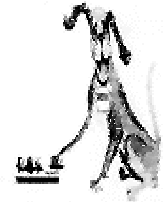




TRAFFIC CALL



May 2003 No. 258

Newsletter of the Ben White Memorial Nets ~ Founded 1938 by Ben White W4PL

<http://hitandbounce.net/index.html>

Editor: C. L. "Sis" Berry WD8DIN Email: arfer@hitandbounce.net
Treasurer: Merritt W. "Ole" Olson N4ABM Email: mwon4abm@aol.com

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
Use alternate frequency on CW contest weekends.

*****175th ANNIVERSARY FAIR OF THE IRON HORSE HAS BEEN CANCELLED due to damage the Museum incurred during the snowstorm in Maryland in February.

Hit and Bounce Net Manager's Comments

Fifty-six stations took part in our sessions in April and brought these totals- QNI 682; QTC 604; QSP 529. Average time per session 46.7 minutes. Sessions are longer and the totals are lower, and we all know why. I gotta hand it to you, arfers. You hang in there through thick and thin, and lately the band has been pretty thick with QRN and QSB. Thanks for your perseverance! Gold stars to everyone.

Top hounds, 10 or more QTC: N1OTC 111; NG1A 97; K2BCL 79; W8RTN 60; K8LJG 56; KA8WNO 40; KW1U 30; WX4H 22; W2MTA 29; N3QA 12; K8KV 12 AND N4ABM 11. All of you are appreciated for your help and attendance.

Perfect attendance WX4H and W3KOD. Next in line are the following: W2MTA and K4IWW 29; K2BCL 28; N1OTC and KA8WNO 27; WA3UNX and WD8DIN 25; AA4AT, KK3F and KX8B 23; K8LJG, N4ABM, WØGRW and VE3DTR 22; W2EAG 20.

Oops Corner: Correction: **K3NNI email address: k3nni@arrl.net; K2BCL email address: k2bcl@hotmail.com.**

Arfer news:

Dudley, KA8NYY will be away from May 20 to July, then a trip to Georgia, and back with us on HBN in August.

Please welcome newcomer and now a certified arfer **TJ, K9TJL in IL**. It's nice to have you, TJ.

Can you work 30 meters? Please let us know.

After reading the latest propagation report (page 3), it seems there will be no relief until the end of May.

73, ARF! -Sis WD8DIN

HIT AND BOUNCE SLOW NET
MANAGER'S COMMENTS
Manager **WB5ZJN C.E. (Sam) Shearer**
Assistant Mgr., **N3ON, Charles (Chuck) Punzell**
April 2003

Thirty-two stations participated in this month's net and there were 382 QNI's and 111 QTC's. Perfect attendance honors go to Cid, W3QQ and Harry, W3KOD. Close behind was Gail, K2BCL, Jim, WA3DUH, Chuck, KX8B (29); Bill, W2MTA, Sam, WB5ZJN (26); John, VE3DTH (25); Chuck, N3ON, Cid, NR9K (24); Sam, KG2HA (23). To everyone, regardless of the number of your QNI's, you are greatly appreciated, needed, and because of you, our net continues to run

smoothly and efficiently. Thanks to all!

Finally: Yep, I finally got my G5RV fixed. After untangling it from the past year's growth, I pulled the antenna down and soldered the broken connection. After which I threaded it through the early spring bare-leaf branches - over, under, around, and through the limbs of three oak trees. Several of you have mentioned that my signal is much stronger, and I'm sure you are glad to not have to work so hard to copy WB5ZJN.

Send me your plans for this summer. I and the other ARF'ers would enjoy hearing of your plans.

Traffic Handlers' Picnic

Here's the early warning on the 2003 Traffic Handlers' Picnic, August 16.

Again as last year, the picnic is being hosted by Dan N2DC and R1TA at their beautiful QTH near East Aurora, New York, just South and East of Buffalo NY. For further info send an E-mail to Dan at **dann2dc@aol.com**

There may even be a Friday night get together, see Dan.

