



TRAFFIC CALL



January 2003 No. 254

Newsletter of the Ben White Memorial Nets ~ Founded 1938

www.hitandbounce.net

Hit and Bounce Net Daily 8:30 AM EST 7042 KHz. (Alternate 7114 KHz) ~ Hit and Bounce Slow Net Daily 7:30 AM EST 3714 KHz
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A very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all!

Manager's Report Hit and Bounce Net

December totals 812 QNI, QTC 852 listed, and 804 cleared. Great month and great job, arfers! Average time per session 44.3 minutes.

The busiest hounds were: N1OTC 114; NG1A 94; K2BCL 89; KA8WNO 79; K8LJG 64; W8RTN 47; WD8DHC 44; N4ABM 35; K8KV 30; WX4H 29; W2EAG 29; KW1U 19; W3KOD 18; K4FUM 17; KA5NNG 17; WA3UNX 12; WA3YLO 11 and W2MTA 10. **Perfect attendance** K2BCL, W2MTA and W2MTA. Next comes WX4H 30, WD8DIN and W2EAG 29, KA8WNO 28, WØGRW, N4ABM, N1OTC, K8LJG and K4IWW 27; WA3UNX 25, KX8B and AA4AT 24; KK3F 23, K5UPN 22, K4FUM 21, W3JKX, NG1A, KW1U, K8KV and K3NNI 19; KA5NNG 18, W8RTN 17, K2VX 16, KA8VWE 15, N3QA 14, WA3JXW 13, WW8D and WD8DHC 11 and N1DHT 10. Weekenders perfect attendance WA4DOX and W1KX.

New stations in December were Warren, AF4FW NC and Tom, KØSN WI.

Al, KJ3E, reports that his XYL now requires full-time care, and he will be off the nets indefinitely. He sends his regards to all.

Bon Voyage! Mark, W2EAG and his better half are taking a two week cruise this month, and will be leaving Thursday, January 30, returning the second week of

February. Let's wish them a safe and fun-filled trip.

NCS lineup change: Ron, K3MIY has a vision problem which made it difficult for him to continue as NCS, and Mark, W2EAG will be our Thursday NCS. Ron will continue to check in, QSP traffic and help as alternate NCS if needed. We thank Ron for helping these past few months, and thanks to Mark for filling the spot.

As of January 11, I have received twenty-one responses from the survey forms. That's just over two-thirds of our membership, so let's hear from the rest of you. We are interested. Someone pointed out that there the form should include your hobbies other than amateur radio, which is a good point, so you might consider adding that along with the form, and those who have responded are welcome to submit yours any time. There are some great comments and suggestions, which will be summarized as the information is received, beginning with this issue.

HBSN arfers, we want to hear from you also! We might have separate kennels, but we're all in this together!

Keep those cards and letters (and email) coming, guys and gals!

Invite your friends to join us at HBN.

Thanks to all for your input and support.

73, ARF!! -Sis

HIT AND BOUNCE SLOW NET

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

DECEMBER, 2002

Thirty-four hams joined us this last month of 2002. There were 447 QNI's that brought 158 pieces of traffic to the net. Receiving top honors with perfect attendance were Gail, K2BCL, Harry, W3KOD, and Ad, NR9K. Close behind were Jim, WA3DUH (29); Sam, WB5ZJN (26); Bill, W2MTA, John, VE3DTR, Chuck, N3ON, and Chuck, KX8B (25); Sam, KG2HA, and Cid, W3QQ (23); Carter, N3AO (21); Fred, NG1A, and Dudley, WA3JXW (19). Twenty other stations also checked in and we greatly appreciate their continued support and interest in our net.

Happy New Year: Yep, another year just clicked off. They seem to get shorter every year, don't they? When I was a young boy in elementary school, I can remember how the year seemed so very long as I counted the days before that glorious summer. Now on the first day of classes, it seems I get in the car, drive to work, then at the end of the day I drive home and the year is over. Now that I have learned how to savor life, I wish it would slow down a little. Hum, maybe there is a message for me in all this.. (see pg2)

Statistics: I thought some of you might enjoy looking at some of our numbers over the past eight years. I think the stats speak for themselves, but it is nice to notice that, after our lowest year in 2000, we have been on a steady increase. As a matter of fact, we have increased our participation by 872 since 2000.

