



TRAFFIC CALL



Newsletter of the Ben White Memorial Nets

Founded 1938

Hit and bounce CW Traffic Net ~ Hit and Bounce Slow Net

JULY 2001



W4SUS LARRY FRAZER AWARD

JULY - SEPTEMBER



WA2CUW

The Award Committee has chosen Tom, WA2CUW as the next recipient of the Larry Frazer W4SUS Award. Using the Award criteria: Operating procedure, net participation and traffic handled. Tom has been a long time member of HBN net. Thanks, Tom, for your service and participation to Hit and Bounce Net. Congratulations!...

K8LJG, WA3UNX and N3DE
Award Committee

REMINDER

TRAFFIC HANDLERS' PICNIC AT NEWARK VALLEY NY, SATURDAY JULY 28TH. If you can make it on Friday, there will be a supper at Orlando's Restaurant in West Endicott NY at about six pm and on-. **HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT...THE PICNIC STARTS ABOUT 10 AM.....**

TALK IN on 2M 146.73 (-600) Repeater in Vestal Valley....

73, Bill W2MTA 607-642-8930

Hit and Bounce Net ~ Manager's Comments

"Summertime, when the livin' is easy"... not for traffic handlers... but...look at our stats! QNI 542, TFC listed 515, and cleared 404 with an average of 31.8 minutes per session, thanks to the fifty-one different stations who checked in. Good work.

Topping the list is Gail, K2BCL with 104; followed by NG1A 78; K8LJG 70; KA8WNO 68; KW1U 19; W2EAG 14; WX4H, K8KV and N1DHT with 13 each; W8RTN 11; WA4DOX and KB8ZYY 10 each. Thanks to every one who checked in and brought traffic or not. Probably almost every station got to QPC at some time, or relay a station which the NCS just didn't hear.

Perfect attendance in June- K2BCL. Followed by WX4H and K8KV 28; W2MTA 24; KA8WNO 23; N1DHT and W0GRW 21; KK3F and WA3UNX 20; W3JKX 19; K8LJG, AC4DV AND AF4QZ 18. Ten to 17 QNI were WD8DHC, W8RTN, N9KHD, KW1U, WD8DIN, KA8VWE, WA2RUE, KA5NNG, N4ABM and N3DE. One new station in June AC4CS, Chris in AL.

Enjoy summer!

73, ARF, Sis WD8DIN

QNC

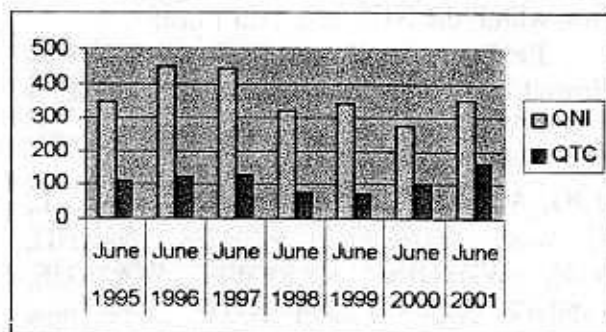
NR 14 R AB4E XX JULY 3 QNC HBN BT HOME FROM HOSPITAL NOW X MANY THANKS FOR THE CARDS RADIOGRAMS AND TELEPHONE CALLS X 73 BT AB

HIT AND BOUNCE SLOW NET MANAGER'S COMMENTS

C. M. Shearer (Sam), WB5ZJN, Manager

Twenty-six hardy souls checked into the net this month. Our QNI was 353 and our QTC was 165. This month's top honors go to Gail (K2BCL), Don (K2YAI), and Ad (NR9K) with perfect attendance. Close behind were Cid (W3QQ) and Sam (WB5ZJN), 29; Sam (KG2HA) 28; Jim (WA3DUH), 27; Chuck (N3ON) and Bill (W2MTA) 26. As always, everyone's participation is greatly appreciated, and, whether you checked in once or thirty times, it is your participation that makes this net successful.

Statistics: Again our numbers are the highest they have been in the past three years. Thanks to the business we have received from Fred, NG1A, our QTC is also higher. Again, I want to stress that we make it a point to pass all traffic. If we can not handle the traffic directly, take it to HBN or some other net. It is important that we not let an opportunity to move traffic pass us by.



