



*Newsletter of the
Ben White Memorial Nets founded 1938*

Hit and Bounce Net ~ Hit and Bounce Slow Net

NOVEMBER 2001

HBN MANAGER'S REPORT

Freedom is the last, best hope of earth.

~ Abraham Lincoln

****Happy Holidays****

In October fifty-one different stations helped our net clear 296 of 317 pieces of traffic listed and the average time per session was 31.19 minutes. An excellent accomplishment with band conditions as they were, and it looks like more of the same for a while. I just read the latest propagation report!

K8LJG tops the traffic list with 41; NG1A 35; KA8WNO 25; K2BCL 21; W2MTA 16; K8KV 14; W2EAG 12; KK3F and K1WU 11; WX4H and W8RTN 10. Perfect attendance...WX4H. K2BCL QNI 30; NR9K and K8KV 27; W2MTA and N1DHT 24; N9KHD 22; WØGRW and KK3F 21; WD8DIN and KA5NNG 20. Many thanks to all of you for bringing traffic and to everyone for being there. You're a great group!

THE SHOW MUST GO ON--- EVEN ON CONTEST DAYS! When you tune in on 7042 and hear a mass pile-up, you know it's contest time! Don't throw in the towel, just dial on up to our alternate frequency **7114Khz (+ or -)** and listen for that familiar "HBN" or an arfer callsign. There may also be a station "parked" on 7042 to head you in the right direction, providing there is a clear spot there. I understand it was a bit crowded on contest weekend this November.

FEEDBACK NEEDED about **Traffic Call**, your likes and dislikes. It's your newsletter. You have a say and any suggestions will be appreciated. Currently there are 94 people on the mailing list.

The total cost of publishing for one month is around \$80, plus or minus. (100 copies).

Ole did an evaluation from two years back and found that one-third of the people on the mailing list are keeping this newsletter going. I found the same from January of this year.

Contributions are voluntary and this is only a suggestion. Ten dollars would cover expenses per person for 12 issues. *If we go about it in this way*, some of you are already paid up for two to 8 years. If you have made contributions since January 2001, you are covered for a year (or more) from the date you sent your contribution. Note: Some have contributed enough since December 2000 to carry through 2001 and part of 2002.

However, this newsletter will be mailed every month, no matter what. 73, ARF Sis

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS: N3ON,
Chuck Punzell new address: radio@libcom.com

Ben **K8KV** is in Florida until May. Sunshine to ya Ben.

Treasury Balance Oct 19/01	28.43
To make contributions, please make checks payable to Merritt Olson, 12106 Stirrup Rd., Reston, VA 20191-2104 . Checks are preferred for purposes of record keeping. Do <u>not</u> send contributions to TRAFFIC CALL .	

NCS FOR HBN needed on Thursdays, or QNG until Lora returns. Thanks.

A Profile Update Of K5UPN
Josiah"Joe"Brown, Longview Texas

It has been several years since I did my first profile in Traffic Call. With many new hams coming into the ranks since I did my first one I figured it was time for an update.

Born July 24,1940. First licensed as a Novice April 1959 at age 18 about to graduate from High School. Upgraded to General in October 1959.

I was a DXer for several years. From 1964 until 1984 I Operated my own TV repair shop. I became somewhat inactive due to my TV Shop. Became active again in April 1978 on Central Gulf Coast Hurricane Net. My interest in traffic and emergency net operations on several nets starting with independent nets.

Served as NM of 3 nighttime independent nets. Soon my activity moved to NTS Section level net. My activity grew to the cycle 1 and 2 NTS Region and Area Net in the early 1980s. 1982 was appointed DEC of NTX District 10 ARES which I am still active in.

Served as NM of Section Phone Net more than once. In 1988 was appointed NM of CAN cycle 1 and 2 for about ten years. Became active on CW traffic Nets in 1985 helping me to upgrade from Advanced to Extra Class in 1991.

January 1,1990 organized and started Daytime NTS Texas Section Traffic and Training Net 7285KHZ for training new hams.

Served as NM of Texas Slow Speed CW NET (TSN) January 1, 2000 became TCC Director of Central Area cycle 1 and 2. I have been NM of Northeast Texas Traffic and Emergency Net. (two meters) for 22 years.

Also hold appointments in Texas State RACES. Other Interest Church: Respond to out of town visitors via Radiogram. I also volunteer in Benevolence.

