Hit and Bounce Net   TRAFFIC CALL   Hit and Bounce Slow Net

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TRAFFIC HANDLERS' PICNIC * AUGUST 2 AND 3

GREATER BUFFALO HAMFEST & EXPOSITION *   WNY ARRL SECTION CONVENTION *   AUGUST 4

Details on page 7

MANAGER'S COMMENTS HBN

The band was rough for the most part, but as usual, you arfers came through and cleared 412 of 427 pieces of traffic. Fifty different stations brought a total QNI of 578. Best traffic day was June 10, QTC 33/31; worst day June 23 (contest day) QNI 7, QTC 11/18. Longest session was 67 minutes on June 19. Average per session 37.5 minutes.

Listing ten or more were: Jack, KA8WNO 69; K8LJG 67; K2BCL 48; NG1A 31; W8RTN 28; KW1U 23; K8KV 2Ø; N3QA 19; AA4AT 16; WA3UNX 13 and N4ABM 11.   **QNI 1Ø or more days:**   K2BCL 29; WD8DIN 28; W2MTA 27; KA8WNO 26; WX4H 25; K8LJG 23; AA8PI 23; KK3F 2Ø;   WØGRW 2Ø; K8KV 18; KA5NNG 18; KX8B 17; K3MIY 15; KA8VWE 15; W3JKX 15; N3QA 14; WA3UNX 14; KW1U 13; AA4AT 13; N4ABM 13; K4IWW 13; K3NNI 13; W8RTN 11. Thanks to everyone who checked in.

We're pleased to have Van, **W1WCG** and Al, **KJ3E** back with us, and **welcome** to our new stations, **K4FUM**, Jere in **GA** and **VE3ABG**, Joe in **ON**.

73, ARF -Sis

Kennel News

NIDHT and **KC1DI** have rig problems. Hopefully both will be back with us by the time you read this. Hurry back, guys.

Reminder: Please submit your material for the August issue by July 31 or August 4 at the latest. I will be leaving on August 8. Thanks.

A couple of our arfers had some fun in the sun this month. Ole, **N4ABM** took a two week trip to Brazil and Maine, and John **K3NNI** went camping. Glad to have you back safe and sound.

Welcome back to Don, **WB8KPE**, who was absent for some time due to antenna restrictions at his QTH in WPA.

A B, AB4E reports that he is on oxygen therapy and was recently diagnosed with severe osteoporosis. I'm sure he would enjoy hearing from the arfers. He is active in a local ham club, and is still making daily trips to the hospital for treatment. I'm sure he would enjoy hearing from the arfers. His address is 117 Toney Rd., Bostic, NC 28018. Email abbrackett@blueridge.net

K4FUM

I was first licensed as a Novice (KN4FUM) in 1959 and upgraded to General (K4FUM) three months later. Then in 1976, I upgraded to Extra.

In 1976 I was the Route Manager (Net Manager) for the Kentucky CW Net (KYN). Then in 1977 I was transferred to Louisville and could not have a HF antenna on my lot. So, switched to VHF and UHF FM.

Later, I was transferred to Birmingham, AL and then to Atlanta in 1990. I installed a HF antenna at my QTH here, however, I still was not active on HF.

Since my daily commute to work is now about an hour each way, I got a FT-100D for my truck this past December. I started monitoring HF and got interested again in CW and started working CW DX while mobile. That took some practice because I could never copy CW very well in my head. HI.

In May, I started participating in the Georgia CW Net (GSN) and have been enjoying handling traffic again. I also, monitored HBN for several weeks before I checked in on Saturday and Sunday a couple weeks ago.

EAN-4RN-VA Nets - Daily NTS Cycle

An e-mail I received [from] Ole, N4ABM, kindly reminded me that I had neglected EAN/3 which meets daily at 5:30 p.m. on 3670 kHz. Bill, W2MTA, had previously told me about this odd cycle of EAN that still meets, despite Cycle 3 not being used for other Area/Region nets. (cont pg 2)…

I never thought much about why EAN/3 exists until last evening, after I had already finished my usual Tuesday schedule, VSN NCS, 4RNE NCS, 4RN TX/RX liaison to EAN, 4RNL NCS and VNL NCS, a weekly five net bout that keeps me busy from 7 p.m. until 10:15 p.m., often non-stop.

