



NETHERLANDS TELEGRAPHY CLUB

Established Januari 31, 2021

Club call P I 4 N T C

<https://www.qsl.net/ntc> - pi4ntc@outlook.com

NEWSLETTER

New members

Great to see a couple of new members from Belgium after an article written by Theo PA3HEN in cooperation with Luc ON7DQ which was published in CQ-QSO, the 2-monthly magazine of UBA (the Belgian amateur radio association).

148	Swat	OK2IW	
149	Tom	WZ4M	
150		PF6NTC	
151	Gil	ON6QS	OT6E
152	Ward	ON8WR	
153	Rudy	ON3RLI	
154	Anton	ON6NL	5X8C

Worked NTC Members – WNTCM

Award number 007 has been issued to Vasile YO6EX, congrats! Rules for this award can be found at <https://www.qsl.net/ntc/awards.html>

NTCQP

Only a few days left, the next party is this Thursday March 17 from 19:00 to 20:00 UTC. A new Call History File has been uploaded to the N1MM site. Rules can be found at <https://www.qsl.net/ntc/party.html>. Send your logs to nettelclub@outlook.com. Please note: **You can submit your log until Sunday after the party.**

Wetting Current by YL3JD

A few months ago I had a qso with OZ1JHM and I took a peak on his qrz.com page. There I found a very interesting piece about wetting current and cw keys. As he describes it, sometimes he got the feeling that the contacts of his key were dirty, so he cleaned them but the problem stayed. After some more investigation he found an article about wetting current. Here is a short description about wetting current from Wikipedia:

In electrical and electronics engineering, wetting current is the minimum electric current needing to flow through a contact to break through the surface film resistance at a contact. It is typically far below the contact's nominal maximum current rating.

A thin film of oxidation, or an otherwise passivated layer, tends to form in most environments, particularly those with high humidity, and, along with surface roughness, contributes to the contact resistance at an interface. Providing a sufficient amount of wetting current is a crucial step in designing systems that use delicate switches with small contact pressure as sensor inputs. Failing to do this might result in switches remaining electrically "open" when pressed, due to contact oxidation.



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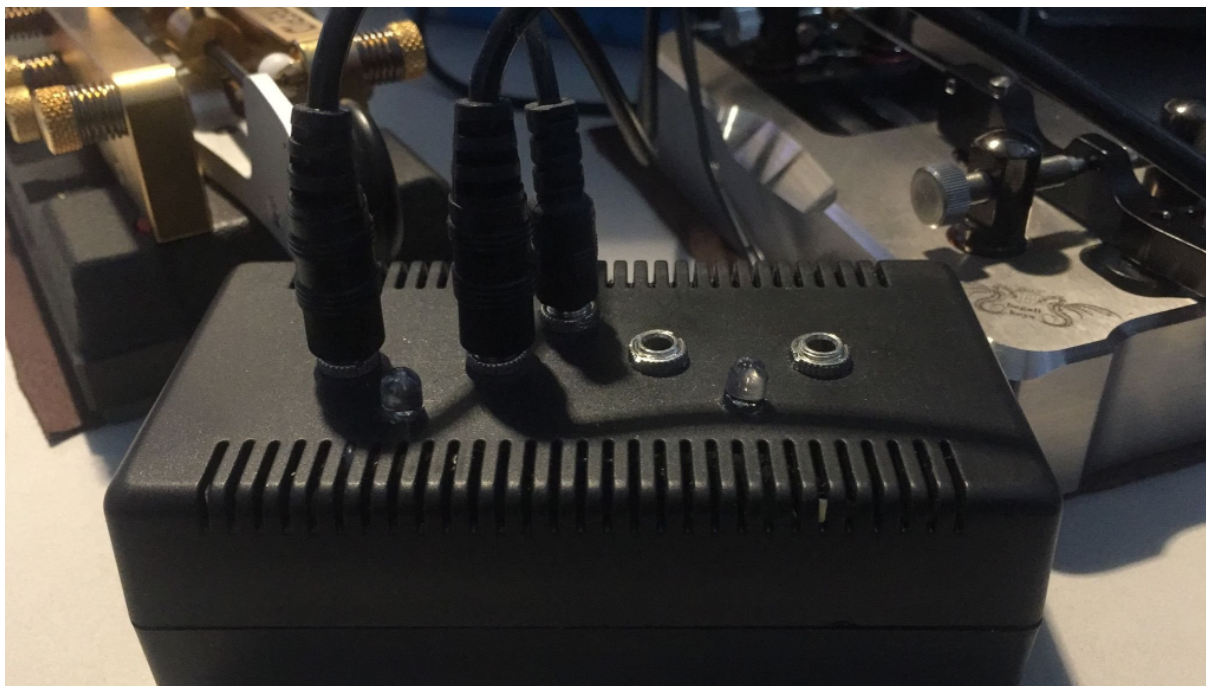
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NEWSLETTER