73, hope to see you there folks, Bill and Betty @ W2MTA **w2mta@juno.com** (which handles attachments).

DAYS GONE BY – Part 5 -KA8WNO

After leaving the Straits, our ship continued east into the Mediterranean for about half a day, then pulled up beside a dock at Mers el Kabit (MEK) and tied up. MEK had a good harbor and several large ships could tie up at the same time. MEK, as I remember, is on the outskirts of Oran, 2nd largest city in Algeria. We were marched off the ship and climbed aboard army trucks, then driven about 5 miles from Oran to a field bordering a small village called Fluorez. The field held about two dozen, more or less, large army tents, each large enough for four or more army cots, plus a wood stove which I think was absent. Some of our seabags did not keep up with us, so we had no clothes to change or blanket to keep us warm. In spite of the sweltering heat in the daytime, it was real cold at night, and I did a lot of shivering until the missing seabag caught up the next day. The local water was undrinkable and our supply, in a lister bag, was loaded with chlorine, and even the coffee was lousy tasting. Our food was in short supply, and when we volunteered for work details on the docks, the officer-in-charge encouraged us to steal any food item we could find on the docks. It was destined to army-navy use, so no harm was done. I found and brought back a case of graham crackers.

On another work detail, several of us loaded hundreds of 4-inch aluminum tubes holding powder for 4-inch artillery guns. Then a few of us loaded an army truck with 500 lb depth charges. The truck drove up a winding road to an old castle on a high point above Oran, backed up to a concrete walkway and we pushed the TNT-filled charges off the truck and they dropped 4 or more inches onto the concrete! What a nerve-wracking experience.

Most of us guys smoked cigarettes then. But there was no place to buy them. One fellow had gone aboard a merchant ship at the docks and bought a case of Lucky Strike. I didn't like that brand and wanted Chesterfields, so next work detail at the docks, I boarded a merchant ship, located the purser, and bought a case of my brand. Normal price overseas then was 50 cents a carton, but I had to pay 65 cents. I sold what I could to the guys for \$1 a carton, but when several of us were transferred to a receiving station in Oran a few days later, I had many left and over the next week or so finally discarded several cartons. The receiving station was in downtown Oran (a grubby city) and was enclosed with a fairly high wall and was something like 100 feet long by 50 feet wide or more, with sleeping quarters and an office or so around the inside of the wall.

An assignment was coming up finally for us...(continued on page 6)

Birthday Greetings!

JUNE

8 KW1U
8 KC1DI
10 WB8SIW
12 WØUCE
14 K4IWW
18 WA4SRD
29 K2BCL

JULY

1 W2MTA
14 WB8KPE
16 W1PEX
17 N4DY
21 W2EAG
24 K5UPN

Friday NCS anyone? I am planning a trip to WV, leaving August 4 or 5, back August 20 or 21. Any of you arfers who have not been NCS, here is your chance to jump in and do it! NCS roster available. Contact me. -Sis

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS

*Part 6: The Great Discovery, continued
de W2MTA*

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

It was a crucial time in the history of 3NF and my budding enthusiasm for amateur radio. Bunch seemed to have lost interest, and spent a lot of time running around in his flivver with George Suydam and their close circle of girls. Sometimes Bunch brought a girl to his radio room, and on such occasions I was excluded. I waited, trying to be patient, still operating "the rig" but having little success, and eventually I found him sitting on his bed thoughtfully contemplating the transmitter.

"Wonder what's wrong with it?" he mused. I made a number of eager suggestions, but he completely ignored them. What I wanted most of all was for him to apply his great knowledge of electronics to the problem, fully confident that he could solve it. He rummaged around until he found the QST diagram containing the circuit he had used when building the transmitter and perused it studiously.

"Wonder what that is?" he asked himself, and when I inquired "What?" he pointed to a series of loops in the plate voltage line marked, simply, RFC. He reread the text of the article but found no reference to it, but under the diagram it explained that RFC was a coil of wire. He remembered having seen it when building the transmitter but having ignored it, "It can't be anything important," he continued, still talking to himself more than to me, "but what the hell. I've tried everything else. I'll make one." Whereupon he cut off a piece of broomstick, wound some wire around it, fastened it to the stick

with tacks and connected it in series with the high voltage lead from the transformer. He then "fired up" the transmitter and pressed the key.