Why do I continue to abuse myself by taking so many back-to-back skeds week after week? The answer is simple. In a word, or at least to those of us who think of it as a word, "CW", pronounced "seedoubleyou". When I looked closely at Ole's e-mail, I realized then why I had not previously been able to understand the reason behind EAN/3's existence. The evidence was clear, as I re-read his note and saw "3670/7050" staring back at me from the screen. Of course! It was so simple. Until last night, I didn't realize that EAN/3 was a CW net. Duh. Double-duh. Triple-duh. Qua... oh I guess you get the idea – I was stunned by my own stupidity - or maybe just my ignorance of the fact that EAN/3 was not a typical afternoon SSB traffic net. Final duh.

So back to the self-abuse, ahem, CW that is. Why I like Ham Radio is that I have discovered within me a desire to communicate by one of the most basic means available - the original digital wireless mode - and I have discovered that I am not alone in my pursuit of happiness. Indeed, there are thousands just like me who enjoy this sliver, if it is even a sliver anymore, of the wonderful hobby of wireless communication, Amateur Wireless Communication, that is. All of the Commercial Wireless Communications experts can naysay CW as an outmoded, inefficient mode of wireless communications, but I think there are many like myself who would argue to the last di-dah that CW is more than just a mode, it is more like a habit. Of course, there are also thousands of XYLs and XYMs who would argue that it is a bad habit, but if they're not as involved with CW as the aficionados like myself are, they just don't understand the passion for a good CW session, be it traffic handling, a contest or just a casual QSO.

Like any habit, the CW habit needs feeding. The heroin user must get a routine fix or they go nuts and begin withdrawal. The CW hack must do the same thing. Luckily, CW is not a costly drug, and can be found in any shack, but to be enjoyed, it must be taken in routine doses, not to exceed great margins of time, else withdrawal symptoms may occur. I think that this habit might explain the existence of EAN/3.

The CW hacks, who abhor SSB, some of whom probably don't even own a microphone, need EAN/3 to clear their QTC - period. Others, who just need a fix, QNI EAN/3 to inject their routine dose of CW. Many - most? - traffic handlers are not young-uns like myself at a mere 52 years of age, but are seasoned veterans who may likely sleep as late as 3 p.m., missing EAN/2, or they might be mall-walking for exercise, or mowing the lawn, or out on the "back-nine" trying to finish a round of golf, or just taking a much-needed break in the hammock outside, beneath the shade trees. Thus EAN/3 is their "well-kept secret" to personal satisfaction as a traffic handler, especially if they are a hard-core CW traffic handler, as I am. Since I'm not of retirement age, I usually don't leave work before 5:30 and often not before 6:30, thus for a dozen or more years into my future, I won't become acquainted with the EAN/3 group, but I have been convinced by both Ole and Bill that EAN/3 is a popular CW traffic net, therefore I would be remiss if I didn't include it in my description of the EAN NTS, as it pertains to the Virginia Section NTS.: http://filebox.vt.edu/users/pob/vn/EAN-4RN-VA_Nets.pdf

If you haven't already tried out EAN/3, I recommend you do so whenever you can. I will place odds that you will discover yet another excellent group that shares your CW traffic handling interests. If you have QTC to clear and can't make VSBN at 6 p.m., or you can't make VN at 7 p.m., or if you are in a rush to clear your out-of-section/out-of-area traffic one cycle early, then QNI EAN/3 and clear your QTC before the sun sets!   73, Obie WA4DOX

A Little NTS History for the Buffs

Obie's musing about EAN Cycle 3 caused me to start to reminisce. Of course NTS Cycle 3 in Eastern Area has been to some degree in operation since 1975, when I started a session of 2RN at 1830 local on 3930 kHz to provide an outlet for the NJ and NY SSB nets to feed to EAN Cycle 4.

That subject of having Eastern Area Net of NTS in a Cycle 3 time slot operation has its roots in the year 1972. (cont…)

That's when ARRL Communications Manager Geroge Hart, W1NJM, gave a green light to a daytime NTS operation test run with appointment of Area and Region Net Managers, who set up Region and Area Nets on Single Sideband on the forty and seventy-five meter bands.

