



APRIL 2002

No. 245

Newsletter of the Ben White Memorial Nets ~ founded 1938

### W4SUS Larry Frazer Award APRIL – JUNE



### N4ABM

The W4SUS Award committee has chosen Ole, N4ABM as the next recipient of the Larry Frazer W4SUS Award. Ole has shown great dedication to HBN. Ole has a NCS spot along with his fine job as our treasurer. Using our Award criteria: Operating procedure, Net participation and traffic handled, he surely meet's and exceeds in all of these. CONGRATULATIONS Ole.....!!!

-N3DE, WA3UNX, K8LJG, Award Committee

### HBN MANAGER'S REPORT

**QNI 732 QTC 634 QSP 588**

In March, sixty-two stations did that, in spite of horrible band conditions. Who says CW and traffic nets are dying? Certainly, HBN isn't.. Our numbers are climbing. There was only one day we had 14 QNI, the rest from 20 to 30. Average time per session 41.7 minutes. Longest session 72 minutes; best day- QTC 36 listed and all cleared. Two sessions 60 minutes, one 63 and one 66. Thanks to the NCS and all arfers for staying with it and getting the job done, even when the going got rough. Excellent teamwork! Thank you.

Perfect attendance stations K2BCL and WX4H, followed by WD8DIN-29 K8LJG-28 KA8WNO-28 NR9K-28 W2MTA-27 KK3F-27 WA3UNX-26

WA2CUW-26 WØGRW-26 K8KV-24 N1OTC-24 N1DHT-23 KWIU-22 W2EAG-21 N4ABM-20 K3NNI-20 KA8VWE-19 AA8PI-19 KX8B-16 N3DE-15 AA4AT-15 W3JKX-15 KA5NNG-13 K5UPN-10 K3RC-10 NG1A-9 N3QA-9 W8RTN-9 K2GCE-9 and K2VX-9

The busiest traffic hounds were K8LJG-100 QTC; KA8WNO-83 K2BCL-76 NG1A-48 K8KV-43 N3QA-35 N4ABM-32 W8RTN-29 N1OTC-20 WA3YLO-14 N3DE-13 WA3UNX-11 and AA4AT-11.

**Two new stations** joined us in March and we hope they will return often. Welcome W4PW, Milton in VA, and W3MIY, Ron in PA.

The "Arfer News" bin is empty. Maybe next month? Profiles, news, views, etc.. Let's hear about you.

Spring is finally here. Don't forget your umbrella.

73, ARF -Sis

### HIT AND BOUNCE SLOW NET

#### MANAGER'S COMMENTS

**C.M. (SAM) Shearer, WB5ZJN, Mgr.**  
**Charles (Chuck) Punzell, N3ON, Asst. Mgr**

There were thirty-one greatly appreciated hams who checked in this March. We developed a QNI of 429 and a QTC of 132 – less traffic this month but an increase of 73 check-ins. Top honors this month go to John, VE3DTR, with perfect attendance; others close behind were Gail, K2BCL, and Cid, W3QQ (30); Sam, KG2HA, and Sam, WB5ZJN (29); Don, K2YAI, and Ad, NR9K, (28); Bill, W2MTA (27); Chuck, KX8B (26); Chuck, N3ON (25); Jim, WA3DUH (23). As always, if you were able to checked in only once, your participation is greatly appreciated. HBSN will not exist unless you are there. Thanks to everyone for your continued participation. (continued page 2)

**News:** No news from our ARF'ers this month, so not much to report. Surely, you guys have something interesting going on in your lives. Share it!

My spring break was this past week. Wow, is this what retirement is like? If so, bring it on. Actually, I'm not ready for retirement. Except for the "administriva," I'm having a great time teaching and conducting my students. Someday, perhaps, but not yet...

My son, Christopher, was up from Florida, and he and I build a dolly for my TIG welder. Now I can move this 300 pound elephantine monster around the shop. I had almost an entire week of working on my airplane (rebuilt landing gear, breaks, and tail wheel). It doesn't look like I did much, but it was several days of fixing little things, all of which is important. I'm hoping to have the frame bead blasted to clean off the old primer and rust, then I will spray it with epoxy primer to seal the metal from corrosion.