Thank You Gail: Because everyone is appreciated and important to the success of the net, I am reluctant to single out any one person; however, I hope you will agree with me that Gail (K2BCL) deserves a special "at-a-boy" for doing a yeoman's job in his willingness to take so much of our traffic to HBN. Thanks Gail, we appreciate you and your dedication to the net.

AUGH! Can It Get Any Worse?

Yes, and it did on June 13. It was my watch that Wednesday, and toward the last few minutes of the net the band went dead. Now, I have often used the term "dead" when referring to the fact that the propagation had fallen off, but never have I known of 80 meters to go completely dead, so much so that I could not work anyone! I could not even hear the stations in Western Pennsylvania who always bang in here with a 599. I called everyone on my QNI sheet and received absolutely no response. If it weren't for the ever-present QRN, I would have thought someone disconnected my antenna. I thought we were moving into the sweeter part of the sun cycle. Can someone out there explain to us why our propagation doesn't seem to be getting better?

Going to Florida: My son, an officer in the Air Force and an aerospace engineer, enjoys flying aerobatics. In between his duties as a newlywed, officer, and his recently completed tenure at the Air Force Test Pilot's School, he has been building an Acroduster (tandem-seat acrobatic biplane). I have had the pleasure of visiting him in the summers and helping with the construction, which is where I'll be from June 30 to July 8. Building this airplane brings back fond memories of the days when he and I built model airplanes together. The construction of this full-sized airplane is very similar to our models – just bigger and built with spruce, steel, and canvas instead of balsa wood, light plywood, and paper. Also, because gourmet cooking is another one of my passionate hobbies (I do all the cooking and my wife cleans up – what a deal!), my daughter-in-law has asked me to teach her some cooking techniques, so she has invited some of her friends over, and each late afternoon I will be teaching cooking classes as we prepare the evening's meal. So, "off we go into the wild blue yonder" and *bon appétit!*

HIT AND BOUNCE SLOW NET JUNE 2001
C.M. (SAM) SHEARER, WB5ZJN, MANAGER
CHARLES (CHUCK) PUNZELL, N3ON, ASST
MANAGER

QNI 353 QTC 165 SESSIONS 30

CALL	NAME	STATE	QNI
NG1A	FRED	MA	12
W1KX	BILL	ME	8
K2BCL	GAIL	PA	30
VE2ED	JEAN	QC	1
KG2HA	SAM	NY	28
W2MTA	BILL	NY	26
WA2RUE	PHIL	NJ	6
K2YAI	DON	NY	30
N3COR	DON	WPA	26
N3DE	HARRY	MD	17
WA3DUH	JIM	DE	27
W3JKX	EARLE	EPA	9
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	EPA	13
N3ON	CHUCK	WPA	26
W3QQ	CID	DE	29
K3RC	BOB	OH	2
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	3
N4QX	BRENNAN	CT	1
W4VFJ	CHAS	NC	1
W4VLL	VIC	VA	5
WB5ZJN	SAM	OH	29
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	13
K8KV	BEN	MI	1
KA8WNO	JACK	WV	1
K9HE	JOHN	TN	1
NR9K	AD	EPA	30

HIT AND BOUNCE MANAGER'S COMMENTS
JUNE 2001
C L "Sis" BERRY WD8DIN, Mgr.

CALL	NAME	STATE	QNI	QTC
NG1A	FRED	MA	7	78
N1DHT	GEORGE	VT	21	13
W1KX	BILL	ME	9	
N1OTC	JACK	MA	3	
W1PEX	DAN	NH	9	
KW1U	MARCIA	MA	11	19
W1WCG	VAN	CT	2	6

