WAVELENGTH

Official bulletin of
Scarborough Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
www.ve3we.org

PARTICIPATE – LEARN – ENJOY

March 2013 Volume 7 Issue 3

President:	Ralph Muecke VE3VXY
Vice-President:	Luc Seguin VA3LMS
Secretary:	Ray Chow VE3ZXC
Treasurer:	Lambert Philadelphia VE3LYP
Membership:	
Communications:	
Field Day:	Rod Long VE3SOY
Education:	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC
Examiner:	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC
Assistant Secretary:	Rod Long VE3SOY
Archives:	Gord Hogarth VE3CNA
	Audrey Little VA3YD
Elmer:	Rod Long VE3SOY
	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC

SARC Nets

Sunday	28.730 MHz
	CW 10:00 AM
	SSB 10:30 AM
Tuesday	147.060 MHz (VE3RPT)
	7:30 PM
	Alternate frequency
	146.520 MHz simplex
Thursday	28.730 MHz
	SSB 7:00 PM
Saturday	14.125 MHz
	SSB 10:00 AM (VE1EBK)

Everyone is invited to check in on CW before the nets start.

These are open nets. All licensed hams are welcome. Come and join us.

We also want to emphasize that 28.730 MHz is our calling frequency. Please monitor and/or call your friends. 7:00 PM is a good time.

Long-Delayed Echoes

Hello All SARC Members:

This month, I am pleased to tell you about a solution I have developed to the problem about how to display an old telegraph key.

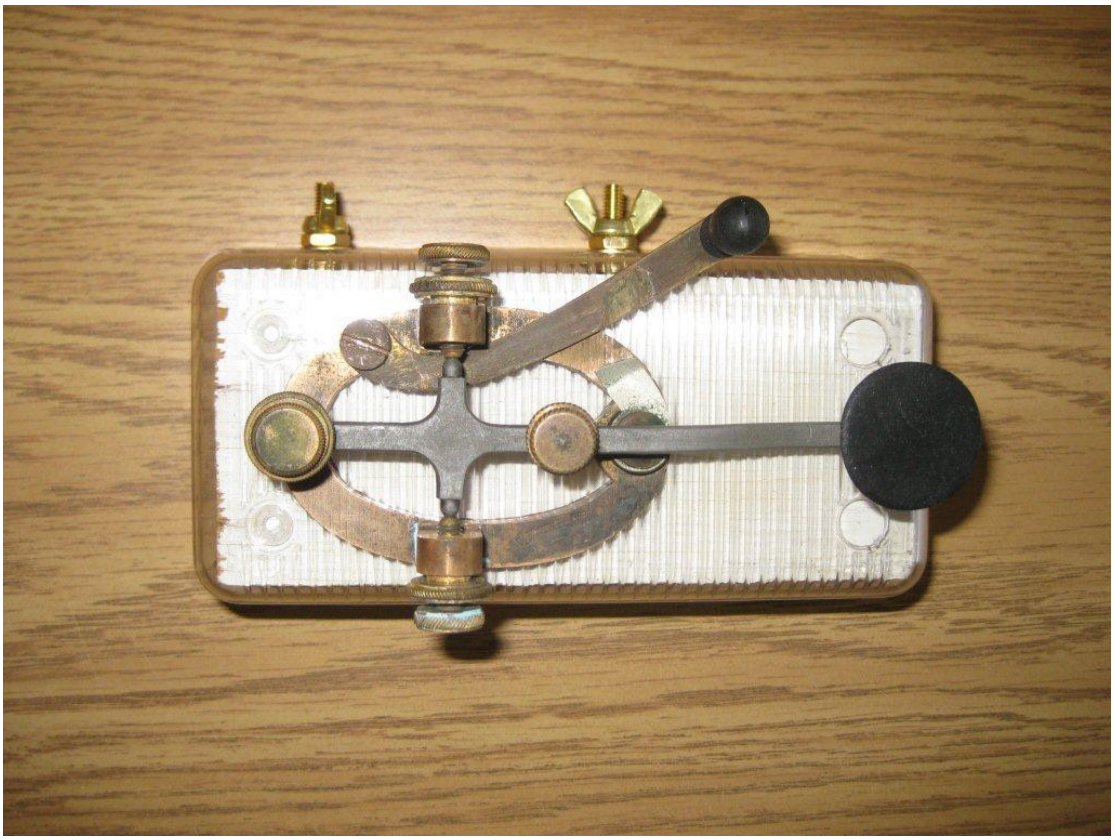
From the photographs, you can see that the key in question is a straight key used in the "heroic age" of steam and railways. This key is referred to as a "leg key" as opposed to a "legless key". It was supplied by the railway for the telegraph office in each station, and the legs were used for the dual purpose of attaching the key to the operating desk and as the attachment point for wires that connected the key to the telegraph line. The key was manufactured by the iconic firm: "J.H.Bunnell, New York, U.S.A."and does not have a "bug lip". It was probably manufactured ca. 1880-1905.

