christmas. I could not believe what I was hearing. At first I thought I was hearing some other station, but it was CRI. As for the entry on 13 Jan 0811Z I was tuning to pick up marine traffic on 4.125 when I ran across this from Guatemala. There was NOTHING in the frequency guide for this one. We will do the evening hours in another newsletter.

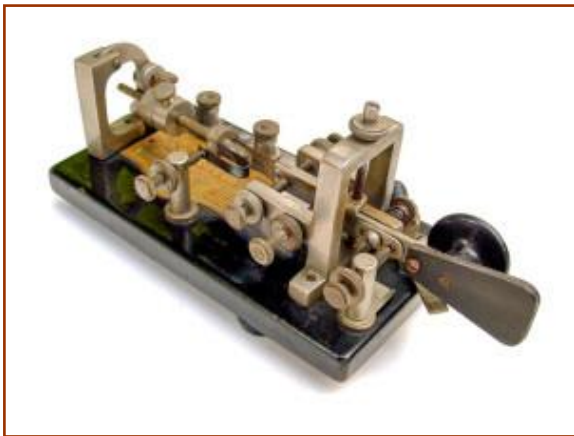
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Straight Key Night (SKN) and my Vibroplex

There is an Amateur Radio event for the CW operators that takes place at the start of the New Year (7pm 31 December (EST) to 7 pm 1 January). The event is known as Straight Key Night (SKN). Pictured here is a “straight key”. Ham operators who know Morse code operate using straight keys and bugs along with vintage equipment during this operating event.



In the early days of telegraphy many telegraphers experienced a malady known as the “glass arm” caused by the excessive up-and-down motion of operating a telegraph key. Today we know that as carpal tunnel syndrome. To facilitate extended periods of sending messages Horace Martin invented a key that has a side-to-side motion in 1904. It also mechanically sends the dots automatically. The key is known as a semi-automatic key or “bug”. This latter term probably resulted from the logo of Martin’s company: Vibroplex. Pictured here is a tag on a semi-automatic key manufactured between 1920 and 1921. Note the serial number in this picture. It is very close to the serial number of my “bug”:80312.



Now for the personal history part: In 1959 I started learning American Morse code on the railroad. My burning ambition in those days was to become a telegraph operator on the railroad. After spending many weekends and some summer vacations at the local railroad tower (OWEN tower, telegraph call sign KX) learning about dots and dashes along with the Book of Rules, Form 19 and Form 31 train orders one of the telegraph operators told me I was ready to



get a “bug”. In 1961 I got a Vibroplex Junior from one of the telegraph operators on the railroad at the time I paid about \$12 for it. By 1963 the tower was closed and landline telegraphy had disappeared from the railroad. At this time I got into Amateur Radio, learned International (Continental) Morse and started operating on the

ham frequencies as WN9MGA. I used a straight key as well as the bug on the radio. For the past few decades the bug has been in the ham station gathering dust. During December I got on the Internet and did a bit of research and found out that my bug had been manufactured in 1920, according to a listing of serial numbers from the Vibroplex company. During the week after Christmas I worked on practicing and re-learning how to send with a bug. This year during SKN I fired up on the air with the bug and my TITANIC reproduction key. It was really FUN!!



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That's it for this month. Have fun with radio!

Keep in Mind Our Weekly Nets and Bulletins

Monday 8 p.m. The Two Meter Net 147.765 - 147.165 MHz Hosted by Doris Haskell WB9VDT

Tuesday 7 p.m. 6-meter Roundtable 50.200 MHz USB followed at 8 p.m. with the 10 Meter Roundtable 28.365 MHz USB

Send us your articles AND PICTURES! We do much more in the digital format! I would like to have pictures of BARS members and their ham shacks!

Remember to check out the BARS website:

brandonhamradio.org