TRAFFIC CALL

Newsletter of the Ben White Memorial Nets
Founded 1938 by Ben White W4PL
APRIL 2004 No. 269

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Hit and Bounce Net Daily 8:30 AM ET 7042 KHz (Alternate 7114 KHz) Hit and Bounce Slow Net Daily 7:30 AM ET 3714 KHz
HBN please use alternate frequency on CW contest weekends.

People come into our lives and pass through swiftly. A very few come into our lives and remain forever in our hearts. Larry Frazer was one of the very few. **- Jack K2GWN**

April ~ June

The Larry Frazer, W4SUS Award committee has chosen Ben, K8KV as the next recipient. Ben Has been a steady participant of both HBN and HBSN. Bringing steady amount of traffic to the nets. He has brought his determination in completing his QTC under difficult conditions. Whether from Michigan or Florida he has been a consistent performer. Thanks Ben, and Congratulations.

Larry Frazer, W4SUS Award Committee
John, K8LJG; Harry, N3DE; Don, WA3UNX

Hit and Bounce Net Manager's Comments

In March, fifty-five stations checked in, brought a total of 725 QTC and cleared 650. QNI 727; average time per session- 35 minutes.

TOP DAWGS MARCH
Perfect attendance WX4H

15+	QNI	10+	QTC
WX4H	**31**	N1OTC	192
K4IWW	30	NG1A	78
KA8WNO	29	KA8WNO	67
W2MTA	29	WX4H	60
WØUCE	28	K8LJG	53
WD8DIN	28	KW1U	38
AA4AT	23	AA4AT	21
KX8B	23	N4ABM	20
N1OTC	22	K8KV	16
KK3F	22	W8RTN	16
W3JKX	22	WØUCE	15
K8KV	21	WA2YL	15
K8LJG	20	N3QA	15
K2BCL	20	WA3UNX	13
WA3UNX	19	KX8B	12
VE3DTR	19	WA4DOX	12
NG1A	18	W2MTA	11
K3MIY	18	WD8DIN	10
K3NNI	17	KK3F	10
WØGRW	17		
N4ABM	15		
KA5NNG	15		

AA8PI- Don will be checking in when he can. The long absence was due to an antenna problem. His son will be helping with that, and we should be hearing him more often. The stroke affected his CW fist, but he isn't giving up.

Roster - I am updating the roster, with DOB, postal and email addresses **for HBN members use only**. What I need from the arfers is permission to include that information, or not, if you so desire. It is still in the works, and with the "new technology", I can add or remove any info with a few keystrokes. The NCS roster will be updated when new stations check in, and may be downloaded from the Hit and Bounce Net web site.

Ahh Spring… and with it comes the time change, which means poor band conditions (as if you didn't know) most of the time, but it doesn't stop you arfers. Great work, guys and gals. Thanks to everyone for all the relays when times are bad, and for keeping our net going smoothly.

K4MC - Will. K4IWW, talked with Bob on April 4 at RARSFest . He wanted (Will) to say ARF to the HBN gang. "Seems that Bob's stroke took away his CW skills". Will had lent him a CW keyboard, but he couldn't copy fast enough to get back on the nets.

Hopefully I can keep this newsletter on a monthly basis again. Just a minor rough spot the past few months.

Here comes the sun… happy spring!
73, ARF   -Sis

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NCS and SUBS: Stations who need to QNO by 9: **KA8NYY, WX4H and W2MTA**. As usual, if you need to leave at any time, please tell the NCS.

Henry, WD8Q… Was licensed in August of 1980 as KA8KXE. Been interested in ham radio much longer (1958). Learned the code at Hickam AFB Hawaii in 1962 at the base MARS station. Like riding a bicycle, never forgot it. Took less than 3 weeks to get up to 7-8 WPM in 1980. LOVE CW. My motto is: "Anyone can talk".

Gear owned.....not much.......Kenwood TS-520S, Ten-Tec Jupiter, Yaesu VX-5, and ICOM 02-AT. Put up random wire antenna just before Christmas 2002. Antenna....off center dipole fed with ladder line. Earned Extra Class in 1986....talk about nervous....20 WPM for six straight minutes....still don't know on what terms I passed....never asked. Changed call later that year to WD8Q.

After four years in the USAF, got employed in the telephone industry with Ohio Bell Telephone and when the Bell System broke up in 1984, went to AT&T. Retired with 34 years service in July of 1999.

Teach beginning Amateur once a year and do VE work four times a year. Am a member of IARC in Mansfield OH. ARRL member since 1981.

Have three grown children; Scott (living in Japan, Darrell (lives in Sumter SC and flies Boeing 757's for a living) and Lisa who lives nearby with her daughter Alissa.