Current age 61,and still a bachelor going full steam.

K5UPN... the details...

I am very active in Cycle 1 and 2 Central AREA as current TCC Director. With the current threat of Terror going on in U.S. we in the NTS are prepared

in case of a National Emergency, and ready to provide Communications via NTS in Central AREA Cycle 1 and 2 (daytime) with around the clock Emergency Communications via Central AREA Net, and the TCC.

I am also involved in Amateur Radio Emergency Service as District 10 /Gregg County Emergency Coordinator. In an Emergency I as TCC Director of Cycle 1 and 2 can set up liaison stations with nets of the wide coverage independent type such as HBN.Also I am involved as NM of Daytime Texas Traffic Net which meets one at 08:30AM Central time which is one hour after the HBN starting time.

I am also Net Manager of Northeast Texas Traffic and Emergency Net a local NTS/ARES Net. So if needed I can handle traffic going anywhere its legal to send. It has been a while since my last profile was published in Traffic Call.

73, Joe K5UPN TCC Dir Cycle 1 and 2

UPDATES on “missing” arfers-

Early in November, I phoned **Doug, K4ZB**. He sounds great, but he’s not up to climbing on the roof to work on his 40-meter antenna and there are no hams in the immediate area to help. For those of you who don’t know Doug, he is a long-time member of HBN and a superb CW operator who turned 95 years young in September. It will be good to hear him again when his antenna problem is solved. We miss you, Doug.

Bill, W4DNE, and xyl Carol are very busy building their “dream” airplane. (*Photo, page 8*). Bill says it has become a full time job which limits his ham activity. They expect to finish the project in about six months (if they hurry). Hi. Aside from that, he is president of the Triode ARC in Murphy, NC.

A big welcome back to Gary, **WB2RPW** and to **K8KFJ**, the other Garie. Nice to have both of you both back in the kennel!

Arfer K2YAI “missing” ... but only for a while.

Rig gone back wont be on for a while have a nice thanksgiving see you when my rig gets back from the shop. - Don **k2yai don7wood@aol.com**

HBN QNI OCTOBER

NG1A	FRED	MA	9	35
N1DHT	GEORGE	VT	24	6
W1KX	BILL	ME	6	
W1PEX	DAN	NH	4	
KWIU	MARCIA	MA	20	8
K1WU	DALE	MA	16	11
K2BCL	GAIL	PA	30	21
WA2CUW	TOM	NJ	7	
W2EAG	MARK	MA	10	12
W2MTA	BILL	NY	24	16
WB2RPW	GARY	NJ	14	
WA2RUE	PHIL	NY	1	
WA2YL	JAN	FL	4	5
N3COR	DON	PA	1	
N3DE	HARRY	MD	16	7
KK3F	PAT	MD	21	11
W3JKX	EARL	PA	19	2
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	PA	5	4
K3NNI	JOHN	MD	5	
N3QA	CAL	MD	9	
K3RC	BOB	OH	5	
N3SW	SCOTT	PA	1	
WA3UNX	DON	PA	18	7
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	1	2
N4ABM	OLE	VA	19	9
AA4AT	ART	VA	10	7
WA4DOX	OBIE	VA	8	5
AB4E	AB NC	19	4	
WX4H	MORT	FL	31	10
W4KFR	JIM KY	1		
AF4QZ	ADAM	SC	1	
W4VFJ	CHAS	NC	6	
W4VLL	VICVA	2		
AB4XK	CHET	FL	2	1
KA5NNG	MIKE	AR	20	
K5UPN	JOETX	6		
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	17	8
WD8DIN	SIS NC	20	1	
K8GA	JERRY	MI	3	9
K8KFJ	GARY	WV	14	
K8KV	BEN	MI	27	14
K8LJG	JOHN	MI	16	41
AA8PI	DON	MI	17	9
W8RTN	LEE	MI	15	10
WB8SIW	JIM MI	3		
KA8VWE	WALLY	OH	8	7
KA8WNO	JACK	WV	15	25
KB8ZYY	RAY	MI	3	3
KB9IOT	DAVID	OH	10	2
NR9K	AD PA	27	2	
N9KHD	ANDY	WI	22	1
WØGRW	GEB	MN	21	4

