



# SQUELCH TALES



**Newsletter from the Merry Meeting Amateur Radio Association  
for December 2024**



## A BLAST FROM THE PAST IN KH2 LAND

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE

Back in the last century, May 1978 to be exact, while working Long Beach Naval Shipyard, I had the fortune to fly across the Pacific to the island of Guam. The reason for this trip was to do a repair and upgrade assessment of the USS Protious, a sub tender stationed there at the Naval base in advance of a planned overhaul at our shipyard.



If time allowed it would afforded me the possible opportunity to have a mini DX-pedition. I was a bit of a QRP enthusiast at the time and the

proud owner of a Ten-Tec 509 Argonaut 80 to 10 meter 5-watt (on a good day) SSB/CW small transceiver that I was able to get it packed in my suitcase along with a very small 12-volt supply, a battery operated keyer, a straight key a mic, a small home-brew wire tuner plus enough RG58 and wire to maybe string up a 20/15 meter dipole or end fed wire antenna or both.

When I got to Guam I was able to get a ground floor hotel room with a sliding glass door that led out to an open area with two young coconut trees about 15 feet from the door. First I was able to string up a 15 meter dipole between the two palm trees then string out about 35 feet of insulated wire to be my end fed antenna. I then set up my mini QRP station on the desk in my room.





# MARA's Year End Lunch

Seasons Greetings MARA members and Friends. The 2024 years Year End lunch will take place at the Burano's Woodfire Pizza on Front Street in Bath on Saturday afternoon Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. Let Shauna, K1ALZ know if you plan to attend at: [mara.ks1r@gmail.com](mailto:mara.ks1r@gmail.com)

Come join us, bring the better half, family member or friend and enjoy this yearly social event. Order food from the menu and have a GOOD TIME!

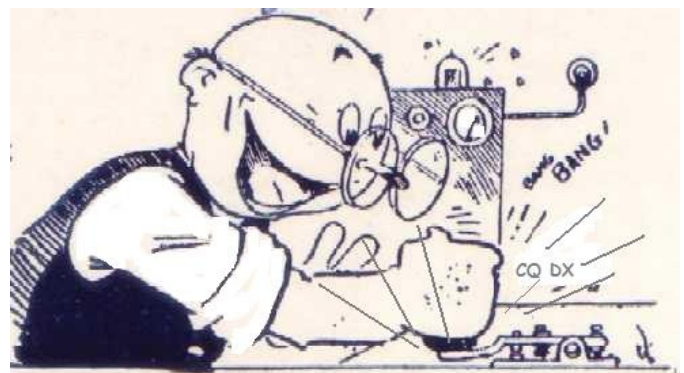


## STREIGHT KEY NIGHT CAN BE FUN

As luck would have it, the weekend I arrived was the date that the Guam/Maharanis call sign prefix change from KG6 to KH2. This change added 10db to my five watt signal when calling CQ.

I was on the island for about eight days. Every afternoon after returning from the Navy Base I would open a cold beer and do a little hamming.

I managed to work every Japanese call district during that time. My first "CQ DE WA6MUP/KH2 K" was on 15 meters CW. Bedlam erupted with a pileup that was S9 deep with JAs calling me. In the late afternoon the same thing happened again on 15 SSB. After the evening meal I switched to 20 meters CW using the end fed wire and the patio sliding door aluminum frame as a counterpoise. In addition to JAs I worked Hong Hong, New Zealand & Australia. Later that week on 15 and 20 I worked back to Hawaii and Alaska and as far west as South Africa & Kenya in both CW and SSB, but mostly CW.



By W1ZE & the ARRL

Fellow hams, it was the ultimate good time DXpedition, a real BLAST, and the seafood was good too!

73, Bruce/W1ZE (ex, WA6MUP/KH2)

Over my 64 years in this great hobby and especially since in my later years I have been smart and stayed close to home on New Years eve and day I have taken to participating in this regular ham radio event, that being Straight Key Night (SKN).

This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners.



## EVENT Details

- Straight Key Night is held every January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.
- Terms Of Entry
  - Entrants agree to be bound by the provisions and intent of ARRL contest rules.
  - Entrants agree to be bound by the regulations of their national licensing authority.
  - Entrants agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee.
  - Log contents used to determine final score and awards will be available to the public.
  - All entries become the property of the ARRL.
- All authorized Amateur frequencies, but activity has traditionally been centered on the HF bands.
- Entries for Straight Key Night must be received by January 31. Votes for 'Best Fist' and "Most Interesting QSO" will be tabulated and included in the results.
- Send your information to [straightkey@arrrl.org](mailto:straightkey@arrrl.org) or by mail to:

ARRL Straight Key Night  
Street, Newington, CT 06111

225 Main

For contest information contact  
[contests@arrrl.org](mailto:contests@arrrl.org)



## NEWS FROM NEWINGTON

25th Annual SKYWARN  
Recognition Day  
December 7, 2024



SKYWARN Recognition Day is December 7, 2024. The annual event is celebrating its 25th anniversary. SRD was established in 1999 by the National Weather Service and ARRL to commemorate the contributions of SKYWARN volunteers. Using amateur radio and other means of communication, SKYWARN spotters provide real time ground truth to NWS offices. The ham-volunteers can also provide vital communications between NWS and local emergency management officials when other means go down.

In a video posted to the SRD web page, National Weather Service Director Ken Graham, WX4KEG, said the information ham radio operators and other SKYWARN volunteers provide is critical. "I, along with the entire National Weather Service, want to acknowledge and thank you for your invaluable service to the communities we serve."

There will be a SRD special event from 0000 - 2359 UTC on the day. The objective is for all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters and National Weather Service Stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands.

ARRL will be on the air during the event from the ARRL Radio Laboratory station, W1HQ, using the call sign WX1AW. ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, said SRD is a great opportunity to welcome non-ham SKYWARN volunteers to explore amateur radio. "Storm spotting was my original draw into ham radio. I watched a large tornado tear up my community on May 3, 1999, and was listening via my mom's 2-meter mobile radio to spotter reports being relayed to the NWS Norman, Oklahoma, office. I knew I wanted to be a part of that and within months I was licensed. Amateur radio was my path into that community service and has been the hobby of a lifetime ever since," she said.

ARRL has a web page to help those interested with getting licensed. Find details at, [www.arrrl.org/getting-licensed](http://www.arrrl.org/getting-licensed) [ [https://www.arrrl.org/getting-licensed?utm\\_source=Informz&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=ARRL](https://www.arrrl.org/getting-licensed?utm_source=Informz&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=ARRL) ] .

Spotters are encouraged to register for SRD at, [www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition](http://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition) [ <https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition> ] . There will be participation certificates available after the event.



  
**Happy Holidays**