Been happily married for 41 years to Barbara.....sadly don't think she'll ever be licensed. Started listening to the Ohio Slow Net (CW) after putting up antenna in Dec 2000. Am well into training with Maryland Slow Net. A great bunch of folks.

If you haven't really gotten involved with CW operation. Join FISTS and get a "Code Buddy". They will work with you at any speed. After being licensed for 23 years at this writing, I can't believe how my CW receiving quality has improved this year being on regular nets.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MAY	JUNE	JULY
17 N3AO	8 KW1U	1 W2MTA
22 K8LJG	8 KC1DI	14 WB8KPE
23 AA4AT	10 WB8SIW	16 W1PEX
24 AA2YV	12 WØUCE	17 N4DY
26 WA3YLO	14 K4IWW	21 W2EAG
28 KA8WNO	18 WA4SRD	
31 W8RTN	29 K2BCL	

WA3DUH – Cid, W3QQ reports all is well but that WA3DUH is out of the hospital, lost 35 pounds, and is very weak.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

Geo and family feel the effects of the '29 Crash.

A journalistic history of the life and times in Amateur Radio of George Hart, W1NJM - by George Hart W1NJM

Part 11 - THE GREAT CHANGE

My father was not a stock speculator, but he owned small blocks of stock in several companies known to be stable, such as General Motors, American Agricultural Chemical Co, Studebaker, Dupont, and a few others, all of which either went down the drain or greatly decreased in value and stopped paying dividends. The loss was about 60% of his net worth. Being entirely a self-made man of Scotch heritage, it hit him hard. We were not destitute, but we had to reduce our living style considerably.

My three brothers and I were hardly aware of what was going on, but we knew the old man (he was 76) was becoming increasingly irascible. In 1931 he suffered a complete nervous breakdown and passed away in June.

The house in which we four boys had been born and raised belonged to Lafayette College. When my father, an eminent professor of chemistry at the college, passed away, we lost any right to continue occupying the house.

The college magnanimously gave us a year to vacate. Life went on almost as usual for another six months, then the college, feeling we (that is my mother) were apparently making no plans to vacate, started putting on the pressure.

First they tore down my father's abandoned chemical laboratory which, although owned by my father and now by my mother was on college property. We had to scramble to remove anything of value before the demolition crew moved in. The demolition caused us to lose our electrical service, because it had been connected to the house through the "den".

We still had our gas lights, but the electriclal disconnect spelled the end of W3NF on College Hill. Among my father's former assets was a publishing company located in Easton quite close to the college, and here Ed established our new station using the 852 amplifier driven by a crystal-controlled 210 oscillator and using our almost new National SW-3 receiver. The transmitter was established on a bench in the third-floor composing room, with an antenna on the roof. But the location was a very poor one for radio, a precipitous hill

on one side and the downtown city of Easton surrounding us on the other three sides. During the day, with all the electrical noises inside the plant, operation was impossible. After five o'clock and on weekends the factory noises ceased, but the passing trolley cars (the College Hill trolley passed right in front of the building) caused loud discharges, making operation even on evenings until almost midnight and during weekends and holidays very difficult. It was such vast change from our previous location on the third floor of our College Hill house that operation of W3NF all but ceased. The building was "spooky" and chilly when unoccupied. There were no bathrooms or lavatories in the building, only and outhouse outdoors across a small parking area in the rear.

Of course we did have "the farm," about five miles down the Delaware River near the village of Raubsville. This property consisted of about 400 acres of meadows and forest in two valleys, and four houses, three of which were occupied by relatives who worked the farm for my father. The fourth house, at some distance from the others, was where we had spent our summers during my father's last few years, and where we were destined to move now that "papa" was gone. It was a large stone house, very old, of about ten rooms. There was no indoor plumbing, no electricity, no central; heating. The house sat on the side of a hill overlooking a meadow below and dense forest on the other side. Living there the year around was a bleak prospect indeed, but we had nowhere else to go, and during the spring of 1932 the move was undertaken with vigor by all five of us.

DAYS GONE BY…. KA8WNO

Off to what was to be the last invasion of the war. My friend Earl, mentioned earlier in this account, had told me that his brother-in-law was a scientist working at Oak Ridge, TN. Earl was home on leave a short time before we sailed to the Pacific area. This brother-in-law told him that a powerful atomic bomb was being developed and it was only a matter of time before it would be ready to be used against the Japanese. Earl told me about it, and as I was so fed up with being in the service so long, looked forward to the day when the bomb would be used.