Here in NJ-NY the new 2RN appointment was to WA2RYD (later W2TV) in New Jersey. At the time here W2MTA was NYS CW Net Manager and Howie W2FR was the 2RN "evening cycle" Manager.

I recall being asked by WA2RYD to provide CW operators to support "his" operations, but I don't recall giving a positive response. I had figured there must be a skad of SSB ops just biting at the bit to take on the "daytime" jobs. And I guess I was about right cuz a lot of new faces appeared between '72 and '74.

Those were the days of having both Area Nets in "daytime" for Eastern, Cenrtral and Pacific Areas and the Continental Traffic Net, which became quite controversial until the CTN shutdown in 1976 in favor of "daytime" TCC skeds. (See QST issues for January and February 1977 Public Service column information and pictures from the October 1976 meeting of the NTS Eastern Area Staff with CM W1NJM who retired in 1978.)Eastern Area Staff had started efforts in 1975 to propose that which became today's multiple cycle plan for NTS, first fully presented to the new CM John Lindholm, W1XX, at the Traffic Handlers' Picnic here in Newark Valley in August 1979. This all culminated in the combined Central, Eastern and Pacific Area Staffs' Meeting, chaired by Bud K2KIR, at Newington in November 1979. (See QST April 1980 Public Service column information and pictures.)

Thus with a great wailing and gnashing of teeth, especially in Pacific Area, the four cycle NTS plan was begun with Cycles 2 and 4 in all three Areas (by early 1981 in Pacific finally). In October 1981 the Eastern Area Staff, at a meeting in Richmond VA, urged continued expansion of the cyclic operations.

Cycles 1 and 3 would at first be activated as needed in time of NTS overload, e.g. during SET. The actual startup of Cycle 3 here in the Eastern Area and then later Cycle 1 in Pacific Area (that to expedite eastbound traffic) would not be implemented until 1985.

Eastern Area then had 1RN, 2RN and 3RN holding daily Cycle 3 sessions as of December 1985 (2RN since 1975). The 4RN, 8RN and 11RN (ECN) never have held a continuous Cycle 3, despite numerous encouragements by both the EAS and the CM. Eastern Canada Net of course has always had a severe manpower shortage and today still struggles just to keep two sessions of Cycle 4 ECN going.

So folks, nuf of that stuff, next time, if there is a next time, I'll tell the sad secrets of NTS and the packet radio mode development prior to the development of Clover. –W2MTA

The Many Colors of QTC -WA4DOX

John Unger, W4AU, asked an excellent question ("I was unsure of how to list my traffic last night on the vnl….") ….the answer isn't exactly carved into stone tablets at ARRL HQ, so I thought I'd share my experiences with all of you traffic handlers who might be interested in knowing what an NCS wants to hear when someone checks in with traffic for the net, or with traffic for beyond the net's geographical reaches.

When I'm NCS, I don't care how someone lists QTC - just so long as they bring something to the net to keep the rest of us busy - HI HI.

The *widely accepted* method for listing traffic on any net is first to consider the net and then to consider the destination for the traffic. Keep in mind that QTC changes its colors, depending on where in the cycle it is brought into the system.

If you are checking into a Virginia Section net, any QTC for VA should be listed first. Any QTC for a regular net participant should be listed next and any out-of-section QTC should be listed last. [Recall the EAN-4RN-VA_Nets file for the order in which the nets meet,and which nets follow which nets in the cycle: http://filebox.vt.edu/users/pob/vn/EAN-4RN-_Nets.pdf]

If you were listing your PA QTC on HBN, you would use the 3RN method described above, "QTC EPA 1" or "QTC WPA 1" since HBN usually has good representation from both PA Sections, and if not, then whichever PA Section station is QNI, they will gladly QSP your EPA or WPA QTC.

HBN meets daily on 7042 kHz at 8:30 a.m. If that is too late for your early-morning schedule, HBSN meets daily on 3714 kHz at 7:30 a.m. I was able to QNI HBSN this morning and clear your Harrisburg QTC to K2BCL, thus it didn't have to wait for the VTN at 1 p.m.

The HBSN and HBN are closely guarded secrets of top traffic handlers. The folks who participate in these independent wide-coverage nets are the "creme de la creme" of traffic handlers, encompassing the entire gamut of representation. Many of the participants are Net Managers, Section Traffic Managers and even Section Managers.