HBSN SEPTEMBER**QNI 350 QTC 133 SESSIONS 30**

NG1A	FRED	MA	15
W1KX	BILL	ME	3
KW1U	MARCIA	MA	2
K2BCL	GAIL	PA	30
VE2ED	JEAN	QC	1
KG2HA	SAM	NY	27
W2MTA	BILL	NY	27
WB2RPW	GARY	NJ	1
K2YAI	DON	NY	30
N3COR	DON	WPA	11
N3DE	HARRY	MD	19
VE3DTR	JOHN	ON	23
WA3DUH	JIM	DE	27
KK3F	PAT	MD	1
AA3GV	ERNIE	MD	11
W3JKX	EARLE	EPA	15
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	EPA	12
N3ON	CHUCK	WPA	25
WA3QNT	BOB	PA	1
W3QQ	CID	DE	29
K3RC	BOB	OH	2
WA3UNX	DON	WPA	1
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	2
W4VLL	VIC	VA	2
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	5
KA8WNO	JACK	WV	1
NR9K	AD	EPA	30
N9KHD	ANDY	WI	6

HBSN OCTOBER**QNI 367 QTC 125 SESSIONS 31**

NG1A	FRED	MA	18
W1KX	BILL	ME	6
KW1U	MARCIA	MA	1
K2BCL	GAIL	PA	30
VE2ED	JEAN	QC	3
KG2HA	SAM	NY	31
W2MTA	BILL	NY	23
WB2RPW	GARY	NJ	9
K2YAI	DON	NY	29
N3COR	DON	EPA	1
N3DE	HARRY	MD	15
VE3DTR	JOHN	ON	22
WA3DUH	JIM	MD	25
KK3F	PAT	MD	1
AA3GV	ERNIE	MD	1
W3JKX	EARLE	EPA	8
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	EPA	11
N3ON	CHUCK	WPA	30
WA3QNT	BOB	PA	4
W3QQ	CID	DE	31
K3RC	BOB	OH	1

(Continued page 4...)

WA3YLO	TONY	MD	3
W4VLL	VIC	VA	1
KA5NNG	MIKE	AR	1
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	11
WD8DIN	SIS	NC	3
K8KV	BEN	FL	1
KA8WNO	JACK	WV	2
NR9K	AD	EPA	31
N9KHD	ANDY	WI	13
WØGRW	GEB	MN	1

JOTA

Well, now that it's over, whenever I ask myself, "What did I do to help scouting this year?" - the answer is JOTA! And I am not alone in that response. On Saturday, October 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nat, N4EL, Bill, KF4RGF, and I manned three SSB stations for the 44th annual JOTA.

This year we performed this valuable public service from Camp Powhatan, which is just one part of the 18,000 acres set aside for and protected by the scouts of southwestern Virginia.

Having to NCS the Hit-and-Bounce Net from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., and afterwards standing in the "rain-locker" (shower), getting a quick breakfast of cinnamon rolls and coffee, and deciding to bring my three kids along for the day, I didn't arrive at camp until around 1500Z, just as Nat and Bill were stringing the last of three antennas.

The accommodations were pretty nice: Nat and Bill set up an IC-735 and an IC-707 inside the shack and I set up a TS-120S outside the shack on the front porch. The two of them ran off power supplies connected to the AC mains and I used a deep-cycle marine battery. Nat ran 20 meters, Bill ran 40 meters and I ran 15 meters. All of the antennas were simple dipoles, no traps, no baluns, just coax and wire. Just RG-58 coax with PL-259 connectors and just hardware store variety AWG 14 stranded wire enabled us to do an outstanding job helping the scouts of southwest Virginia make contact with radio amateurs and other scouts not only in the good old U.S. of A., but in addition my station made one contact with a JOTA station in Spixworth, Norwich, UK before the band closed to the east.

I kept 15 meters active for four hours and fifty

minutes straight through and thanks to my kids for bringing me a couple of hot dogs and bottles of water so I could man the station while the scouts chatted on the radio! I did not keep track of how many scouts stepped up to the microphone, but we had scouts lined up the whole time, so I know that all of them went home pretty excited, having communicated via Amateur Radio, all but one for the first time. The first scout on the air from my station, was Charlie, a *young* General Class licensee, who had an antenna tuner in his backpack - he knows and lives by the Scout Motto, "Be Prepared"!!! (Next month: Obie's FD adventures-see photo page 8.)