Going north to Okinawa, we sailed for something like a day and anchored a few miles off shore, not far from the island's capitol city of Naha. We were one of a very large number of warships scattered around a few square of ocean. Many ships in our vicinity were there to shield our ship and the other communication ship (the Ancon, with the commander of the operation aboard) from Japanese attacks. Men and their gear were landed in short order on the beach, with what we heard was

little resistance at the beginning. There were about three battle ships in our mass of ships. One of these, the Missouri, I think, started lobbing 16-inch shells on or near Naha that first night of the invasion, shooting at a distance of about 15 or 16 miles. We could see the flash when the gun fired, the see the shell as it raced to its target, and then the flash when it hit the target. I always wondered how a shell that was hot enough to see going to its target did not detonate before it got there. Japanese planes we spotted on radar often from the beginning. Then invariably, the order went out to all ships, "MAKE SMOKE" . We lived with and breathed smoke for three or more days, but the smoke wasn't too bad and didn't choke us up.

On, I think, the 3rd day of the invasion, the Japs sent their fleet of kamikaze (suicide) planes to destroy us if they could. There were, as I remember, nearly 300 planes that were either shot down or exploded when they hit the water or a ship. Several ships were sunk or damaged badly. Our ship*s protection was so good that none of them came close enough for our guns to fire.

When the action started, I asked to be put on one of the radio circuits, as I had done in previous invasions. The head radio honcho said, no, with all the radio operators they had, the newspaper was more important, and keep going with it. I had improved my cw copying of press to the point that I could copy the press sent to the Hawaii newspapers at 50 wpm. Sometimes the static was pretty bad and only some press releases were legible enough to print. The transmitting station used two frequencies, one near 10 Mhz and can't remember the other. The mills we used were Remington, and fine for that purpose. We put a roll of teletype paper behind the mill to begin copying and when we stopped, usually we had a piece of paper six or more feet long with the news items on it. These were typed onto a mimeograph stencil then run off, as mentioned before. One of the guys, Smitty, copied another press station that gave the game scores. He copied directly onto a stencil, as the code speed was a slow 20 wpm. (It isn't so slow anymore!)

Our radio room had a code sending machine. It was used by a correspondent for newspaper articles he sent to one of the big papers. His article was given to the person using the machine. A tape was made of the article and it was sent by radio, similar to the tapes that were with teletypewriters.

A few of our operators were sent ashore to set up a radio teletype circuit between shore and ship(s). Some of these guys, like many others, craved alcohol. They came on a gallon of ditto fluid, which smelled like alcohol and actually was, so.... why not? One or two of them died and another went blind. Wood alcohol is bad news.

The well-liked columnist Ernie Pyle was killed by a Jap bullet not far from where we were anchored, on the isle of IE.

Arfers in World Radio news
- KA8WNO
A couple active members of HBN got some exposure in World Radio in current issue just received. "The pileup grew bigger and bigger in the middle of noise that sounded like a beehive.

I heard the voice of a young 'YL' calling me. I replied. 'QRZ ONLY the YL, this is Hotel Charlie One Mike Delta.' All of the OMs stood by and I was called by only one station, KI4AYK. I gave 'her a signal report, my name, QTH and QSL MGR as K8LJG.

I can still hear 'her' returning to me. Hotel One Mike Delta this is Kilo India Four Alplha Yankee Kilo in Tennessee and my name is PAUL and I am only 13 years old."

There is a foto of rick Dorsch, NE8Z/HC1MD and his qsl manager John Kroll K8LJG, and one of the 'YL" Paul".

A Miss America article has a foto of Miss America 2004, Emila Dunlap in the middle with Jan WA2YL sitting on her left and a nice article about the event and all the work in helping that the Southern Counties Amateur Radio Assn (SCARA) has been doing for 32 years.

New twist on sending net reports A suggestion from KA8WNO –
We begin our reports with QNI, TFC, TIME AND QNS. How about adding CDX? We could add CDX, 1-Imp (for impossible); 2-poor; 3-fair; and 4-good. That way we wouldn't be tempted to describe conditions when we finish sending a report.

[Good idea. By the way, it isn't really necessary for NCS' to alphabetize the report. I can sort them easily. -Ed]

Note of thanks from KG4FXG
(Getting the word out- pg 2, February-March issue) Thanks for the article in the newsletter - WOW, I am impressed. The presentation went great and I put some of your certificates on the overhead and your newsletter. Many had no idea that this "under world" existed. I just hope these presentations will increase the numbers for all of us. [*I sent Bill a copy of that issue via email. –Ed.*]

"OOPS!" - Correction: Feb-Mar issue, (*Top dawgs QNI pg 1*) W2MTA 27, not 2.