Year	QNI	QTC
1995	4487	1941
1996	5119	2017
1997	5079	1709
1998	4526	1584
1999	4418	1073
2000	3739	812
2001	4442	1169
2002	4611	1472

I do have some questions on which I'd appreciate some feedback:

1. Why do you suppose there was such a sharp decrease in participation between 1995 and 1996? There was a drop in participation of 632.
2. Why did we have a slow drop-off in numbers from 1996 to 2000? From 1997 to 1998, there was a drop of 517 and a 679 drop from 1999 to 2000.
3. It seems that there will always be a "natural" rise and fall in numbers, and I can understand a flux of a couple hundred (such as 1996 to 1997 and 2001 to 2002), but why a 703 jump from 2000 to 2001?

Are there any statisticians out there that could explain this?

Contribute: Keep in mind that it costs money to produce your *Traffic Call*, and the only financial resources that we have are those that you voluntarily send to our treasurer. I'm not sure how much it presently costs to put the newsletter in your hands; but, when I was newsletter editor, it cost around forty-five cents a copy (paper, photocopying, and postage).

Postage has gone up, so I wouldn't be surprised if it costs over fifty cents per copy today. Please consider whipping out that check book and sending a check to Merritt W. Olson (a.k.a. Ole, N4ABM), 12106 Stirrup Rd., Reston, VA 20191-2104. Thanks, folks!

Anyone Read This Stuff? (IV):

Yes you do, and thanks for your feedback. I got a chuckle when I read a note from Jack, K2GWN: "You'll only find out how many people read it when you step on the wrong toes...take it from a thirty-year newspaper man." In the words of the cowardly lion from The Wizard of Oz, "Ain't it the truth, ain't it the truth!"

Happy New Year!

Message Traffic by K5UPN

There are many ways Radiogram messages can be generated. For me it's receiving a copy of visitors list who attend my Church each Sunday morning.

About eleven years ago we started attending our present church home, and we became acquainted with our new church family including Ministers, and office staff as well as the Elders, and Deacons, I came up with a thought of thanking out of town visitors for visiting our Church. I had heard another amateur doing this from a smaller church he attended. I had mentioned to my Church family how I was involved in Amateur Radio. Most of them had never heard of Ham Radio.

One day I got to thinking about my friend, and the messages he generated in behalf of his small Church. I decided to try it. I went into the Church office one day, and talked to the Church Secretary, and Minister about this. I knew that since most of them did not know about Amateur Radio this would be a way to get the main purpose of Amateur Radio across to them. My first question was what do you do with

the cards that out of town visitors fill out that lets you know they were visitors. Much to my surprise they replied nothing. I responded may I try something.

I explained from my thoughts of doing this we not realize that some of the visitors may be thinking about moving here, and may be looking for a prospective Church home.

At first for a few years I would go to the Church, and write down the information off of the visitor cards. Then the secretary one day offered a printed out list of all visitors from each Sunday AM Service. I was elated that they would do this. At first they would leave a copy for me in a basket that was in a shelf of the teachers work room for me. I would come by, and pickup the list each Wednesday, and take it to my Ham Radio (my house used to belong to a Church for the Minister, and his family to live in) is located where the Minister's Study was. Going over the visitors list, and picking the one from out of town whom provided addresses. I came up with a common message for a while I would send in behalf of my Church Family.

After a while I started making up messages with a special text to fit a special time, such as holidays, or one of the weather seasons we go through.

Now having a computer, and internet access on the ones that do not provide phone numbers I go to the internet Whitepages, and find the information I need to make it easier to deliver the message as it arrives at its destination city. I also get addresses the same way if I need to.

After generating a few of these messages, and some of these families would make a return visit after receiving one of these messages I would actually get to meet them, and this made both them, and the members of our Church to understand more of what Amateur Radio, and its main purpose was.

I now receive the visitors list via mail each week. Some weeks there are no out of town visitors listed. I now keep a database of out of town visitors. I use it to send out holiday messages to some of them.

This is just one way of spreading the good will of our wonderful hobby. There are many ways to spread the Good Will of Amateur Radio by just thinking of ideas, and try them. Don't get discouraged too much about lack of information from your sources, or ideas at times. Keep on thinking about doing something to spread the Good Will of Amateur Radio.