My son and I jointly purchased a high-volume-low-pressure (HVLP) sprayer. You save about 40% of your paint with this kind of system, plus the HVLP is much more environmentally friendly. I will save several hundred dollars in paint cost by using this equipment. But, man, these little duds are expensive!

Well, enough of this blubber. See guys, this is what you get when you don't send me something about you. 73, Sam, WB5ZJN

### **NIMHH STUDY RELEASED**

The NIMHH has just released the results of a recently conducted study of CW operators. The NIMHH (National Institute for Mentally Healthy Hams) is a charitable organization founded by means of a grant from 73's Wayne Green. (Who no doubt seeks to establish that his often stated opinion "CW rots your brain" is scientifically sound.)

The study investigated the psychological health of a random sample of amateur CW operators. Much of the investigative work was performed by former maritime CW operators who themselves are undergoing treatment for the psychological trauma

associated with CW withdrawal (arising from the demise of CW in the maritime services). While the use of recovering CW addicts in such a role may seem strange, the experts at NIMHH explain that it is actually a form of therapy for the individuals involved; a sort of "methadone program" for CW addicts as it were. The actual study was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Singh L. Cydebann of the NIMHH staff, who has previously authored studies describing the relationship between those amateur radio operators with an irrepressible desire for an antenna SWR of "1 to 1" and their upbringing by "perfectionist parents".

The study results established that there is a definite correlation between CW operation and a general deterioration or degeneration of brain tissue in the study subjects. The symptoms of this condition, (formally known as Intra-cranial Necrosis, but commonly called "going brain dead") are many and varied. Some of the more common symptoms observed in the study subjects were:

1. Aimless wandering about when away from the radio equipment while muttering such things as "CW Forever", "CW shall rise again", or "CW gets through when other modes fail".

2. Involuntarily interpreting common household or workplace sounds as if they were Morse code signals.

3. Involuntary loss of control of the fingers of the hand used to manipulate the sending device, resulting in indecipherable transmissions. (Oddly, as often as not, the operator on the receiving end of such indecipherable transmissions took no apparent note of the total lack of an intelligible incoming signal. NIMHH plans a future study to look into this phenomenon).

4. A tendency, when actually engaged in the use of radio-telegraphy, towards incoherent babbling or sometimes coherent drivelling. Often the drivelling manifests itself as a repetition or re-transmission of each comment received from the other operator; each such repetition being preceded by the words "OK on.....". (Occasionally, during the course of the study, it happened that the operators at both ends of the communication being observed were suffering from advanced AICN. When that situation arose, the observed communications were characterized by the investigators as the "barber shop mirror mode".) It was also noted that there was a definite correlation

between the number of "CW hours" spent by the study subjects and the progression of the AICN. The relationship between cause and effect was decidedly non-linear, with the resulting AICN increasing in severity exponentially at the higher exposures. It was also observed that the degenerative effects were increased at the higher CW speeds of operation. The study included a number of graphs representing the progression of the AICN as a function of CW hours/speed. In those extreme cases where a subject spent many hours a day operating CW at the higher speeds, the slope of those graphs approached a vertical line.

In an appendix to the study, Dr. Cydebann discusses treatment of and remedial measures for AICN. The basic approach to treating the less extreme cases is a gradual reduction of the exposure to CW. This can be accomplished by either reducing the actual operating time, or in cases where the AICN is more advanced, by reducing the speed at which the CW is utilized while holding the operating time constant. Dr. Cydebann emphasizes that no sudden and total withdrawal from CW should be attempted as the effects of such sudden CW deprivation are totally unpredictable in most cases.

Summarizing, the study does seem to confirm that CW operating and especially high-speed CW operating indeed will rot your brain.

In Mike's article "MORE ABOUT FOX SKEDS" last month, the following paragraph was omitted. My apologies to A B and Mike.

**From AB4E (ca 1949-50)**

"I think 'FOX' was a broadcast schedule on specific frequencies at certain times each day, usually lasting about five minutes at a CW speed between 18 & 22 WPM." "They broadcast important (not necessarily urgent) information such as a harbor closed to traffic, a radio beacon out of service, runway closed for repairs, and other notices of interest to all ports and ships at sea." "When the transmission was completed, the broadcast station stated: 'next broadcast at (\_\_\_\_)' and signed off."

**Back issues of Traffic Call** on the internet at <http://www.hitandbounce.net>. with links to photos and Award-Rooa-Dob page, which has a photo of the W4SUS paddles. Feb issue has links to picnic photos.