The plate of the 210 tube didn't turn red as it usually did, and the transformer did not groan, as was also customary, only made a small humming sound. The RF meter in series with the antenna lead, which normally barely moved, deflected to three quarters of full scale.

"Holy smokes!" I exclaimed.

"Whatsa matter, George?" he said, grinning at me. "The meter's broke!"

"I don't think so." He turned on the receiver, tuned around until he heard a CQ and called. He received a prompt answer and a report of R-8, one of the highest we had ever received. In the next ten minutes he made three more contacts on threecalls and received R-8 from two of them. R-9 from the other.

"I think we solved the problem," he said, and continued operating. I was itching to get at the key, but Bunch was not about to relinquish it. When I pleaded with him to let me take a crack at it, he snarled at me and sent me downstairs to bed.

Some time later he awoke me from a sound sleep. "Wake up, George!" he said, shaking me. "I worked three sixes. Conditions are great, but I'm going to bed. If you want to operate, get up."

"What time is it!"

"Four thirty. I can't stay awake any more, but if you want to operate, come on up. Just be quiet."

It was a Monday morning in midwinter, 1928. I rolled out of bed, put on a warm bathrobe and went upstairs. The kerosene heater was going, but it was still a little chilly in the big room.

I sat down and started operating, shivering, but soon got so interested in the activity on the band (80 meters) that I forgot my discomfort. There weren't many signals, but no other noises either,

such as we usually had to contend with during the day.

I operated until daylight, managed to work a 7 in Montana and another one in Idaho, called several 6's but got no answers.

At 7 o'clock I had to quit to get ready for school. During the day, in school, I bragged to several companions that I had talked by radio to stations in Montana and Idaho, but no one believed me. I believe they thought I was a little cracked, and some of them moved away from me. All day I walked on clouds. 3NF had an outstanding signal, at last! I could hardly wait to get home and do some more operating.

Coming next in Part 7. Traffic Handling at 3NF in 1928.

WHY IN THE H__K DUZ HE GO "ARUF"?

Well yes, he had been QNI HBN/HBSN off and on over the years and had been signing "ARF" or "WUF", but things changed in February 1980. That's why the "ARUF" as he goes QNO nowadays.

He lost his long time NYS mentor and sweetheart in the shopping mall parking lot in Cheektowaga NY, that wintry afternoon. A driver, moving into the sunset, sent CR, W2RUF, on to the Silent Keys. She was first licensed in 1933 there in Buffalo, and was the originator of the gals' greeting "33".

88 Clara, we miss you on NYS.
-W2MTA

A Tribute to Clara-

I am proud to have been a friend to Clara Reiger, W2RUF. She was well-known throughout the Amateur world for her humanitarian deeds. -Mark, W2EAG

BIRTH OF THE 33

Clara had her ticket she also had a rig
Because she was just startin, it wasn't
very big.

She slowly tuned the crystal, and
watched the meter drop,

Traffic Call May 2003

Then tapped the key a couple times, to
be sure it wouldn't stop.

Now everything was ready, she called a
short cq,

And received an answer, on thirty six
sixty two.

They chew the fat bout stuff and things,
bout dresses, work and dates,

They finally called it qrt, the girl sent
eighty eights.

Clara thought it mighty funny, whether
it be miss or mrs.

To end a perfect qso by sending love
and kisses.

It sounds too sentimental, just a little
too much goo,

To be sending "love and kisses" to a
girl the same as you.

For an entire week she pondered,
wouldn't even touch the rig,

She pushed her slide rule by the hour,
employing logs and trig.

She added and subtracted, what could
the answer be? To reach a happy
medium, twixt eighty eight and seventy
three.

Clara finally looked up from her work,
all smiles and not forlorn,

'Twas july in ninteen forty, that thirty
three was born.