THOUGHTS ON CW KEYBOARDS

I have often wondered why it should be that some folks seem to think there is something stigmatic about using keyboards or computers for sending CW. Possibly these are the same folks who would rather bump into walls or cup their hand over their ear than wear eyeglasses or hearing aids.

I imagine that back when bugs were first introduced, there were folks who balked at using the "new fangled" gadgets instead of their trusty straight-keys. Maybe there were even some who predicted the downfall of the code due to the increased use of bugs.

Dedicated CW keyboards or computer software that performs the same function really are not much different from many other types of tools that humans use to make mechanical chores less onerous. I do think though, that a distinction should be made between those tools that make a job easier and those tools that replace completely the need for human skill. As applied to CW, most of the required skill is in the receiving; so I would draw the line between tools that assist in the sending and those that completely replace the operator and only require typing skill for full communications (as with computerized CW receive software, and all the various digital modes).

Keyboards make it much easier to send good CW. Especially for those who are beginning to feel the increasing decrepitude that is the usual concomitant of ageing; or those younger folks who

suffer from some physical affliction. You get to use eight fingers to do the work instead of just two.

Some have mentioned the expense of the equipment, but in reality, a dedicated CW keyboard costs less than a new keyer/paddle or bug, and some can function as a paddle keyer as well as a keyboard. For example, I looked in the 1998 A.E.S. catalog (the latest I have on hand), and it lists the basic MFJ Dedicated CW keyboard at \$90. That same catalog lists a basic Vibroplex bug at \$160, a basic Bencher paddle at \$88, and the cheapest MFJ keyer at \$50. Even buying the combination MFJ keyer/paddle, the price is \$135 for the set. So, it's pretty clear that equipment cost is not a reason to steer clear of keyboard CW. NOTE: Several acquaintances have reported design defects in the more elaborate MFJ keyboard controller (their model 452) and I don't know if those design faults were ever corrected, so before you consider buying that model, it would be a good idea to try to find someone who uses a recent edition of that model. I have not heard of any problems with the basic MFJ unit (their model 451). Even less expensive is to use some sort of computer program to send CW (assuming you already have a computer in the shack). I know of at least two software packages that are available for very little. One is "The Mill" by W4FOK, which can generate both regular CW and American Morse. You only need to build a really simple interface to key your radio from the computer RS-232 port (the interface description is part of the software, and consists of one transistor, one diode, and one resistor. It doesn't get much simpler than that).

Finally, I've been told that some of the older model "lap-top" computers are selling quite cheaply at ham-fests, etc. If one could be found for \$50 or so, it might make a fine CW keyboard using that W4FOK software mentioned.

My own keyboard controller also functions as a paddle keyer. The unit I use is one of several built up by my good friend and CW Elmer W5UXH. He has a web page with a description of that controller: www.home.earthlink.net/~cbroadwell, but I don't know if he still has any left to sell.



Photo of the Keyboard / Keyer mounted on a set of PS2 keys, (K6KX photo) [For more info, see website. -Ed.]

One little suggestion to anyone who decides to give keyboarded CW a trial: try to avoid the use of monster-sized transmit buffers (so-called "type-ahead" buffers). My own technique when typing CW is to type a word and then let the CW catch up, and then type the next word. I don't use the spacebar at all when typing CW. I just pause slightly at the end of the word currently being transmitted before starting to type the next one. That seems to work fine, but naturally requires that you be able to type faster than the speed of the CW being sent.

Other keyboarders do use the spacebar to make the word spaces. The main thing is to avoid using those monster-sized type-ahead buffers. The whole idea of keyboarded CW is to allow an increase in speed for conversation.....not to fill up a buffer and go for coffee while your computer sends what you typed. With a properly connected CW keyboard, you can still use full QSK (assuming your rig supports it, hi); and fast CW with full QSK can be very much like ordinary spoken conversation.

73, de KA5NNG

Please submit your articles for Traffic Call by the end of each month. For email submissions, by the 6th of the following month. TC will be mailed the second week of each month.

OLD TIME ELECTRICAL INSTRUMENTATION - KA5NNG

After reading about electrical measurements (circa 1850) using the tangent galvanometer, I wanted to experience first-hand what it was like to work with such primitive instruments. So, I decided to build one.