Have a happy, and healthy 2003.
73, Joe K5UPN

Days gone by....

One of our arfers would like to see more bios of members, stories of the old days, and personal stories—"the more personal, the better". Here you go...the first installment of a personal anecdote from Jack KA8WNO....

The Past ... Part 1-

The weather can get pretty cold in northern New York state. I found myself there a short time after coming home from navy radio duty in the 2nd world war.

The occasion was a woodworking venture with a radio friend I served with in my overseas duty. We started a woodworking business together to get back in the swing of things after the war. My location was a few miles north of Amsterdam, N.Y. on the outskirts of a small town called Hagaman.

It was a week or so before Christmas, and I boarded the Greyhound bus to return home for a week or so vacation. Temperature was somewhere around 20 degrees in the daytime every day. When the bus got to Albany the temperature had warmed. A couple hours later when arriving in NYC, it was WOW!! like summer again. And it stayed warm (maybe 30 to 50 degrees in the

daytime) until my return to NY. Then it was back to winter!!

My NY friend, Earle, had been a ham before the war, but didn't return to hamming when he returned home from navy duty. He was a radio whiz. In his ham days he had qso'd Australia and other dx places using a power of 3 watts, when QRP hadn't been heard of yet. His radio gear was mostly homebrewed. On the last ship we were on, a radio warrant officer (navy trained) was trying to get one of transmitters back on the air. Earle offered to help him with it, but the officer refused help for a long time. Finally, when he had given up hope of finding the problem, he turned the problem over to Earle. It took Earle (ham trained) something like 15 or 20 minutes to get it fixed.

Now back to the beginning. I was in the last semester of high school, and a member of the local V-3 Navy communication unit when the invitation came to go on active duty in the naval reserve. But more on this later..... 73, Jack KA8WNO

Random Recollections..... Part 3

WINJM has a lot of road to cover in these recollections before he gets to be an employee at ARRL in Newington in the pre-WW-II days. - W2MTA

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

A journalistic history of the life and times in Amateur Radio of George Hart, WINJM - by George Hart WINJM

In the summertime, Bunch set up a tent in our mother's hanging garden, a small area below our house cut into the side of the hill. Our mother raised flowers and a few vegetables there, but there was plenty of room left over for a tent, and electricity was available from our father's chemistry laboratory which was nearby with its ground floor on the same level with the garden.

Here a wooden platform was constructed and the tent pitched over it. It was a sizable wall tent, capable of containing four cots, and here we set up our summer quarters. The

garden was accessible from the house down a steep embankment, across a cinder access road to the college heating plant. The far side of this road was contained by a 12-foot stone wall, so one had to go down the road fifty feet or so to access a path into the garden area.

We boys flew down the embankment with abandon, but our mother walked from the house to the upper part of the access road, down the road to the path, a sort of zig-zag configuration; however, in the late 20's she all but abandoned the garden, so we had the area to ourselves.

Bunch exercised the same autocratic control over access to the tent as he had to his attic radio room. The 12-foot wall was a little too high to jump from, so Bunch fashioned a ladder from scrap boards. He wrapped the rungs of the ladder with bare wire and attached a 110 volt line controllable from the tent. When someone he didn't want was spied coming down the ladder he could press a switch at the tent to electrify it, thus giving the intruder a severe jolt, then ordering him back up the ladder. Occasionally. He would give someone a jolt "just for the fun of it." Most of us avoided the ladder entirely, preferring to use the circuitous path to avoid the possibility of being shocked, but Bunch, being the oldest, used other methods of excluding us from the tent if he wished privacy, some electrical, some physical.

One rainy night my brother Watson decided to defy the ban and started to descend the ladder. Bunch threw the switch and Wats froze on the wet ladder. When Bunch turned off the switch, Wats continued his descent, so Bunch turned it on and left it on. Wats clung to the ladder, shrieking. "If I turn it off, will you go back up?" Bunch inquired. Wats was unable to reply, so Bunch turned it off and Wats went back up the ladder

whimpering. That was the end of the electrified ladder.