The advantage of the HBSN and the HBN are that they bridge the gap between the last evening NTS nets and the first daylight NTS nets. They keep traffic moving through the system even when the system isn't officially active.

This is something to keep in mind when you have a hot piece of traffic, or when you can't make the following Section, Region, or Area nets. You can QNI HBSN or HBN, clear your QTC asap and often be QNXd within a minute or two after receiving a QSL. I'm the Saturday HBN NCS. Stop in and bring some traffic and be just as willing to take some away. You're always welcome on the HBN!

Assume that you were checking into EAN. Then your PA QTC would be listed "QTC 3RN 1". If instead you had CAN or PAN QTC, you had better be sure you are in EAN/2 or EAN/4 since I'm not sure that EAN/3 has CAN and PAN representation - at least TCC doesn't cover cycle 3. That's not to say that someone won't volunteer to take your CAN or PAN QTC on EAN/3, it's just that there's no guarantee that they will.

Other Sections have their preferences. Find out which method causes less confusion to the NCS and

use it. Listen to how others check in and how they list their traffic. You'll know that it causes confusion if the NCS keeps asking you to repeat your QTC - HI. All of the nets in which I participate, Virginia, Fourth Region, Eastern Area, Central Area and Hit-and-Bounce use the QTC - DESTINATION - NUMBER method that I have described above.   –Obie

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Treasurer's Report
Ole, N4ABM, Treasurer

Balance June 1/02   38.82

Jun 18/02 W8RTN $20
Balance June 29/02   58.82

Jul 2/02 WF1M $20
Jul 9/02 WA3DUH $25

        Balance Jul 14/02   103.82

        Expenditures for Mar/02 TC   -83.47

        Balance July 15/02   20.35

            Unpaid bills: April TC $82.61
            May TC   84.86
            Jun TC (Printing)   51.51

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

Tuning

Your rig is set on a certain freq, and you are about to change to a net freq. so, whats the proper way to tune up the rig for the new freq? My preferred way is to go up or down from the net freq a couple or so khz, use the settings I know to be approximately right, and one that is not busy, then hold down my key while I make the adjustments to peak the xmtr. This way you can see what your SWR and power output are doing. It mystifes me when occasionally I hear a station tuning to a freq by sending a string of dits. To me, this is the hard way and the results are not accurate.
                                    -KA8WNO

Long a Path: The direction you are told to aim your antenna, to work a rare DX station, as suggested by the other fellows in the pileup.   (From AB5P homepage)

HBN QNI JUNE

CALL	NAME	STA	QNI	QTC
NG1A	FRED	MA	9	31
W1KX	BILL	ME	5	1
KWIU	MARCIA	MA	13	23
W1WCG	VAN	CT	4	
K1WU	DALE	MA	1	
K2BCL	GAIL	PA	29	48
WA2CUW	TOM	NJ	9	1
W2EAG	MARK	MA	7	4
W2MTA	BILL	NY	27	8
W2RBA	JOE	NY	1	
WA2YL	JAN	FL	1	
VE3ABG	JOE	ON	3	
N3AO	CARTER	PA	3	
N3COR	DON	PA	4	
N3DE	HARRY	MD	8	
KJ3E	AL	MD	8	1
KK3F	PAT	MD	20	3
N3FDR	RICHARD	VA	1	
W3JKX	EARLE	PA	15	
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	PA	7	1
K3MIY	RON	PA	15	3
K3NNI	JOHN	MD	13	2
N3QA	CAL	MD	14	19
K3RC	BOB	OH	8	
N3SW	SCOTT	PA	1	1
WA3UNX	DON	PA	14	13
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	1	2
N4ABM	OLE	VA	13	11
AA4AT	ART	VA	13	16
WA4DOX	OBIE	VA	7	2
AB4E	AB	NC	1	
WB4FDT	PIP	MD	1	2
K4FUM	JERE	GA	9	
WX4H	MORT	FL	25	
K4IWW	WILL	NC	13	3
K4IX	BUS	VA	2	
AA4MC	MIKE	VA	1	
W4VFJ	CHAS	NC	6	
W4VLL	VIC	VA	7	
KA5NNG	MIKE	AR	18	
K5UPN	JOE	TX	7	
KX8B	CHUCK	OH	17	1
WW8D	TOM	WV	2	
WD8DIN	SIS	NC	28	7
K8KFJ	GARIE	WV	2	
K8KV	BEN	MI	18	20
K8LJG	JOHN	MI	23	67
AA8PI	DON	MI	23	3
W8RTN	LEE	MI	11	28
WB8SIW	JIM	MI	1	
KA8VWE	WALLY	OH	15	2
KA8WNO	JACK	WV	26	69
KB8ZYY	RAY	MI	2	2
WD9F	WOODY	IL	7	
KB9IOT	DAVID	WI	8	3
N9KHD	ANDY	WI	1	
W9MQN	JIM	WI	1	
K9PUI	DICK	IN	3	1
WØGRW	GEB	MN	20	1