With the assistance of Everest W4DYW, Tom Perera W1TP, and my favorite "search injun" WD8DIN, enough information on tangent galvanometers was located so that I could put one together. Basically, the tangent galvanometer consists of a coil of wire through which the current to be measured is passed; and an ordinary magnetic compass mounted within the coil. On the unit I built, I used an inexpensive compass from the local sporting goods store and wound the coil of wire on a one-inch long "slice" of 3-inch PVC pipe. The coil winding consists of 45 close-wound turns of #26 wire. After coating the winding with clear nail polish, (Wouldn't you liked to have seen him *buying* that nail polish? –Ed.) the coil was mounted on a small wooden base with two binding posts for the coil leads to connect to. The compass is attached to another small wooden block that is notched out to fit inside the coil form such that the compass needle is located at the center of the coil.

In use, the galvanometer is first positioned so that the compass needle is at right angles to the axis of the coil. That is, the needle is parallel to the plane of the coil. This is done so that the earth's magnetic field will be perpendicular to the magnetic field generated by the coil when it is connected to the current to be measured. With the two magnetic fields at right angles, the force acting on the compass needle is effectively their vector sum.

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Since the direction of the two fields relative to each other is fixed by the positioning of the galvanometer, and since the magnetic field of the earth is constant, the deflection of the compass varies with the coil's magnetic field which in turn varies in direct proportion to the current applied. The deflection, however, is not in direct proportion to the current since it is a resultant of both magnetic fields. Instead, the deflection (by simple geometry) varies as the arctangent of the ratio of the two fields.

For example, if a given current caused the compass needle to deflect to 45 degrees, then reducing that current to one-half its value would move the compass needle to 26.6 degrees. That happens because at the 45 degree deflection, the magnetic fields of the coil and the earth are of equal magnitude (ARCTAN of 1/1 = 45 degrees); then when the current is reduced to half its original value, you have ARCTAN of 0.5/1 = 26.6 degrees. Similarly, if the current had been doubled instead of halved, you would have ARCTAN of 1/0.5 = 63.4 degrees. Since the absolute magnitude of the earth's magnetic field is an unknown, it would seem that these instruments must have been used for comparative or "relative" measurements. Playing with one of these old-time instruments sure makes you appreciate even a simple V.O.M.

Another piece of equipment that was used for measurements, and in conjunction with the galvanometer is the rheostat or variable resistor. It seems strange from today's perspective to even think about a rheostat as an "instrument", but in the mid 1800's, you couldn't zip down to your friendly Radio Shack and buy one. Hi. (*Bet you could buy nail polish, though! –Ed.*)

As a standard unit of resistance, they used a copper wire of one-millimeter diameter, and one meter length. So they would think in terms of a resistance of so many meters of the "standard" wire, or its equivalent. A typical rheostat as described in Prescott consisted of two cylinders of about 1-1/2 inches diameter and six-inches length; one of wood and the other of brass. The wooden cylinder had a spiral groove cut into its surface, like a screw thread. The two cylinders were mounted side by

side, and a wire was wrapped around the wooden one, with the wire in the spiral grooves. One end of the wire was fastened to a contact on the wooden cylinder, and the other end ran over to and was wrapped around the brass cylinder and fastened to it in like manner. Then, by turning the cylinders, the wire was made to unwrap from one cylinder and onto the other; the amount of wire left on the wooden cylinder determining the resistance presented by the rheostat (the wire on the brass cylinder being effectively shorted out by the cylinder). []

FOX SKEDS -KA8WNO

I was surprised at Mike's request for info on 'fox skeds'. Obviously, this puts me back further in time and happenings than most of us on HBN.

Never heard that the army or coast guard used fox skeds, but they were a daily fact of life in the navy in WWII. They were simply transmissions by a headquarters station that had no stations assigned to answer what was sent.

Navy hdqrs in Washington was, I believe the main station sending fox. All navy ships of any size, as well as the navy radio stations on shore, assigned a radioman, 24 hours a day, to copy these messages. All these messages were reviewed by a radio officer. There might be a lull where no messages were being sent to several minutes, depending on what the big boys in Washington had to send to what ship. Some of the messages, I think, went to all ships, some to a few special ships and others to a specific ship. Us radiomen never knew this for sure as all messages consisted of groups of 5 letters that made no sense. NSS (Washington hdqrs) transmitted at the unbelievably low freq of 18 khz! Think I hear the power was something like a million watts. We copied Nss well most of the time in the Atlantic as far as Europe and only spasmodically in the Pacific. In the summer, static was far worse than we have on 80 meters. The code speed, as I remember, was 13 wpm. The only other stations that send fox that I remember were NPM a few miles from Pearl Harbor, and GBR, a British navy station on Gibraltar. NPM had a code speed, I think, of 18 wpm on hf, and GBR fox was sent by *Traffic Call November 2001*

hand key mostly, and their code groups were four numeral groups.