My father, when the incident was reported to him, forthwith ordered the ladder taken down. Bunch disconnected the wiring, but we continued using the ladder, because of its convenience, and his tyranny continued in other ways, both electrical and physical.

Bunch's on-the-air activity decreased during the summers, but he did have a small station set up in the tent, with antennas strung about the many surrounding trees. My two other brothers seldom slept in the tent, but Bunch slept there every night and I quite often. He favored me only slightly because I helped with his many experiments, in a "gofer" capacity. Other friends his own age were favored more than I was, and I recall one girl, a visiting relative of one of the college professors, who spent much time with us one summer, although she never slept in the tent. I hated her because Bunch favored her more than he did me, and because she treated me with lofty contempt. But that was only one summer, then she was forgotten.

Bunch was much admired by girls, a phenomenon I could never quite understand. When he got his first ham ticket, some time in 1925, he somehow acquired one of Paul Godley's "Paragon" transmitters. My memory, which may or may not be entirely accurate, tells me this transmitter used a single RCA UX-210 in a self-excited oscillator circuit. It had no power supply, so Bunch used the 110-volt house service for plate voltage. The receiver he built himself, a 201-A detector and a 201-A audio amplifier powered exclusively by batteries -- a lead-acid storage battery for filaments and Burgess "B" batteries for plate voltage. It was a regenerative type fashioned from a description in QST. Reception was by headphones only -- first Brandes,

then Murdock, and finally Baldwin. The latter were the best, but very heavy.

The only speaker we boasted at the time was a horizontal cone by which the headphones could be clamped on the narrow end. We seldom used it except for BC reception or very strong ham signals. The Paragon transmitter operated only on the 160 meter band. The antenna was a random piece of wire fastened to a nearby tall maple tree, with a counterpoise about 10 feet above ground. The power reaching the antenna must have been extremely low, because on-the-air contacts were few and far between, and usually the signal strength reports were quite low, R-3 or R-4 on a scale of 1-9. Signal quality was equally low, for few amateurs of the day possessed means of rectifying and filtering the plate voltage.

Most signals had a characteristic 60-cycle rasp as broad as the traditional barn door. Some were rectified to a low-frequency buzz, and a very few had the most desired musical quality. Those that did were usually chirpy or otherwise unstable. On rare occasions I would come across a signal of high-pitched musical quality that was steady, and I would sit and listen to it in rapture. It was beautiful music to my ears, better than the most brilliant symphony.

From the time Bunch got his first license, in 1925, until I made my first on-the-air contact in late 1926, I was learning the code "by osmosis." Bunch allowed me to use the receiver occasionally, with plenty of restrictions. At other times I would sit and listen to him sending on his Western Union straight key. I was only 11 years old. Soon I learned to recognize CQ. 3NF (Bunch's assigned call), a few commonly used letters and combinations such as "Q" signals. I never sat down and "memorized" the code, either by dots and dashes or by sound. I learned the

code the way a baby learns to talk, by listening and mimicking.

By 1926, after trying in vain to make the Paragon perform on 80 meters, Bunch cannibalized it and built an entirely new transmitter on a "breadboard." A new inductance was wound around an oatmeal box, several plates were removed from the Paragon's variable capacitor other parts as necessary fashioned from whatever materials were available or could be purchased.

New coils had to be wound for the receiver. It was a makeshift, ragtag setup, but he finally got it working and entered the new world of 80 meters. All connections were made by twisting wires together, or by binding posts or Fahnstock or small spring clips with teeth. The gridleak resistor was a mayonnaise jar filled with a borax solution in which copper electrodes were inserted.

There were a few parts which could be purchased at electric stores, none of them intended for amateur radio. Most parts had to be fashioned by hand from whatever material was available.

One thing Bunch did obtain, I've forgotten where or how, was a squatty transformer manufactured by GE for RCA. It delivered 550 volts each side of centertap and also 7-1/2 volts to light the UX-210 filament. This was a big improvement over the toy train transformer and 110-volt house current previously used and figured to give us a much stronger signal. I say "us" because by that time I was definitely part of the picture, although Bunch still held all the reins of authority and exercised them fully. Still, with the increased power and the shift to 80 meters, our signal reports were unsatisfactorily low and only about 1 in 5 calls received answers. Bunch hardly ever called CQ, because experience indicated the unlikelihood of a call. A typical hour at the key might

produce four contacts in about 20 calls.