Hashifisti Scratchi -W2MTA

Since I'd mentioned Scratchi in previous correspondence, I thought I'd send along a sample of Hashifisti's letters that were published over the years (1940 to 1971) in Radio or later CQ magazines. This particular gem was put in print in March 1952, at the same time I was passing the Navy's old I N T code tests with flying colors at Parris Island, SC. 73, Bill, W2MTA

"Feenix, Ariz.

Deer Hon. Ed:

Don't ever trying to teach a newcomer the code, or it may be a case of somebuddy biting the hand that wields the key. At least Scratchi are trying this hewmanitarium job and are now close to winding up in jale. Not that I minding jale, as the food there is not bad, but what with this being the DX season I are having things to do and can't doing same when in the pokey.

This hole thing are starting cupple of weeks ago at a local amchoor club meeting. Scratchi are talking with some old-timers about a new club member who having so much on the ball mentally. This newcomer are reely a whiz with the theery. He are not only able to telling you the rite formula to use in a problem, but he can telling you the formula to get the formula. No doubts about it, he are a 1/c geenyus. The only trubble is, he not knowing the code, and not being able to get his license. (I trying to get him intereste in bootlegging, but he had already read the FCC law about $10,000 fine and two years in jale).

The other club members are claiming that this geenyus can not learning code, and I arguing that he could learn code easily. The upshoot of the argument is that I are betting ten bux that I can teach this guy to learning the code befoe the next exams are given. Me and my big mouth. Why didn't someone tell me the inspecktor are going to be in town next week?

Well, ten bux is ten bux, so I get to work. I invite the guy out to the ranch, and while he there I making a nice tape recording on Brother Itchi's new tape recorder. I sending the alphabet twice, once slow and once fast, then sending some five-figure code groups. I giving him a copy of what I sending, so he can listen and study as he listening. Then I send him home to study the code, as he having his own tape recorder. I dropping by at his house next night, and he doing fine. I see him copying down letters at a speed at 8 or 9 WPM. I dropping in next night, and night after that. He are very good student, sitting there with earphones on head, and copying like furious. In four days he now reading my coded groups at a speed of 15 WPM. Boy oh boy, will I showing those scoffer fellows at next club meeting!

Being in reel high speerits I call up one of the club members and make another bet for ten bux on this guy passing the code test. Let's see now, what can I bying for twenty from men??

Come the fateful night, I taking my student down to see the inspecktor, to making sure he well taken care of. Everything going along smoothly up to time that the inspecktor starts the code machine. When the dits and dahs start coming along my geenyus are getting puzzled expression on his face, and when test officially starts, puzzled expression are changing to look of bewilderment. However, he writing on the paper, and continuing to rite for two or three minutes.

After inspecktor gathering up papers to grade them I asking my friend what trubble is. He telling me that code machine sending code groups, and not plane text. Just then inspecktor coming out and telling the geenyus he failed the code test.

Hokendoke!! there go my twenty bux. How can this happen? watching him do it. He anxious to showing me he reely can read code, so taking me to his house. Before he start to receive code on tape, I asking him to use the key and send me some code, so he getting oscillator and connecting key to it. I tell him to send the alphabet starting from letter A.

Gracious to goodness, first thing I heering are "dah-dit; di-di-di-dah; di-dah-di-dah". The letter N, the letter V, and a WHAT? He stop sending when he heering me yell, so I ask him what the letter A is. "Dah-dit," he says. At this point lamp are beginning to glow feebly in Hon. Brain, so asking him to send hole alphabet. Sure enough, every letter backwards except letters like S where can't turning backside.