There's no real definition, but its
meaning is well known,

It's how a yl says good evening, to
another friend yl.

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 20
(in part) ARLP020 From Tad Cook,
K7RA Seattle, WA May 16, 2003
To all radio amateurs

Disturbed conditions triggered by a continuous solar wind stream appear to go on and on, week after week, seemingly without end. Nice quiet conditions would result from a daily A index of 10 or lower.

Average daily conditions near that level haven't been reported since the week of February 20-26 when the daily average A index was 11.1, or January 9-15 when it was 9.1.

Conventional wisdom says that disturbed conditions occur more often when the solar cycle has passed the peak and is headed down, and recent experience seems to bear this out. Recent forecasts for daily solar flux and planetary A

index don't predict a daily A index below 10 until May 31. The latest projection has solar flux rising over the next few days to 110 on Saturday, May 17, 120 on Sunday and 125 on Monday. The daily planetary A index projection shows an unsettled 15 thought the weekend, rising to 20 on Monday....The solar flux and sunspot numbers were lower this week than last, but the A index was higher. The average daily sunspot number dropped around 100 points from 146 to 46.4, and daily solar flux was down over 40 points to 95.5. Average daily A index rose from 20.7 to 29.3.....The latest mid-latitude K index is on WWV at 18 minutes after each hour, or you can get the WWV message on the telephone at 303-497-3235. The text of that hourly message is available on the web at <http://sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/latest/wwv.txt>.

That's "Where it's @"...

The June issue of QST had Correspondence about the continuing "dilemma" about how to send e-mail addresses on CW.

David Pratt, KK7GL/G4DMP, gave a solution, which I will take a step further. The French, yes the French, use their Morse character for that word "at" (^a) in expressing their e-mail addresses at sign. It's di-dah-dah-di-dah which could be expressed with an alpha group in the same manner as many "overscored" expressions, such as AR IMI SK and so forth. I note one "foolproof" combination to apply that "French" term would be to use PT (overscored).

Any other combinations of that di-dah-dah-di-dah would only lead to "overscored confusion" in the combinations: AK ANT ATA ATET EQ EGT EMA EMET ETK ETTA ETTET WA WET and PT (overscored) So PT wins!. Let's use it!

Does anyone, including Mike, KNOW of any other use for that PT

(overscored) anywhere in telegraphy?

Now, if we could just get that "dot" resolved, we'd be there! dit-dah-di-dah-di-dah anyone??? 73, **Bill W2MTA**

[I see nothing in Morse Telegraph code charts as PT, and as for the "dot", it looks like a "period" to me, so why not "dit-dah-di-dah-di-dah"? -Ed]

HBN MONTHLY

APR	QNI	QTC	QSP	TIME
1.	28	22	20	45
2.	22	25	19	50
3.	23	17	17	43
4.	26	34	34	46
5.	29	31	32	51
6.	23	19	18	51
7.	23	6	6	26
8.	21	13	3	45
9.	24	20	15	52
10.	18	6	6	23
11.	22	20	20	32
12.	22	15	13	65
13.	17	19	17	26
14.	24	16	16	37
15.	20	22	16	53
16.	21	22	20	54
17.	22	22	27	35
18.	24	14	12	49
19.	25	24	24	45
20.	24	17	17	26
21.	20	9	8	37
22.	28	16	16	75
23.	19	24	9	45
24.	22	28	23	43
25.	24	26	25	95
26.	22	15	15	41
27.	18	22	22	29
28.	21	27	22	43
29.	28	28	24	65
30.	22	25	13	75