Frustrated, he continually tinkered with the transmitter and antenna system, trying to get better performance.

Coming in the next installment:
Tapping the Trolley Line

Treasurer's Report
Ole, N4ABM, Treasurer

Balance Dec 9/02 22.47

Contributions:

Dec 13/02 WA2CUW 10
Dec 16/02 W2EAG 20
Dec 17/02 W3JKX 25
Dec 17/02 N3ON 15
Dec 23/02 WØGRW 25
Dec 23/02 W4FUM 25
Dec 26/02 W8RTN 15
Dec 27/02 W4VFJ 25

Thank you very much for your contributions.

Balance Dec 31/02 182.47

TC Aug/02 pd Dec 31/02 -54.9
TC Sept/02 pd Dec 31/02 -51.16
TC Oct/02 pd Dec 31/02 -36.23

Balance Jan 1/03 40.18

When making contributions, please make checks payable to **Merritt W. Olson, 12106 Stirrup Rd., Reston, VA 20191-2104**

Happy Birthday!

JANUARY

12 KK3F PAT
16 N3ON CHUCK
20 WA2YL JAN
23 KA5NNG MIKE
25 K8KV BEN
25 AA8PI DON
28 W3KOD HARRY
28 W3QQ CID

FEBRUARY

01 AF4QZ ADAM
01 WD8DIN SIS
01 WA3JXW DUDLEY
08 WA1KKP LYNN
22 WA3QNT BOB
24 W8BEZ AL
27 N3COR DON

HBN DECEMBER
MONTHLY TOTALS

DEC	QNI	QTC	QSP	TIME
1	29	26	20	32
2	25	24	23	60
3	26	25	25	32
4	22	31	31	58
5	24	24	23	55
6	23	31	30	44
7	29	58	56	65
8	20	33	28	25
9	29	38	36	41
10	23	30	22	37
11	24	33	31	60
12	24	20	20	50
13	25	34	33	45
14	27	24	21	37
15	25	19	18	29
16	25	37	37	60
17	27	27	26	33
18	24	33	30	58
19	22	24	24	37
20	27	36	36	56
21	26	28	26	50
22	29	33	33	30
23	30	15	15	43
24	28	25	23	60
25	26	21	21	38
26	28	17	17	37
27	33	31	30	51
28	28	30	30	57
29	25	13	13	19
30	31	13	13	33
31	28	19	13	42

HBN QNI DECEMBER

CALL	NAME	STATE	QNI	QTC
NG1A	FRED	MA	19	94
N1DHT	GEORGE	VT	10	0
KC1DI	DAVE	ME	4	0
W1KX	BILL	ME	9	0
N1OTC	JACK	MA	27	114
KW1U	MARCIA	MA	19	19
K1WU	DALE	MA	3	1
K2BCL	GAIL	PA	31	89
WA2CUW	TOM	NJ	4	5
W2EAG	MARK	MA	29	29
K2GWN	JACK	NY	1	0
W2MTA	BILL	NY	31	10
W2RBA	JOE	NY	1	0
K2VX	DAVID	VA	16	8
WA2YL	JAN	FL	3	5
N3AO	CARTER	PA	4	3
N3DE	HARRY	MD	6	1
KK3F	PAT	MD	23	2
K3FT	CHUCK	MD	3	0
W3JKX	EARLE	PA	19	2
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	PA	13	6
W3KOD	HARRY	PA	31	18
K3MIY	RON	PA	7	0
K3NNI	JOHN	MD	19	4
N3QA	CAL	MD	14	5
K3RC	BOB	OH	6	0
WA3UNX	DON	PA	25	12
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	4	11
N4ABM	OLE	VA	27	35
AA4AT	ART	VA	24	9
WA4DOX	OBIE	VA	8	9
AB4E	A B	NC	1	0
K4FUM	JERE	GA	21	17
AF4FW	WARREN	NC	1	0
WX4H	MORT	FL	30	29
K4IWW	WILL	NC	27	0
AF4NS	JIM	GA	1	0
W4VFJ	CHAS	NC	2	0
W4VLL	VIC	VA	2	0
W3WKT	CC	NC	1	0
AB4XK	CHET	FL	5	0
KA5NNG	MIKE	AR	18	17
K5UPN	JOE	TX	22	2
KX8B	CHUCK	OH	24	3
WW8D	TOM	WV	11	2
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	11	44
WD8DIN	SIS	NC	29	9
K8KV	BEN	FL	19	30
K8LJG	JOHN	MI	27	64
W8RTN	LEE	MI	17	47
WB8SIW	JIM	MI	1	0
KA8VWE	WALLY	OH	15	1
KA8WNO	JACK	WV	28	79
KB8ZYY	RAY	MI	1	8
WD9F	WOODY	IL	2	1
KB9IOT	DAVID	WI	4	0
NR9K	AD	PA	1	1
K9PUI	DICK	IN	7	0
WØGRW	GEB	MN	27	1
KØSN	TOM	WI	1	0