**Re: FOX SKEDS**

When I was in service an F in the heading of a message meant "do not reply". This was for security purposes. It was used on both land and sea so the receiver could not be located. -N9KHD

**Re: FOX**

I was first licensed in Morocco Africa in 1966. Was a radio operator in the Navy and sent out a FOX - broadcast for about three years from NHY. So... here is my input to the FOX syndrome. In the 1930s and up to the 1970s every letter of the alphabet was a type of communications. A-broadcast meant a certain thing and B-broadcast meant another ETC. They needed a method to send info out to ships and land base stations without a reply. F--Method was the one they picked and it meant the receiving station was not to reply. Mostly due to security reasons ETC..... Thus F--method became FOX--method or FOX broadcast... The F-Method was a diversion from the regular way of communicating.

-WA3JXW

**EAN CHAUVANISM**

Chauvinism is alive and well in the EAN. Sometimes, it appears to me as if the folks in the EAN believe that the NTS is an eastern structure.

Contrary to what you may have heard, the NTS hierarchy really does exist outside of the EAN boundary.

It always gets my attention when I hear an NCS diligently routing traffic for EPA to an EPA station and WPA to a WPA station, and then a minute or so later routes Texas traffic via Minnesota. It's as if the NCS thinks that every location outside of the EAN is interchangeable.

Believe it or not, we too have section nets, region nets, and area nets, just like you folks in the east. Hell. some of us out here in the territories even have electric lights and indoor toilets.

Even though the traffic we are handling these days is basically "junk mail", it still seems to me that we ought to be staying in the habit of routing traffic to whatever station on the net is closest to the destination. That means, at least trying to get it to a station in the appropriate region. I don't recall ever hearing a NCS route Pennsylvania traffic via 4RN, and actually that is no different than routing Texas to 9RN or TEN (assuming that there is a RN5 station present). -KA5NNG

**RADIO FINGERPRINTING** By Prof. Gary P. Cain, W8MFL – From XBLCD, the OSS Commvets newsletter, published monthly by Jim, W4KFR [reprinted with permission]

Radio fingerprinting came into practice with the introduction of landline telegraph in the 1800's. The ability to recognize the unique touch of a telegraph key, and thus the operator doing the transmitting, became a common practice among all telegraph operators. Commercial, amateur and military operators quickly grew to recognize the distinctive 'fist' of the sending operator, a mark as distinctive as his signature or voice.

**TINA** -The ability to recognize a radio operator by his distinctive style of

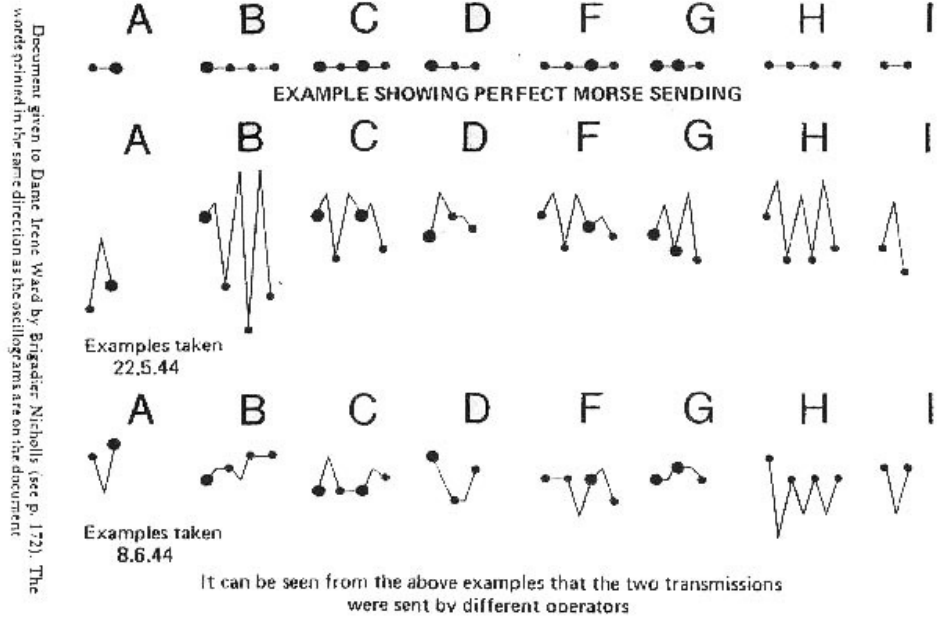
sending was immediately used by the clandestine service to prevent deception as their operator could be determined with certainty – it was thought. Later, this technique would be used to track an enemy operator as he moved about, and hence the ship or military unit he was known to be a member of could be followed. Another cause of deception in secret warfare was the ability of one operator to perfectly duplicate the sending style of a captive enemy radio operator, this allowing the feeding of false information to the enemy who thought he was listening to his own agent.