Now I are reely unexuberated, and are asking him how he can be so stoopid. He slitely mad at this, but getting tape recorder and playing what I sending. Sacremento Fujiyama!! This smart gentlefellow, this stewpendus geenyus, he are playing the tape backward! All code characters are natchurally backward!! Of all the collosus idoits, he taking the brass-plated feed-through insulator. I explaining to him in series of loud shouts what are happening, and Hon. Ed., what you thinking -- he getting mad at me. He so mad he throwing me out of the house. I not only losing my twenty bux on acct. of his stoopidness, but losing dignity as well.

That nite I tring to figure what happen. Either I giving him tape before I rewind it, or he getting it backside to some way. But why are he mad at Scratchi?

Next day I finding out. His lawyer are calling me to tell me I being sued for $5000 for anguish caused to his client in faiing code examination and in teaching him code backwards. What can I doing? I being sued for $5000 and can't even figure out way to paying twenty bux I owe. Are you knowing lawyer who be willing to handle this case for a cupple of bux, and maybe a tape recorder thrown in to boot?

Respectively yours, Hashafisti Scratchi"

[Needless to say, the spellchecker was not used here. Hi!]

Who has the bug?

Ten or maybe 15 years ago on HBN one of our operators sent a few words with a bug that had belonged to Ben White W4PL. I wonder who owns that bug now and if he/she would again lets us afters hear it?   -KA8WNO

Contests and Traffic -KA8WNO

A contest is going on. I have msgs for: Mi, Nc, and Ma -- one of the 3 in Ma is going to KW1U. I hear Marcia QNI, but

with all the complications we have when dueling with contesters, I list my tfc as: MI/1, NC/1 and MA/3, believing that NCS can route stations better than if it was listed as Ma/2 and KW1U/1.

CONTEST TFC RECRUITS??

Contests such as FD and SS and others can be a possible way to get more CW operators to get into trafffic handling. I operated FD for a few hours from my home station. I'm sending messages to all the individual oprs I worked, suggesting. they try CW tfc handling and and giving them the time and freq that their local NTS net is on the air.

Since I have their callsigns, and am on the web, I go to www.qrz.com and get their name and address. I don't try to snow them with other nets and details, and believe brevity is the best way to go. Even if the CW nets do not get any new members , several messages have been added to to the nets. Sample text;

THANKS FD CONTACT X TRY CW TFC HANDLING X BUCKEYE NET MEETS ON 3577KHZ AT 645 AND 10PM LOCAL X 73

There are usually several contests listed in QST each month. If you have some time and the stations (*often a state) are audible, get in and work some of the stations. Most will be hams that are not operating as part of a club. This makes if easier to get their station info. SS contest may be ok, but what a madhouse!!

You have nothing to lose and can help the nets by adding trafFic to the pile.   -Jack KA8WNO

NSTs, BEAN COUNTERS AND OTHER STRANGE PHENONOMENA

Over the years, I have become more than a little interested in several activities in which skill development and/or competition is an integral component, and I've noticed a lot of similarity in the behavioral patterns of the people involved.

It appears to me, that within the confines of the competetitive/skill development environment, there are two broad categories of behavior. I think of them as "internally motivated" and "externally motivated" behavior. The internally motivated people are those for whom all or most of their satisfaction comes from the fact of their ability to perform and improve the desired skill, independent of the approval or recognition of others. These are the people who think that "it isn't whether you win or lose that matters, but how you play the game."

The "externally motivated" people, on the other hand, are those for whom most or all of the satisfaction they get from mastery of a skill is due to the recognition they receive from others. For these people, "close only counts in hand-grenades, horseshoes, and atomic bombs." There also seems to be a kind of sub-category in this group for whom the skill development is totally irrelevant, just so long as in the eyes of others they APPEAR to have the skill.

 Since I count myself in the internally motivated category, my ability to comprehend the externally motivated people is minimal, and as regards the "pretenders" sub-category, outside of my intellectual range.