K2BCL	GAIL	PA	30	104
WA2CUW	TOM	NJ	1	
W2EAG	MARK	MA	4	14
W2MTA	BILL	NY	24	8
WA2RUE	PHIL	NY	13	
K2YAI	DON	NY	1	
N3COR	DON	PA	8	2
N3DE	HARRY	MD	17	3
KK3F	PAT	MD	20	7
W3JKX	EARL	PA	19	4
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	PA	9	6
K3NNI	JOHN	MD	1	
N3QA	CAL	MD	2	1
K3RC	BOB	OH	6	
N3SW	SCOTT	PA	2	
WA3UNX	DON	PA	20	4
N4ABM	OLE	VA	17	2
AA4AT	ART	VA	4	5
AC4CS	CHRIS	AL	1	
W4DNE	BILL	NC	4	
WA4DOX	OBIE	VA	8	10
AC4DV	ROY	NC	18	4
AB4E	AB	NC	8	3
WX4H	MORT	FL	28	13
W4KFR	JIM	KY	1	
AF4QZ	ADAM	SC	18	1
W4VFJ	CHAS	NC	2	
W4VLL	VIC	VA	8	
KA5NNG	MIKE	AR	16	4
WB5ZJN	SAM	OH	3	1
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	10	8
WD8DIN	SIS	NC	12	4
K8KV	BEN	MI	28	13
K8LJG	JOHN	MI	18	70
AA8PI	DON	MI	4	4
W8RTN	LEE	MI	10	11
WB8SIW	JIM	MI	2	
KA8VWE	WALLY	OH	13	
KA8WNO	JACK	WV	24	68
WA8ZGL	TOM	OH	1	
KB8ZYY	RAY	MI	2	10
N9KHD	ANDY	WI	11	
K9PUJ	DICK	IN	3	3
W0GRW	GEB	MN	21	1

BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE AND NTS

The National Boy Scout Jamboree will be at Fort AP Hill (VA) from about the 20th of July to the first few days of August and Bob Johnson, K3RC, will once again be present and active. Bob has had the responsibility for NTS traffic at the jamborees since 1973.

Here is a quote from a letter Bob sent to Obie. Some of you might have received it (via email). Maybe some of us can help in some way. [Ed.]

"I am still looking for a "better way". One of our problems is that most of the VA nets are at our staff mealtimes; and we often have skeds for scouts with folks back home (which are a priority for us) that keep us from meeting VA nets.

I would like to find someone(s) in VA that are active on VA NTS nets and would be willing to pick up incoming NTS traffic and pass it to us via email. And we would send our outgoing traffic the same way. We have a net every evening on the Jamboree repeater for the passing of traffic and usually have scouts and scouters in all subcamps who are hams and can handle the traffic for us in good time.

I have often used HBSN for outgoing traffic when I can hear the net, but then I miss breakfast. HBN is at the same time as our staff meeting. There are still stories about me having one ear on CW and one on the staff discussions for the day.

Can you help?" -Bob, K3RC

"The K2BSA station is the only thing at the Jamboree open 24 hours per day! From 9-5 we have hundreds of kids going through the station on tours and making contacts. We usually have up to 5 lowband stations operating during these hours.

At 6 pm, we run a two-meter and 440 net on

the jamboree repeaters for the incoming traffic that we have received, however it gets to us. We usually have a full-house of kids in the station until about midnight keeping their own skeds back home (including many foreign scouts). We also have a number of adult scouters who operate the station during the hours with their own skeds; or that bring kids from their troops to experience amateur radio. The ONLY time I have found that works for NTS skeds is from 5 a.m. until about 7:30 a.m. Al and Mae Burke W3VR and W3CUL used to meet me every morning on 80 meter RTTY and 75 meter SSB with simultaneous schedules to send and receive traffic. In those days we ran about 500 QTC per day outgoing and 100 more incoming. Those were the good ole days. As you know, both Al and Mae are silent keys. I had the joy of meeting them personally in their home in Morton, PA and in their home in FLA before they died. Other hams, including several on HBN, have set skeds with me over the years during the early morning hours. Four years ago W3KOD took about 100 QTC early every morning.

This time, we have decided that NTS traffic, for the first time in 30 years, will not be a part of our K2BSA booth experience during the regular hours. We tried packet 4 years ago for most of the outgoing traffic with terrible results; almost none of it every got delivered or was delivered a week after the kids got home. Thus, the only outgoing traffic we will originate will be from folks who know about NTS and ask us to send their traffic. We do expect a significant amount of incoming traffic and HOPE that we actually receive it so that it can be passed on our net.

My desire is that we would pass all QTC off the low bands. We will have our own two repeaters which will have good coverage in the area and will be able to hit the Fredericksburg repeater and several other ones.