The clandestine service, especially the British SOE, sought to use the unique fist of their operators as a security check. These operators, deep into enemy territory, were in great danger of being captured and forced to transmit false information to their home stations. To ascertain that the sending operator was indeed who he seemed to be, his fist had to be verified. The British technique of verifying and agent's fist was known as "TINA".

Before being sent into enemy territory, the radio operator would transmit a test message, which would be recorded and examined on the cathode ray tube of an oscilloscope. The spacing between the dots and dashes and the spacing between characters would generate a unique pattern of that individual operator's fist. This display of the sending pattern would be photographed for later reference. An example of this display is included (above).

This system of authentication was used from 1943 on with considerable success. Each operator was "finger printed" monthly and resulted in an entirely reliable method of verifying the identity of the transmitting operator. Any change of operators was immediately detected by the home station.

One would think the fear and tension of operating a clandestine station behind enemy lines would affect the operator's sending pattern but it did only to a minor degree, and not enough to nullify TINA. The general pattern of the general pattern of the operator's sending persisted. (Lorain 1983, p.171.)



Attempts to disguise one's fist do not appear to be successful (Sterling 1990 p.97) tells of a German operator in South America who was silent for over a year. He resumed transmitting to Germany using his left hand to change his fist. He also changed his call sign. These changes were to no avail and he was quickly identified and caught. This true incident is also briefly mentioned in Moonraker (Fleming 1955 p.13).

**Tracing operators-** There have been numerous instances of ships, aircraft and military units being tracked by the fists of their radio operators and their locations plotted.....the Germans tracked the American 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division from Italy to England shortly before D-Day . The Germans were keenly aware that an elite division such as the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne would play a key part in the initial stages of the invasion. Thus, the discovery of this division would be a key indicator of the pending action.

The British thought the technique of tracking organizations by the fists of their assigned operators was so valuable that their Y service developed a card index file for every recognizable enemy radio operator (West 1986 p. 153). By this method each operator's geographical movements, his different assigned call signs and his idiosyncrasies would be cataloged for later reference.

As any competent intelligence officer knows, the enemy will expend considerable time, money and effort to monitor the transmissions of his opposition. Thus developed a fairly common practice in the Second World War of leaving the organizations radio operators behind to transmit dummy traffic while the ship or unit, with new and different operators, travels to the new destination. (Kahn 1979 p.201). The transmission of dummy traffic was also used to deceive the enemy into recognizing entire organizations that in reality didn't exist. Perhaps the best known example of this was General George Patton's notational First Army Group (FUSAG) transmitting fake traffic from East Anglia in the days preceding the D-Day invasion. The purpose of this ruse was to allow the Germans to recognize the known fists of FUSAG's operators and then plot their location using RDF. The Germans were then misled to believing that General Patton's army was a real entity, this it was located in East Anglia across the English Channel from Calais, and that the invasion was not imminent. In this, the deception was completely successful.

**Imitating an Enemy's fist -** As mentioned earlier, fists can and have been imitated. A good example of this from the clandestine war is the William Sebold affair of 1940. Sebold was a naturalized American citizen who was lured into working for the Abwehr. At the first opportunity he contacted the American authorities and revealed his orders. As a patriotic American he agreed to serve his adopted country as a double agent.

Sebold's German controllers ordered him to establish a radio station to act as the communicator for a ring of approximately 30 German spies operating in the New York City area. The FBI established his station on Long Island.

The station transmitted CW on 14 MHz and imitated an amateur radio station working DX on the 20 meter amateur band. CQDXVW2 and he was seeking contact with AOR in Hamburg. As the U.S. was not yet in the war, its amateur operators were still operating on ham frequencies as before.