The main three activities that I have found interesting enough to learn about were motor racing, the shooting sports, and of course ham radio. In all three, there are similar patterns in the competitive area. For example, one common thread is an attempt by competitors to substitute equipment sophistication for skill. In each activity, that resulted in the establishment of restrictions on the equipment, which in turn led to other equipment developments to circumvent the restrictions, etc. Alternatively, the competitions have been separated into "classes", so that there might be such classifications as "unlimited" where most anything goes, or "production" where the equipment is required to have some degree of connection to what might be used in the real world.

In the shooting sports, several decades ago a man by the name of Jeff Cooper came up with the clever idea of staging shooting competitions approximating "real world" combat conditions. The underlying concept was to use the competitions as a learning tool to discover "what worked".

As originally conceived, the only restrictions on the equipment were that it was to be suitable for actual "real world" use. It didn't take too many years though before a whole new little industry sprung up building special equipment for those competitions, and ultimately, the basic concept and the usefulness as a learning tool was negated. We see much the same thing in ham radio contests and other "bean counting" activities. I can't help but wonder what it is that the bean counters are counting? In traffic handling, for example, what can be the significance of "traffic counts" when a goodly number of the messages aren't even being "sent and received" as is actually required in order that they be counted. (Actually, messages are supposed to be sent and received in proper format, which means the entire message including the preamble, address, text and signature....not, as is often heard on the nets: "do you have the W1XYZ text with check or 20?", etc.) Or, what is the significance of a QSO in which the only information allegedly exchanged is the station calls and RST 599, especially when the calls have to be repeated a half-dozen times before they get through? Maybe some of the externally motivated ARFers can write up some answers and help this poor befuddled Arkie?????

Maybe an ARFer with some psychological expertise can take a stab at explaining the "pretenders" sub-category. I'm trying to understand how a guy can religiously QNI a section traffic net and steadfastly refuse to QSP traffic. I assume it's so that he can tell others that he is a regular participant in the section CW traffic net, but surely he must realize in his inner self that any claim to being a traffic handler is false?????
   -KA5NNG

DEADLINE – AUGUST TRAFFIC CALL
Via USPS by July 31
Via email by August 4
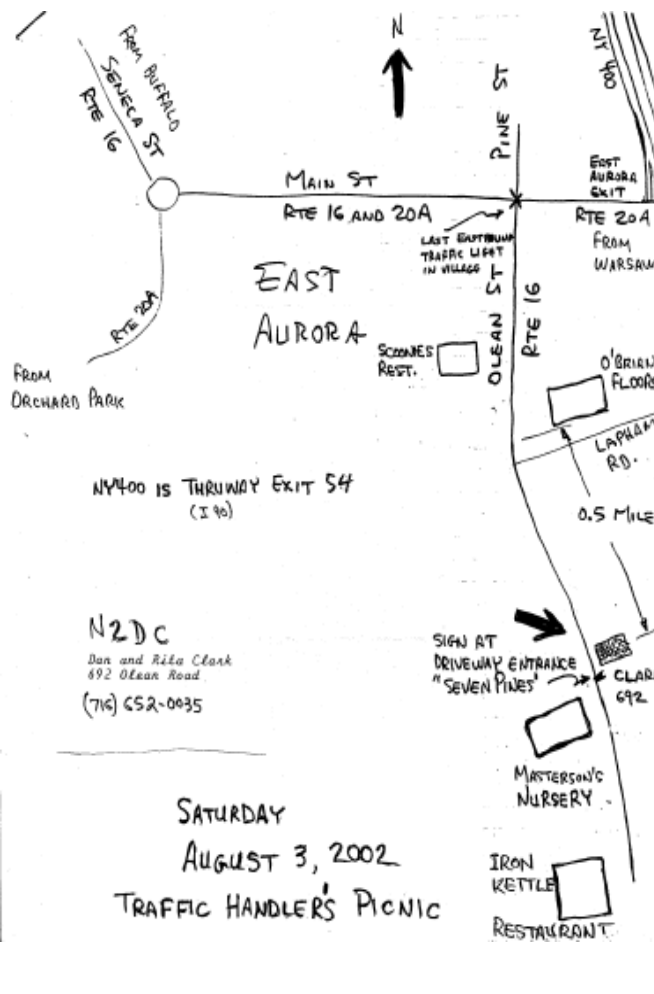

QNG needed August 9 and August 16

TRAFFIC HANDLERS' PICNIC
AUGUST 2 AND 3

Hello All Traffic Handlers, here's some info in case you're planning on attending the Traffic Handlers' Picnic this year.