Survey -Comments on Net Procedure:

Call up stations with traffic first (two "votes" for this)

Rotate the call-up areas (three votes for this)

List QNC as traffic [I thought we were doing that? -Ed.]

Eliminate pause for reply from stations being paired by NCS

NCS should govern the speed with which he/she feels comfortable, use proper spacing and consider band conditions as another factor for the sending speed. (more...page 6)

Survey

NCS should be punctual and guided by an accurate clock. Turn on equipment early enough to get rid of frequency drift. (Drift can be checked against WWV or CHU at 7335 KHz).

QRS in poor conditions- longer dots and dashes get through better - ("Accuracy transcends speed" - FISTS)

NCS should not stack up stations off net frequency to take QTC from busy station. (Causes disorderly operation from eager beavers).

NCS should use QNE more while organizing next move

HBSN could sometimes slow down a bit, since it is ballyhooed as a slow net.

HBN doing fine for speed. Just need better deployment by all NCS'.

Eliminate the long, drawn out net preamble- it's "just a time-waster".

Clear the short traffic lists first so stations won't have to wait in line while a station is clearing a long list.

General comments:

More bios, personal stories- "the more personal, the better"; stories from the old days ... development of telegraphy

Ask members to invite traffic handlers that they know to join us.

HBN/HBSN is the best of the CW nets

Stations should QNZ better

(Stations) should answer in turn and not jump the gun

Adjust speed to station worked

Avoid the use of Farnsworth-type sending when passing traffic.

Best NCS: WA3UNX [No argument with that- Ed.]

"... both nets easy to check into".

Most NCS do a FB job, good, challenging training for NCS in general if one wants to get into EAN, CAN as NCS.

Great group to be associated with

Once in a while, a NCS sends too fast

Use 7114 on contest days

Dislike stations who check in late being released early unless they ask.

Send new stations off frequency with a net greeter in the form of traffic, welcoming them to our net.

Would like the slow net to start training the new operators. "I notice a degradation of procedure creeping in."

Send traffic at a speed you can handle. Sound like an experienced operator, not a speed demon.

Stations should listen and follow NCS' directions.

Wish we had more stations across the nation

Wish we had more traffic.

Stations' discipline is very good in most cases.

"There are (some) stations that don't end their transmission correctly when checking in...i.e de WD8DIN QRU AR ... the proper procedure is to end with the prosign "K" NOT AR or not anything at all."

"wonder how many years of Amateur Radio are represented bymembers"

"HBN has been a FIRST class net from the first time I became involved in it."