The FBI would not allow Sebold to actually key the transmitter, so the station was operated by FBI special agent Morris Price who held a Class A amateur radio license. He successfully imitated Sebold's fist during many QSOs with Hamburg over a 15-month period of time. (Sterling 1990 p. 82). This affair has been somewhat realistically depicted in the 1945 movie, *The House on 92nd Street*.

Following the successful imitation of Sebold's fist and the consequent catastrophe to German intelligence, the Germans then began to record the CW sending patterns of its agent operators before dispatching them to the field, much as the British did with their TINA system. (Sterling 1990 p. 91.)

**The British Double Cross System-** The British also had success in imitating the fist of captured agents. At the beginning of the war, the Germans sent many spies into Britain by a variety of means. Most carried small wireless sets with which to radio information back to Germany. As the British were fully informed of the arrival of these via Ultra intercepts, all were captured on or shortly after arrival in Britain.

The captured German agents were then given a choice: To work for the English and transmit false information to their former masters, or to be executed. Most, but not all, chose the former. Most of these now-turned agents were allowed to actually key their transmitters but some were imitated by British military or naval signal men (Masterman 1972 p. VIII). The ruse was completely successful; the Germans never caught on.

Although most of the captured German operators were allowed to key their own transmitters under close supervision, the need to be able to successfully imitate the fists of these captured agents was always extant. It appeared that the war would be a long one and the possibility of a captured agent refusing to cooperate, becoming seriously ill or dying was always a possibility. For these reasons their fists were studied and a standby operator was available (Masterman 1972 p XV).

The ease of imitating an operator's fist caused the SOE and the OSS much concern. No longer could a signal with the correct keying pattern, as verified by TINA, be known as genuine; anyone could be at the key, or the operator could be operating under duress. The solution was the insertion of one or more security checks.

The security checks took two forms: early in the war, when both transmission and reception occurred at the same time, the home station would ask a question such as "What is your mother's name?" -if all was well, the correct answer would be something totally illogical such as "Tonight at six o'clock." Later, when the radio security service adopted the naval "FOX" procedures, transmissions from enemy locations were done during the day and reception was done at night. The security check consisted of a deliberate mistake such as every twelfth letter sent as a Q, or the sixth word deliberately misspelled (Lorain 1983 p 168).[]

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### TO NCS AND SUBS

When sending stations off frequency, to avoid QRMing the Queen Bee Net, try not to send stations "down 4". QBN meets on 7038 around 8-8:30 AM eastern time and that frequency is usually quite busy. Also, if around 9 AM, try to "bounce" over W1AW's morning transmission on 7047.

### Passing Traffic-

When passing traffic, the receiving station, in order to dodge QRM, must pick the frequency [plus or minus the assigned frequency] - not the sending station. -K3NNI

### HELP WANTED

Hit and bounce Net needs NCS for Thursdays (or Fridays, if Thursday is not convenient). Name your day and we will work something out.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY-** April: 21 KF1L; 21 WB4FDT. MAY: 22 K8LJG; 23 AA4AT; 24 AA4YV; 26 WA3YLO; 28 KA8WNO; 31 W8RTN.

**Looking back...** The first issue of the Traffic Hounds' newsletter (then called "Morning Watch") was published February 1956 after 23 sessions of Morning Watch. Forty-seven stations

had checked in, and attendance for the 23 sessions averaged fourteen. They met on 3540KHz Monday through Friday, 0700-0745 EST. Watchdogs: W4IA, Ev Battey, Editor and W4PL, Ben White.

### Treasurer's Report

#### Ole, N4ABM Treasurer

Balance Mar 12/02	74.09
Mar 19/02	K8LJG 20.00
Mar 28/02	WA3JWX 15.00
Expenditures for Jan/02 TC (-83.37)	
Balance Apr 9/02	25.72

When making contributions, please make checks payable to **Merritt W. Olson, 12106 Stirrup Rd. Reston VA 20191-2104**. Checks are preferred for purposes of record keeping. Do not send contributions to the editor.

We are most grateful for your donations.