I've received some inquiries as to nearby motels, etc., but I do not have much info here on motels or bed & breakfasts close-in to East Aurora beyond what I find in the several motel directories. Maybe Dan can fill us all in more.

Dan Clark, N2DC, and Rita are our host and hostess this year on August 2 & 3. Dan gave me a map at Rochester Hamfest. I'll verbalize some directions for you below:

East Aurora is Southeast of Buffalo at the intersection of US 20 Alternate and NY Route 16. Dan's QTH is South of the intersection of 20 Alt and NY16 on NY 16, which is called Olean Road. This is the last eastbound traffic light in the Village of East Aurora....or the first one when travelling westbound (turn left!). Scoonies Restaurant is also right along there on the West side of Olean Road...and will be the place for early arrivers to get together for supper on Friday night. Dan lives further South on NY 16 on the East side at 692 Olean Road with a sign at the driveway entrance "Seven Pines". Note that Masterson's Nursery is just a bit further down the road on the West side of NY 16. (All of this is one-half mile South of Lapham Road where O'Brian Floors Store is on corner.) Rita and Dan's Phone is 716-652-0035 Bring your lawn chairs and join the fun – W2MTA

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GREATER BUFFALO HAMFEST & EXPOSITION
WNY ARRL SECTION CONVENTION
AUGUST 4
Hamfest / convention Web Site:
http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net/
Order Advance tickets - admission and flea -- ON LINE
http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net/

Complete with ..... Midway, All You can Eat Pan Cake breakfast, huge flea 20 Acres, several army vehicles, hover crafts, helicopters, remote control airplanes several communications trucks, fire man demos, Fox Hunt, disaster preparedness,Ham dealers, contests , trophies, demos, forums, FREE parking, VE testing , plus much more!

You can enter to win... "the Vehicle with the Most and Gaudiest Antenna Array Contest" Trophies for winners.. You have seen the cars with all of those antennas .. Now is your chance to show off and win a nice trophy!

For information email : wgittere@buffnet.net "WNY Section Clubs convention champion 2001 contest" Entering section clubs will compete in a club show down. Take home the Club Champion Trophy. WNY section clubs were mailed

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a club packet .. if your club did not receive one.. email: luke@towncountryflorist.com
For general information: Hamfest / convention:
http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net/
VE Test session:
http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net/GBSHF_test.htm
Maps & Directions:
http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net/GBSHF_location.htm
Contacts: http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net/GBSHF_contacts.htm
Hamfest questions: Bob Becker:
mailto:REBECKERTV@aol.com
Table reservations: Luke Calianno:
mailto:luke@towncountryflorist.com
Contests:Bill Gittere: mailto:wgittere@buffnet.net

SEE YOU at :the Greater Buffalo Hamfest & Exposition / WNY ARRL Section Convention August 4th, Main Transit Fireman's Grounds, Williamsville, NY
We "Kicked It Up Another Notch" !!! Just for You !!!!

Greater Buffalo Hamfest's / ARRL Western New York Section Convention Sponsored by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Visit our Hamfest web site at: <"http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net>; If you wish to be deleted from the list, please send email to mailto:n2gdu@arrl.net

HBSN 3.714 MHz Daily 7:30 AM		
Sunday	VE3DTR	John
Monday	W2MTA	Bill
Tuesday	NR9K	Ad
Wednesday	WB5ZJN	Sam
Thursday	N3ON	Chuck
Friday	KG2HA	Sam
Saturday	N3COR	Don

HBSN 3.714 MHz Daily 7:30 AM		
Use Alt 7.114 MHz on contest days		
Sunday	W2MTA Bill	
Monday	KA8WNO	Jack
Tuesday	WA3UNX	Don
Wednesday	N4ABM	Ole
Thursday	K3MIY	Ron
Friday	WD8DIN	Sis
Saturday	WA4DOX	Obie

Happy Birthday!

JULY

17 N4DY DES

21 W2EAG MARK

24 K5UPN JOE

AUGUST

02 N6OD BOB

18 KB9IOT DAVID

24 KC8GMT LORA

30 W4VFJ CHARLES

TRAFFIC CALL

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