Some tips - from Jack's Ladder Climbing Clinic

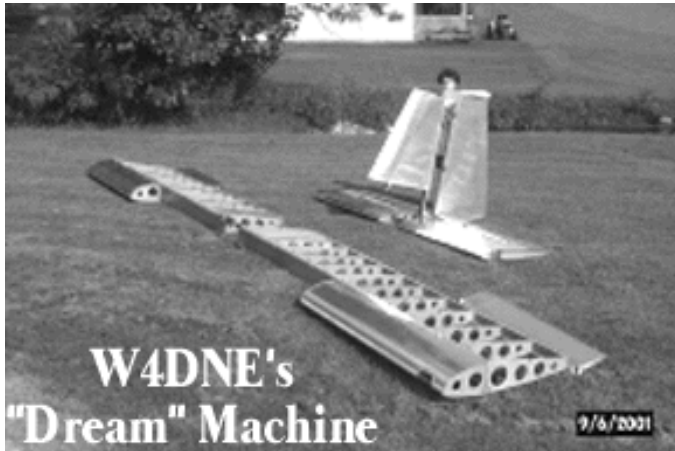
1. Chose a good ladder - 10' in height or less
2. Place bottom of ladder on ground and top against pole at 15 degree angle.
3. Tie ladder to pole as high as you can reach.
4. Break open six (6) bales of good hay.
5. Spread out 2 bales each on each side of ladder and behind lower rung of ladder.
6. With care, practice climbing.
7. When ladder twists and throws you off, try to fall on hay.
8. Take whistle from pocket and send SOS or QRR, after a back-busting, crippling fall.
9. Let net buddies know the hospital you are in.

[Thank goodness you don't have to climb a ladder to fix your keyer, Jack. -Ed] What does a NCS do when his keyer quits? Back to the basics, as Jack did ..."the show must go on." Good job. Bravo!

Jack says: In lieu of my problems with the Bencher [Nov 19], here's a little memoir type history...

Returning from a few invasions in Europe in WW2, our amphibious command bunch of guys, with Adm. Hall at the helm, returned to the states for a nice leave, then left Charleston, SC. We made our way thru the Gulf of Mexico, the Panama Canal and then to Pearl Harbor, where our ship (USS TETON) remained for about six weeks. I had handled a lot of messages to and from England from our anchorage off France during the invasion of Normandy. Us radiomen were temporarily taken off our ship and placed in a barracks near Pearl Harbor. A week or so later several of us were re-transferred to the radio station a few miles north. It was in a pretty spot at the base of the mountain, and about a mile up the road from the town--millions of pineapples on each side of the road. We were given a 4-hour watch each 24 hours and the rest of the time was pretty much ours, except that to take off anytime we wished, we had to pass a code test, both sending and receiving at 18 wpm. I passed the receiving test easily, then the CPO that was running things said, "Let's hear you send." After about a minute, he handed his earphones to a radioman beside him and said "want to hear a machine?" That was then. A machine must be kept oiled and adjusted to work properly. At least you know now that at one time I had a pretty good fist!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! November 26 K1BTD December: 1 W1EOF; 5 K4MC; 6 N4ABM; 12 WØGRW
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WA4DOX Field Day VA 2001



More about this in December TC

TRAFFIC CALL

C. L. Berry WD8DIN
 1182 Eastbrook Lane
 Hendersonville, NC 28792-6411
 Email: arfer@hitandbounce.net
injun20@hotmail.com

HBSN 3714KHz 7:30 AM Daily		
Sunday	VE3DTR	John
Monday	W2MTA	Bill
Tuesday	NR9K	Ad
Wednesday	WB5ZJN	Sam
Thursday	N3ON	Chuck
Friday	K2BCL	Gail
Saturday	N3COR	Don
HBN 7042 KHz 8:30 AM Daily		
Alt 7114		
Sunday	W2MTA	Bill
Monday	KA8WNO	Jack
Tuesday	WA3UNX	Don
Wednesday	N4ABM	Ole
Thursday	OPEN	
Friday	WD8DIN	Sis
Saturday	WA4DOX	Obie