**HIT AND BOUNCE SLOW NET MARCH REPORT**

C.M. (SAM) SHEARER, WB5ZJN, MANAGER  
 CHARLES (CHUCK) PUNZELL, N3ON, ASST. MANAGER

QNI 429 QTC 132 SESSIONS 30

CALL	NAME	STATE	QNI
NG1A	FRED	MA	15
KC1DI	DAVE	DE	3
W1KX	BILL	ME	5
K1WU	MARCIA	MA	1
K2BCL	GAIL	NY	30
W2EAG	MARK	MA	2
KG2HA	SAM	NY	29
W2MTA	BILL	NY	27
K2VX	DAVE	NJ	7
K2YAI	DON	NY	28
N3AO	CARTER	PA	7
N3COR	DON	WPA	12
N3DE	HARRY	MD	10
VE3DTR	JOHN	ON	31
WA3DUH	JIM	DE	23
KK3F	PAT	MD	2
W3JKX	EARLE	EPA	15
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	EPA	12
N3ON	CHUCK	WPA	25
WA3QNT	BOB	WPA	4
W3QQ	CID	DE	30
WA3UNX	DON	WPA	1
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	4
W4VLL	VIC	VA	5
WB5ZJN	SAM	OH	29
KX8B	CHUCK	OH	26
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	1
WD8DIN	SIS	NC	14
NR9K	AD	EPA	28
N9KHD	ANDY	WI	2
K9PUI	DICK	IN	1

**HIT AND BOUNCE NET MARCH**

CALL	NAME	STATE	QNI	QTC
NG1A	FRED	MA	9	48
N1DHT	GEORGE	VT	23	1
KC1DI	DAVE	ME	2	
W1KX	BILL	ME	6	
N1OTC	JACK	MA	24	20
KWIU	MARCIA	MA	22	5
K1WU	DALE	MA	1	
K2BCL	GAIL	PA	31	76

WA2CUW	TOM	NJ	26	6
W2EAG	MARK	MA	21	9
K2GCE	BILL	NY	9	
WB2GTG	BILL	NY	4	3
K2GWN	JACK	NY	4	4
W2MTA	BILL	NY	27	9
WB2RPW	GARY	NY	5	
K2VX	DAVID	NJ	9	2
K2YAI	DON	NY	1	
WA2YL	JANICE	FL	1	1
N3COR	DON	PA	1	
N3DE	HARRY	MD	15	13
KK3F	PAT	MD	27	6
K3FT	CHUCK	MD	4	
W3JKX	EARL	PA	15	
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	PA	8	2
VE3MG	RICK	ON	1	1
K3MIY	RON	PA	1	1
K3NNI	JOHN	MD	20	5
N3QA	CAL	MD	9	35
K3RC	BOB	OH	10	
N3SW	SCOTT	PA	1	
WA3UNX	DON	PA	26	11
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	4	14
N4ABM	OLE	VA	20	32
AA4AT	ART	VA	15	11
WA4DOX	OBIE	VA	6	8
AB4E	AB	NC	1	1
WX4H	MORT	FL	31	8
W4KFR	JIM	KY	1	
AF4QZ	ADAM	SC	1	
W4VFJ	CHAS	NC	4	
W4VLL	VIC	VA	7	1
AB4XK	CHET	FL	2	1
KA5NNG	MIKE	AR	13	
K5UPN	JOE	TX	10	
WB5ZJN	SAM	OH	1	
KX8B	CHUCK	OH	16	
WD8DHC	MIKE	NC	1	
WD8DIN	SIS	NC	29	9
K8GA	JERRY	MI	2	1
K8KV	BEN	MI	24	43
K8LJG	JOHN	MI	28	100
AA8PI	DON	MI	19	3
W8RTN	LEE	MI	9	29
WB8SIW	JIM	MI	2	
KA8VWE	WALLY	OH	19	5
KA8WNO	JACK	WV	28	83
KB8ZYY	RAY	MI	2	2
KB9IOT	DAVID	WI	2	
NR9K	AD	PA	28	1
N9KHD	ANDY	WI	7	
K9PUI	DICK	IN	5	1
WØGRW	GEB	MN	26	3

**QTC WIPEX:**  
**Any traffic received for Dan,WIPEX , please forward to him via email: w1pex@aol.com**

HBSN 3714 KHz 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
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	
Friday	WD8DIN	Sis
Saturday	WA4DOX	Obie

# TRAFFIC CALL

C. L. Berry WD8DIN  
 1182 Eastbrook Ln.  
 Hendersonville, NC 28792-6411  
[arfer@hitandbounce.net](mailto:arfer@hitandbounce.net)  
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