My dream is that we can find a few hams in

VA that would collect incoming traffic and send it to us via email. Our address, already up and running, is k2bsa@bealenet.com. I would also like to do the same with the small amount of outgoing traffic that we will have. My fellow staff member and CW operator WB8TRK who was once the manager of HBSN, will have the responsibility of the NTS traffic. We have a staff of about 50 hams.

Four years ago over 200 scouts actually passed their first license exams and several scouts and scouters upgraded, even to Extra. We give exams every evening. Often have 60 or 70 people taking the exams daily! Any low band skeds we can be assured of making would probably be after midnight or ending before 7:30 a.m.

I sure enjoyed the years that we originated in excess of 4000 QTC during the jamborees! Guess that is a thing of the past."

[If you can help in any way, I'm sure Bob and the scouts would be very appreciative. This is a great opportunity that he and his staff is providing for our youth and future Amateur Radio operators.
-Ed.]

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

JULY: 21 W2EAG; 24 K5UPN

AUG: 2 N6OD; 24 KC8GMT; 30 W4VFI

RESTRUCTURING

(de WA4DOX)

From the ARRL:

ARLB024 Amateur Morse Testing Changes

New Morse code exam standards go into effect July 1...

In the wake of restructuring and the establishment of 5 WPM as the sole amateur Morse requirement...

Code practice...from...W1AW will reflect the new...standard.

Yes, I can see it now, code practice from 1 wpm (slow code) to 5 wpm (fast code), in 1 wpm increments.

In order to avoid a class-action lawsuit from the new 5 wpm General and Extra Class licensees, W1AW is going to have to stop the 18 wpm Morse bulletins and replace them with 5 wpm Morse bulletins. Otherwise, the plaintiffs will argue, they are being denied the right to listen to the CW bulletins "at their level of competency". Of course, this will require ARRL to either truncate the bulletins to fit the 5-wpm format, or to extend the time required to transmit the bulletins. Since the latter would require additional staff/overhead, the ARRL will instead opt for the former.

An example of a new CW bulletin would likely change as follows:

ORIGINAL 18 WPM CW BULLETIN:

SB QST ARL ARLB019

ARLB019 FCC puts regulatory ball in amateurs court ZCZC AG19

QST de W1AW ARRL Bulletin 19 ARLB019

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT May 25, 2001

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB019

ARLB019 FCC puts regulatory ball in amateurs court The FCC says the ball is in the court of the Amateur Service to determine the course of future Amateur Radio regulation.

Speaking May 20 at the Dayton Hamvention FCC forum, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, said that the days of Commission-imposed regulation are past.

TRUNCATED 5 WPM CW BULLETIN:

SB QST ARL ARLB019

ARLB019 FCC puts regulatory ball in amateurs court ZCZC AG19

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 19 ARLB019
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT Ma

Of course, this may lead to the loss of some vital information to the listening audience, but we all know that the only people who endure the CW bulletins are true aficionados of CW and who don't care if the CW they are copying has any substance other than unanticipated letters and numbers. For the majority of CW hacks, form is secondary to function.

A similar decision is being considered for the RTTY bulletins, that they should be slowed down from 60 wpm to 15 wpm, to follow the trend toward slowing the entire level of competency required by Radio Amateurs. Other digital transmissions, Packet, PSK, AMTOR, etc., would be equally affected by these changes. SSTV would be required to adopt a new standard, SSSTV. Fast-scan ATV would have to cut their frame rates to Slow-scan ATV. ARRL-affiliated CW contests would have to adopt new standards wherein fast CW ops would be penalized for contesting at rates above 5 wpm. Digital modes would adopt similar rule-changes.

Of course, this will obviously affect ARRL affiliated operations, such as NTS and TCC (but will not affect non-ARRL wide-coverage INDEPENDENT CW nets). For years, traffic handlers have been complaining that the level of activity, i.e. the amount of traffic brought and cleared has been dwindling, with a resultant reduction of the time-involvement with traffic nets. The new 5 wpm standard will mean that even though there is less traffic than the "good-old-days", the time involvement will be considerably longer, satisfying the desire of traffic handlers to spend even more time handling fewer messages.

The ARRL Qualifying Run, which has long been an elitist standard for Morse competency, will also have to slow down, from its 10-40

wpm standard to a new 2.5 to 10 wpm standard, or face litigation from the new licensees.