We as cw operators depend on delicate small contact low pressure switches. Omron, one of the biggest relays manufactures did extensive research on wetting current and micro switches. They came up with a diagram of what the best switching voltage and current should be. See the document at https://omronfs.omron.com/en_US/ecb/products/pdf/en-vx.pdf, page 6.

Hjalmar OZ1JHM measured quite a bit of radio's regarding their switching current and voltage. The results were that all radio's use a too low voltage and switching current for morse keys or paddles.



I am using an ICOM 7300 and this also radio has a too low voltage and current. What I did is make a simple key hub, see picture above text. Useful anyway because i like to switch between keys HI. The circuit is very simple, it is an optocoupler, 12 volts and 10 mA on the key side and open collector on the radio output.

In case you have a keyer (I have a Nanokeyer) just a put low Ohms resistor in parallel to your input resistor to get the 10 or more milliAmps. Have a look at the Omron diagram it is very clear how to select a voltage and current.

In the last few months some operators have build this switching hub and/or modified their keyer, with good results. Last but not least durability of the contacts extend by using the right voltage and current.



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There is a nice story on [PF5X hamblog](#) about this issue when using the Micro Keyer II by microHAM.

Introduction to SOCWA

SOCWA stands for Scandinavian Open CW Activity. The goal is to make as many QSOs with Scandinavian countries as possible in a year. A QSO has to be at least 10 minutes long. You can easily find the activity on 80 meters between 3535 and 3540 kHz in the evening hours, stations participating will call 'CQ SAX'. Rules can be found at <https://socwa.se>. Here you can find a memberlist, maintain a logbook for SOCWA and meet other members. Registration is required. After making 52 contacts you can download the SOCWA award. See the award gained by Hanz YL3JD below.

Several members of the NTC participate in the SOCWA activity.

Scandinavian Open CW Award
2022 **52 QSO**

YL3JD
HANZ PDL

has this day submitted evidence of having conducted 52 two-way
cw-communications lasting a minimum of 10 minutes.
This certificate recognizes outstanding performance and morsecode skills.

52 Qso:s on February 24, 2022 - Socwa Award No: 29

SK7RN
Ölands
Radioamatörer

www.socwa.se Scandinavian CW Activity Group

SCAG
1974

K1USN SST

A good place for practising your CW skills is the one-hour slow speed CW test called the SST. They take place every Friday from 20:00 – 21:00 UTC. Maximum speed is 20 wpm, suggested exchange is: report, name and country or state. You can find more information at <http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>, check it out!



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Did you know?

The NTC has 2 telegram groups. One for [chatting and making skeds](#), currently with 32 members and one for [spotting NTC members](#).

Our newsletters are archived at <https://www.qsl.net/ntc/newsletter>. We would appreciate if you don't share this archive outside of our member list.

Would you like to contribute to our newsletter? Send an email to nettelclub@outlook.com.

This year's radio exhibition at Friedrichshafen will take place from June 24-26. Share your travel plans on our mailing list!

73 from your editor, Jo PG4I