The key is mounted on a clear, hard plastic drawer organizer and I have included terminals on the side of the box.

Now the key is displayed to show all its features and, viewed from above, will appear as it was in service for the railway, and may now be used to key an oscillator or a radio.

Not what we expect from the phrase, "Surface Mount Technology" but certainly, "everything old is new again".

Happy Easter and 73 de Gord, VE3CNA



W8P Spreads the Word about End Polio Now

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On Saturday and Sunday, February 23-24, 2013, amateur radio operators gathered at WA2HOM, the amateur radio station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. We were there to operate special event station W8P to commemorate the founding of the Rotary Club on February 23, 1905 and spread the word about Rotary International's End Polio Now Campaign (www.endpolio.org).

The goal of the End Polio Now program is to rid the world of this terrible disease. Rotary International launched this program in 1985, and with the aid of UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has cut the number of cases by more than 99.9%. In 1988, polio was endemic in 125 countries. In 2012, polio is endemic in only two regions. We like to say that we're "this close" to eradicating polio.

The unique part of the special operating event is that stations all over the world took part in it. Rotary is an international organization, and its amateur radio fellowship, Rotarians on Amateur Radio (ROAR), includes members all over the world. In Australia, a group operated the special event station VI4POLIO. In Europe, Pertti, past president of ROAR, operated his station, EA7GSU. Here in the

States, a group that included yours truly; Jack, N8PMG; Jameson, KD8PIJ; Dinesh, AB3DC; and Mark, W8MP operated W8P.

Since the museum is only open from 1500Z – 2200Z, we were only able to operate for seven hours on Saturday. We spent all of our time on 20m phone, with our beam pointed southwest, concentrating on working mostly U.S. stations. We had originally intended to operate on 14.287 MHz, but quickly had to change frequencies, as that portion of the band was occupied by participants in the Mississippi QSO party.

We finally ended up on 14.227 MHz and made a total of 110 contacts on Saturday. This included 29 states and four DX contacts.

On Sunday, we only operated for a couple of hours and made another 27 contacts. While we made fewer contacts on Sunday, the contacts that we did make were more poignant than the ones on Saturday.

My first contact on Sunday was with a gentleman who was spending the winter in Florida, but whose hometown was Standish, Michigan. He told me that his mother had polio, and in the late 1930s and early 1940s, they would put her on a bus for Ann Arbor, where she would receive treatments. While there's no way to be sure, I think that this ham's mother was taking part in some of the research leading to the Salk vaccine in 1955. That research took place right here at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

I also talked to hams that had direct experience with polio. One was a polio survivor himself. Another's wife was a polio survivor. A third was a physician who had been to Africa and had treated polio victims there.

It was a real treat to combine two activities that I enjoy so much–amateur radio and Rotary–and it felt good to know that in some small way I was furthering the work of the End Polio Now campaign. I hope that next year we will once again operate this special event and get even more Rotarians and amateur radio operators to participate.

When he's not trying to save the world, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.