W2EAG

HBSN QNI REPORT APRIL
QNI 382 QTC 111 Sessions - 30

CALL	NAME	STATE	QNI
NG1A	FRED	MA	16
W1PID	JIM	NH	1
W1KX	BILL	ME	4
N1OTC	JOHN	MA	2
K2BCL	GAIL	NY	29
W2EAG	MARK	MA	1
WB2GTG	BILL	NY	1
KG2HA	SAM	NY	23
W2MTA	BILL	NY	26
K2VX	DAVE	NJ	1
N3AO	CARTER	PA	15
N3COR	DON	WPA	1
N3DE	HARRY	MD	1
VE3DTR	JOHN	ON	25
WA3DUH	JIM	DE	29
KK3F	PAT	MD	3
W3JKX	EARLE	EPA	16
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	EPA	4
W3KOD	HARRY	EPA	30
N3ON	CHUCK	WPA	24
N3QA	CAL	MD	1
W3QQ	CID	DE	30
K3RC	BOB	OH	3
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	1
N4ABM	OLE	VA	1
W4VLL	VIC	VA	4
KA5NNG	MIKE	AR	1
WB5ZJN	SAM	OH	26
KX8B	CHUCK	OH	29
WW8D	TOM	WV	8
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	2
NR9K	AD	EPA	24

Treasurer's Report
Ole, N4ABM, Treasurer

BALANCE Ap 9/03 108.01

Ap 28/03	WA3YLO	20.00
May 1/03	N1OTC	20.00
May	K2VX	20.00

BALANCE May 8/03 168.01

As always, we thank you very much for your support.

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

HBN QNI REPORT APRIL

NG1A	FRED	MA	13	97
N1DHT	GEORGE	VT	13	
W1KX	BILL	ME	4	
N1OTC	JACK	MA	27	111
KW1U	MARCIA	MA	18	30
W1WCG	VAN	CT	4	2
K1WU	DALE	MA	2	1
K2BCL	GAIL	PA	28	79
WA2CUW	TOM	NJ	1	
W2EAG	MARK	MA	20	8
W2MTA	BILL	NY	29	12
K2VX	DAVID	VA	9	
WA2YL	JAN	FL	3	9
N3COR	DON	PA	1	
N3DE	HARRY	MD	3	
VE3DTR	JOHN	ON	22	
KK3F	PAT	MD	23	6
K3GHH	JOHN	MD	3	
W3JKX	EARLE	PA	8	
W3KOD	HARRY	PA	30	1
K3MIY	RON	PA	7	
K3NNI	JOHN	MD	8	
N3QA	CAL	MD	13	12
K3RC	BOB	OH	7	1
WA3UNX	DON	PA	25	7
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	2	6
N4ABM	OLE	VA	22	11
AA4AT	ART	VA	23	7
WA4DOX	OBIE	VA	3	7
K4FUM	JERE	GA	8	1
WX4H	MORT	FL	30	22
K4IWW	WILL	NC	29	3
AF4QZ	ADAM	SC	1	
W4VFJ	CHAS	NC	1	
W4VLL	VIC	VA	3	
KA5NNG	MIKE	AR	18	1
K5UPN	JOE	TX	2	1
KX8B	CHUCK	OH	23	4
WW8D	TOM	WV	5	
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	1	
WD8DIN	SIS	NC	25	5
W8IM	BOB	FL	1	
K8KFJ	GARIE	WV	1	
K8KV	BEN	FL	16	12
K8LJG	JOHN	MI	22	56
KA8NYY	DUDLEY	FL	14	
AA8PI	DON	MI	15	2
W8RTN	LEE	MI	16	60
WB8SIW	JIM	MI	2	
KA8VWE	WALLY	OH	2	5
KA8WNO	JACK	WV	27	40
WD9F	WOODY	IL	4	
K9PUI	DICK	IN	15	
K9TJL	TJ	IL	5	
WØGRW	GEB	MN	22	
WØUCE	JACK	NC	1	

SCRATCHI ARE IN LUV MEBBE



Feenix, Ariz December 1948
Deer Hon. Ed:

Scratchi are not having much time recently to be Devoting his technical genius to pursuing radio mainly on acct. my YL are having foolish notions that people who are engaged should be seeing each other at least two -- sumtimes three -- times a week. This young lady, Lil O. Watanabe, and I are recently getting engaged. It are sounding like reel peachy idea at the time, but I are seeing that Scratchi are about to be reformed.