Articles by HBN/HBSN ops are enjoyable

HBSN DECEMBER REPORT

C.M. (SAM) SHEARER, WB5ZJN, MANAGER

CHARLES (CHUCK) PUNZELL, N3ON, ASST. MANAGER

QNI 447 QTC 158 SESSIONS 31

CALL	NAME	STATE	QNI
NG1A	FRED	MA	19
KC1DI	DAVE	ME	9
N1DTC	JOHN	MA	1
W1PID	JIM	NH	1
W1KX	BILL	ME	8
K1WU	MARCIA	MA	1
K2BCL	GAIL	NY	31
W2EAG	MARK	MA	2
KG2HA	SAM	NY	23
W2MTA	BILL	NY	25
K2VX	DAVE	NJ	10
N3AO	CARTER	PA	21
N3COR	DON	WPA	4
N3DE	HARRY	MD	5
VE3DTR	JOHN	ON	25
WA3DUH	JIM	DE	29
KK3F	PAT	MD	8
W3JKX	EARLE	EPA	12
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	EPA	19
W3KOD	HARRY	EPA	31
N3ON	CHUCK	WPA	25
W3QQ	CID	DE	23
K3RC	BOB	OH	1
N3SW	SCOTT	PA	2
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	1
N4ABM	OLE	VA	1
KA5NNG	MIKE	AR	3
WB5ZJN	SAM	OH	26
NJ7M	CHUCK	ID	1
KX8B	CHUCK	OH	25
WW8D	TOM	IN	10
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	12
NR9K	AD	EPA	31
K9PUI	DICK	IN	2

A COUPLE OF SUGGESTIONS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING

-KA5NNG

1) When it happens that there is traffic listed for a state in your region or area and there is no station present from that state, why not volunteer to take it? It strikes me that any QSP that moves a piece of traffic closer to its destination is better than none. So, even if traffic is outside of your state and region, but still in your area; and the station holding the traffic is in another area, then I think the QSP is worthwhile. Considering that 99+% of our traffic is routine stuff, with no urgency attached to it, I don't think that there is anything wrong with taking traffic from our morning net and putting into the NTS during that evening at whatever level is convenient for you. Even though the traffic may have to travel a longer path to reach its destination, it's still better than having the station holding it QTA because nobody will respond to the NCS's call for a relay.

2) Have you ever thought about writing some little blurb and sending it into the Traffic Call? No newsletter can continue to exist without material to fill its pages. It seems that in most of the newsletters that I've seen, the editors are always begging for material. So why not help out by sending something in? You don't have to be a literary giant you know....hell guys, if an Ozarks Red-neck can submit stuff, then anyone should be able to, right?

Surely there must be some pet topic or peeve or whatever that you'd like to share with the other ARFers, so have at it!

EARLY DAYS OF TRAFFIC HANDLING

While poking through my collection of old letters, I came across a 1998 letter that I received from George Hart (W1NJM) in response to my inquiry about the old Trunk Line traffic systems. I thought

that some of the ARFers might be interested in parts of that letter and in some other Trunk Line information that I collected when I got interested in learning a little about the "old days" of traffic handling.

From the W1NJM letter (August 15, 1998):

"I came into the picture in about 1928 from 3NF (my older brother's station). We were on Trunk Line A, which went across the continent from east to west, starting in the NYC area and winding up, I believe, in the California Bay area. I don't remember TL-B, but probably this was another east-west trunk in the middle states. TL-C was a north-south (trunk) along the east coast, from Maine to Florida. TL-F was a west coast trunk, from Seattle to LA. TL-I was a Canadian trunk, east to west, I guess from the Maritimes, to BC."

"By the early to mid-30's, there were 14 functioning trunk lines. ARRL started providing crystals for the various TL stations in the mid and late 30's, but by the late 30's the functional lines were beginning to break down. The TLs were revived in 1947, but the concept was obsolete because of WWII developments and methods.

In 1948 I formed the National Traffic System under ARRL sponsorship and the TLs gradually went down hill and finally disappeared. Meanwhile, a number of new traffic organizations sprung up --- TLAP (Atlantic-Pacific) by W1VB and his uncle Ferd, W2EC, Hit & Bounce by Benton White, W4PL, Traffic Hounds Morning Watch by Ev Battey W4IA, Traffic Outlet by Al Hayes, W3LVY/W1IIN, and the Pioneer Net on the west coast, replacing TL-F. TL-J continued operating well into the 50's under W4BAZ and Harry Smith, W9TT, with continued ARRL support, but it wasn't really a 'trunk line' any more, but a regional net with uncertain

coverage and it eventually disintegrated, most of its members becoming a part of NTS's 9th Region Net."

NOTE: My exchange of letters with W1NJM was prompted by George's article in QST for June 1998, page 73 titled "A Look at Traffic Handling Prior to World War II". That article had information about both the Trunk Line systems, and about the Army Amateur Radio System (AARS). *(to be continued)*
de KA5NNG (VROUK)

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