George Hart, WINJM, the designer of the ARRL National Traffic System, long associated with Morse, especially high-speed Morse, due to his past association with the ARRL, may likely have to be asked to slow his weekly high speed CW practice from 20-65 wpm to 5-16.25 wpm. This will appease the *new* Society of Wireless Pioneers, those newly-licensed Radio Amateurs who pioneered the new 5 wpm Morse standard.

The new Morse examination standards also affect test administration. After July 1, Morse examinees will have to supply fill-in-the-blank answers for the 10-question Element 1 quiz. Multiple-choice type examinations no longer will be acceptable. Under the new testing regime, Morse code examinees must either correctly answer seven of the ten fill-in-the-blanks questions or correctly copy 25 consecutive characters. This may be an unwise decision as plaintiffs in a different class-action lawsuit will contend that it is unfair to require an examinee to have to provide more information for one standard of evaluation than is required for another standard of evaluation, i.e. ten fill-in-the-blank questions requires that the examinee know ten words from the 5 wpm exam while 25 consecutive characters requires that the examinee know only five words from the 5 wpm exam. This double-standard obviously favors the examinee who is competent enough at Morse to recognize every character sent for 25 consecutive characters, and not the examinee who attempts to BS - ahem - guess - ahem - logically deduce their way into ten fill-in-the-blank answers.

Looking back over 28 years of Amateur Radio, it makes me wonder how I tolerated being made to pass a 20 wpm Morse exam in 1975. If only I had hired a lawyer

73, OBIE, WA4DOX (VNE/VSN/VNL Net Manager)...

The Bug Mystique

-KA5NNG

In tuning around the bands lately, it seems as if there are more and more bugs being used, and mostly used badly. That observation raised a number of questions in my mind about bug users and their pet keys.

For instance, why would anyone opt for a bug nowadays when there are electronic keyers, keyboards, and computer software that sends code? Then, assuming there are valid reasons for choosing to send with a bug, why is it that most of the CW you hear coming from bug users is so bad?

I think that the answer to the first question can be answered in a word: nostalgia. Answering the second question is more involved. I think that as regards relative newcomers to the bug, it is the result of listening to the bug-sent code they find on the air and then trying to duplicate what they apparently consider "real code". What they don't realize is that the bug was introduced to make the sending of higher speed CW possible or easier. With proper timings and spacings.

Unlike (landline) Morse, the timings and spacings for proper sending of the International code have been clearly defined for nearly as long as the code itself has existed. So, what happens is that the newcomers hear sending that is basically inept, and mistakenly think of it as the sound of "real code", and attempt to develop that same type of fist. Which strikes me a bit like deliberately setting out to develop a speech impediment.

Probably, there is some room to stylize your fist on a bug without going to the extremes that are commonly heard. If the sender can develop a reasonably consistent sense of timing and spacing and not alter the element lengths to extremes (such as the common practice of setting dot speeds for 50 WPM and sending 10 WPM dashes with them).

It would be kind of nice if some of the old line bug users encouraged their proteges to learn to send proper CW on their shiny new bugs before attempting stylization. In just about every area of manual skills that I can think of, the usual procedure is to first teach the basics and some sort of objective "standard" before allowing any deviations. When we were taught penmanship in grade school, we were first shown how each letter was supposed to look, and made to practice until we could duplicate those "standard" forms. Then, later, perhaps you were allowed some leeway to personalize your writing; but it still was required to be legible.

Some of the current crop of bug users remind me of the folks who never did learn how to write legibly. They don't give a thought to the difficulty of reading their CW since they don't have to copy their own sending.

A NOTE OF THANKS

From Dave, KC1DI

Just wanted to send along a thanks to all who have helped me get into the Hit and bounce slow net over the last couple of weeks. (*mid April*). My old trusty Ten Tec Century 21 lost the final transistors. So I only had about 400 Milli-watts out put there was only one day during that time that I could not check into the net. What a great group of CW ops we have.

New final arrived yesterday and have been install and are working back up to 25 or 30 watts output.

Wish I could be more active on HBN but work prevents it at this time.

[Received April 28 and was overlooked. Sorry, Dave. -Ed]