For example, Lil and I are sitting in parlor recently after having come from local flicker palace and Lil are telling me that my radio station are old stuffs, that it are out of date and that if torn down, it would hardly be making a 1/c collections of stuffs for a self-respecting junk box. I are becoming very incensed, and so I are asking her how comes, if my rig are not having the New Look, that she are always in my shack talking all around the country. Lil are coming right back at me -- she plenty smart, that gal -- and saying that it are still possible to write letters by chiseling the words out of a hunk of stone, but that it are more convenient to using pen and ink.

Because coils in transmitter are not being marked the only way you can tell what band rig is on is to listien on receiver and see where receiver seems to be blocked the worst. Lil are also pointing out that in order to getting transmitter on the air it are necessary to turn on five more switches (she are meaning exciter voltage switch, PA power switch, final power switch, speech amplifier power and modulator power). And this not getting much signal on either unless also remembering to change antenna from receiver to transmitter. Upshoot of hole talk are that Lil are telling me that I should be getting out of dinosaur age and getting up to date, putting in single-sideband transmitter and receiver, etc.

From tone of voice I are knowing Lil are meaning what she said. Lil are probably getting all these fancy ideas from reading your Hon. Magazine. Are there some way you can removing her name from subscription list? On second thought, better not as then she are probably coming over and borrowing mine.

I are going to bed that night with trubbled conshush and as a result Scratchi are having stupendous dream. I are dreaming that it is the year 1970, and I are in my ham shack. When I come in door, automatic photoelectric tubes turning on the Toob filaments and turning on the receiver rack. Receiver are like nothing Scratchi are ever seeing before. We are evidentially having ham bands up to 37,000 megacycles. The band switch on the receiver automatically energizes relays which connect proper antenna to receiver and also puts right transmitter in readiness to transmit. Each transmitter are push pull final driven by powerful master oscillator, except for sooper high frequency stuff, where there are klystrons and magnetrons in profusion. On main control panel are switches which are governing type emission, such as see-w, eye see-w, pulse modulation, AM, FM, single-sideband, etc. Also on control panel are big cathode ray toob screen which are part of panoramascope showing what are going on over the spectrum.

I are just about to put out a seek-you when the shack door opens and in comes Lil. Evidentially she are, in this dream, my XYL, as she are sporting a wedding ring. She looks my rig over for a minute and then asks me why I are insisting on playing with all this antiquated gear, because when she are trying to hold her weekly skedule with the moon last Tuesday the cosmic QRN were just more than she could cope with. I are evidentially waking up after this last remark. Hon. Ed., are this married stuff all it are advertised?

That afternoon Lil are calling up on the telephone and she are apologizing for making fun of Scratchi's rig. So, I guess I are mis-judging Lil, but to play it safe I are going to have to spend my free evenings building up a single-sideband rig.

Respectively yours,
Hashafisti Scratchi

Scratchi Graphic and text from Bill, W2MTA

[Following from webpage of AD7DB <http://www.geocities.com/Baja/Desert/7666/index2.html>

"The "Hashafisti Scratchi" character was created by George Floyd, W2RYT, prior to WW2, and appeared in "GE Radio News." After the war, the columns began appearing in CQ Magazine. Due to an emergence of what is now called "political correctness", they eventually ended sometime in the late 1960's or so.]

On Thursday, April 24, K5UPN writes:

Hi Folks, I am still working on the Website, but last Saturday morning about 8:30AM CDT my brother and I had just parked , and went inside a convenience to get something. We no more than got inside than to hear a crash sound. The attendant said someone just hit your car.

I walked outside, and asked the driver if he saw our car parked there he said no. I could tell he was on drugs, or something. I told him to stay there. I went inside , and called the Police to make a report since he seemed to be on drugs. If he had drove in two minutes earlier my brother, and I would have still been in our car. This week I have been in the process of collecting on his insurance to get us another car. As soon as we get this settled I will be back on HBN.

I have a good start on the Website with more to do, but will be back after we get some kind of settlement. It banged up our car good. It is still driveable, but will probably be totaled out for insurance. 73, ARF **Joe K5UPN**

Days Gone By, cont. from Page 2...Part 6

Our bunch of communication guys were assigned to various ships. Several of us were assigned to Adm. Hall's staff. He was to command amphibious forces on coming invasions. We were on a

ship named the Samuel Chase. It was sort of a merchant or cargo ship made over for our purposes. Although I probably saw him, I never met Larry, WA8HGH, a long time NCS on HBN until he died a few years ago. He was a crew member on the ship.

We were docked at Algiers, a real pretty harbor from a mile or so out, but kind of a dirty place when stepping ashore. The docks, etc, were maybe 30 to 50 feet below the level of that part of the city. Money exchange there was in Francs, 2000 to an American \$10 bill as I remember. There were several boys begging for a cigarette, piece of chewing gun, etc.

The Casbah was interesting; 3 or 4 story buildings on each side of the narrow street leading to an open-air market place. The street was about 8 feet wide with now and then a small business facing the street. One man was smashing tin cans that he would sell to someone for scrap. A few sold vegetables - I saw one poor old woman picking up tomatoes, etc, that had been discarded and tossed in the gutter. The street came to an open area of maybe an acre or two where there were locals with little stands they had set up to sell food items. One person had bread or rolls to sell. Each food item was covered with dozens of flies.

Part of the city was off-bounds to servicemen, and patrolled by Shore Patrol. All of the Arab women in Algiers wore a sheet over their heads, leaving just enough space for an eye to tell them where they were walking. The shore Patrol spotted an Arab woman who was quite tall, and was wearing a pair of large army boots! They felt sure a GI was under the sheet but didn't dare apprehend the person. A mistake would have been very bad news for the troops there.

We all knew our ship would be leaving for military action somewhere, but where? We left

Algiers and would soon know where we were going. There was a radio blackout on all the naval vessels, but we copied fox (NSS) for the staff, and did have radios to receive

BBC and other shortwave news, etcOn to action.. (to be continued)..

COMPUTER B.S. (Basic Stuff)

-KA5NNG

There are three basic blocks to the digital computer:

1) The CPU (Central Processing Unit). The CPU is the part of a computer that decodes/interprets a series of "instructions" (the computer program). The instructions "tell" the CPU what data to use and what operations to perform upon that data.

2) The Memory. The memory is where data and instructions are held for use by the CPU. It is generally implemented electronically, as opposed to electro-mechanically, so is characterized by higher speed access to stored data. (Side Note): During the 1960's, while I was with IBM, the company decided to not refer to memory as memory, and instead to call it "storage". The reason was to eliminate any terminology that seemed to assign "human attributes" to the machinery. Hi. They even went to the trouble of changing the nomenclature on the logic diagrams (schematics) so that all prior references to "memory" were made to read "storage".)

3)The I/O Devices (Input/Output Devices). Sometimes called "peripherals or peripheral devices" because of their "logical position" relative to the CPU and Memory ("on the periphery"). The I/O devices include those that provide long-term data/program storage as well as those used for the "man-machine" interface (such as terminals, printers, etc.).

Bits, Bytes, Binary, etc.

All digital computers with which I am familiar operate by means of Binary arithmetic. The Binary number system is a "place value" system just like our normal decimal number system, except that each place position can hold only two possible values (0 or 1) instead of the ten values of the decimal system. Each place position is referred to as a "digit", just as in decimal notation, and the words "binary digit" have become contracted into the word BIT.

I don't know what was the origin of the word BYTE, but it refers to a logically-connected group of BITS, usually seven or eight BITS to the BYTE. For example, a BYTE might contain the seven BITS representing an ASCII character. (ASCII stands for American Standard Code for Information Interchange, and is an attempt by the industry to establish a standard "character set" definition).

Larger groups of bits are referred to collectively as WORDS, DOUBLEWORDS, QUADWORDS, etc. Unfortunately, the lengths of these groups vary according to the particular computer involved. Each CPU has an attribute known as "data width" or sometimes just as "width". Data width is the maximum number of bits that a particular CPU can handle at a time, i.e.: in parallel. So, for example, if a certain CPU could operate upon 16 bits in parallel, it would be known as a 16 bit processor, and by definition, the word-length equals the width, so for that particular processor a word would be 16 bits long (or 2 bytes). Then, a doubleword would be twice as long as a word (in the case of the example, 32 bits or 4 bytes). Similarly, a quadword is four times as long as whatever

length the word happens to be for a particular processor.

It is important to note that just because a particular CPU is 16 bits wide, that does NOT mean that it can't handle numbers longer than 16 bits. It can and does, but it must perform any operations on numbers longer than it's "width" as a series of successive operations. For example, if some operation was to be performed upon a 32 bit number by an 8 bit CPU, it would do the operation in four steps, 8 bits per step. So, the purpose of increasing the width of a processor is mainly to increase it's effective computational speed...the more bits it can operate upon at a time, naturally the faster it will finish whatever operation it is doing. *(to be continued)*

Worth repeating: From Traffic Call, January 1995: Excerpts from random thoughts about code and code speed, de WB5ZJN:

Match the speed of the NCS. I'd like to suggest that the NCS be the person that establishes the maximum speed of the net. The wise NCS determines not only his/her skill level but also considers the current conditions when establishing the best speed for the net. By choosing a certain speed, the NCS is saying "based on my present skill level and present conditions, I think this is the most efficient speed for today's net." (By the way, a slower speed, when conditions are poor, is definitely more efficient.) I don't think this will slow our nets down. If anything, it will speed it up, because there will be better communication and less need to repeat information.

QRS is not a four-letter word! If one cannot operate clearly and accurately at the speed of the NCS, one should choose a speed at which he/she can control. Often one hears

persons operating at speeds much faster than they can control. This is fairly easy to identify. When one frequently hears an "H" with five digits, a "V" with four dits, an "x" with three dits, etc., one knows that the operator has his/her keyer set too fast for his/her skill level.

CW is rhythm in an asymmetrical meter. The most important aspects of good CW are (1) the proportional and relational length of dots and dashes.... (2) the proper spacing of letters, digits, and words and (3) choosing a speed at which the operator can properly function. Proper spacing, however, seems to give more persons trouble than any of the other aspects of code. Proper spacing determines the intelligibility of one's code.

On QRQ: ... I still listen to some of our OT's And wonder, "How in the world can he copy that guy? He makes sense out of what I find as nothing but a jumbled mess." I would like to know their secret, but, I think, their ability comes mostly through their experience...the kind of experience that comes from years of CW operations. They don't "copy" code anymore... the "think" in code and know it so well that they do not get "stumped" by inaccuracies in sending or dialectical nuances which occur as the result of improper spacing. I admire that ability in our OT's and look forward to growing to that level. And what better place could one find to improve his/her code than ...on HBN in fellowship with some of our nation's finest CW operators?

AB4E - A B reports that he has an antenna up now, and he is doing a little better "until the next bronchitis episode, and still going to the hospital for rehab exercise".

It's good to hear, and nice to hear that beautiful bug fist on HBN.

Hit and Bounce Net NCS Roster
7042 KHz Daily 8:30 AM Eastern time *Alternate Frequency 7114 KHz
Net Manager, Charlotte (Sis) Berry, WD8DIN
Treasurer, HBN/HBSN, MERRITT W. (OLE) OLSON

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
W2MTA	KA8WNO	WA3UNX	N4ABM	W2EAG	WD8DIN	WA4DOX
Bill NY	Jack WV	Don PA	Ole VA	Mark MA	Sis NC	Obie VA

***During CW contest congestion on 7042, please use the alternate frequency.**

Hit and Bounce Slow Net NCS Roster
3714 KHz Daily 7:30 AM Eastern time
Net Manager, C.M. (SAM) SHEARER, WB5ZJN
Assistant Manager, CHARLES (CHUCK) PUNZELL, N3ON

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
VE3DTR	W2MTA	NR9K	WB5ZJN	N3ON	WD8DHC	OPEN
John ON	Bill NY	Ad PA	Sam OH	Chuck PA	Mike WV	

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