You might be a ham if... You have more wire up and coax cable run than the electric company and the cable company combined." -- Clinton Herbert AB7RGhttp://www.ac6v.com/humor.htm

W4SUS Award Recipients' List
1996
July-September N1DHT ~ George
October-December KA5NNG ~ Mike

1997
January-March N3DRM ~ Pete
April-June KA8WNO ~ Jack
July-September W3KOD ~ Harry
October-December NJ4L ~ Gale

1998
January-March AA4AT ~ Art
April-June WD8DIN ~ Sis
July-September K8LJG ~ John
October-December W2EAG ~ Mark

1999
January-March AB4E ~ AB
April-June W0GRW ~ Geb
July-September K4MTX ~ Casey
October-December WX4H ~ Mort

2000
January-March WA4DOX ~ Obie
April-June W2WSS ~ Pete
July-September N3QA ~ Cal
October-December N3DE ~ Harry

2001
January-March N9KHD ~ Andy
April-June W3JKX ~ Earle
July-September WA2CUW~Tom
October-December K2BCL ~ Gail

2002
January-March WA3UNX ~ Don
April-June N4ABM ~ Ole
July-September KW1U ~ Marcia
October-December NG1A ~ Fred

2003
January-March K3NNI ~ John
April-June KX8B ~ Chuck
July-September K4IWW ~ Will
October-December N1OTC ~ John

2004
January-March W2MTA ~ Bill
April-June K8KV ~ Ben

Hit and Bounce Slow Net Report
QNI 356   107 QTC 107 SESSIONS 31
March

CALL	NAME	STATE	QNI	
NG1A	FRED	MA	14	
AB1AV	BILL	NH	10	
N1OTC	JACK	MA	19	
W1KX	BILL	ME	4	
N1SX	ARNOLD	NJ	2	
WA2CUW	TOM	NJ	1	
W2DSX	JIM	NY	1	
KG2HA	SAM	NY	27	
W2MTA	BILL	NY	30	
W2UE	LYNN	NY	1	
N2ULY	PAUL	NY	6	
K2VX	DAVE	VA	3	
N3COR	DON	WPA	8	
N3DE	HARRY	MD	2	
VE3DTR	JOHN	ON	25	
KK3F	PAT	MD	6	
W3JKX	EARLE	EPA	17	
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	EPA	5	
N3ON	CHUCK	WPA	28	
W3QQ	CID	DE	31	
N3SW	SCOTT	PA	1	
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	2	
W4VLL	VIC	VA	17	
KX8B	CHUCK	OH	25	
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	5	
WD8Q	HENRY	OH	23	
NR9K	AD	EPA	31	
N9KHD	ANDY	WI	12	

K3MIY	RON	PA	18	1
K3NNI	JOHN	MD	17	2
N3QA	CAL	MD	6	15
K3RC	BOB	OH	11	0
WA3UNX	DON	PA	19	13
WA3YLO	TONY	MD	1	2
N4ABM	OLE	VA	15	20
AA4AT	ART	VA	23	21
WA4DOX	OBIE	VA	8	12
AB4E	A B	NC	4	0
W4FRR	CHAS	VA	1	1
K4FUM	JERE	GA	4	0
WX4H	MORT	FL	31	60
K4IWW	WILL	NC	30	5
WX4J	EARL	FL	1	0
W4VFJ	CHAS	NC	11	0
W4VLL	VIC	VA	12	2
KA5NNG	MIKE	AR	15	0
W5TFB	JACK	TX	1	0
KX8B	CHUCK	OH	23	12
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	2	0
WD8DIN	SIS	NC	28	10
W8IM	BOB	FL	6	0
K8KV	BEN	FL	21	16
K8LJG	JOHN	MI	20	53
W8RTN	LEE	MI	14	16
WB8SIW	JIM	MI	3	0
KA8WNO	JACK	WV	29	67
WD9F	WOODY	IL	3	0
KB9IOT	DAVID	WI	2	0
N9KHD	ANDY	WI	8	0
K9PUI	DICK	IN	1	0
WØGRW	GEB	MN	17	0
WØUCE	JACK	NC	28	15

HBN QNI MARCH

NG1A	FRED	MA	18	78
AB1AV	BILL	NH	3	0
K1BTD	KEITH	CT	13	0
N1DHT	GEORGE	VT	5	0
W1KX	BILL	ME	5	0
N1OTC	JACK	MA	22	192
KW1U	MARCIA	MA	5	38
K2BCL	GAIL	PA	20	0
WA2CUW	TOM	NJ	2	0
W2EAG	MARK	MA	1	0
W2MTA	BILL	NY	29	11
N2ULY	PAUL	NY	12	0
K2VX	DAVID	VA	7	4
WA2YL	JAN`	FL	8	15
N3COR	DON	PA	9	0
N3DE	HARRY	MD	4	0
VE3DTR	JOHN	ON	19	1
KJ3E	AL	MD	1	0
KK3F	PAT	MD	22	10
K3GHH	JOHN	MD	5	0
W3JKX	EARLE	PA	22	0
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	PA	2	2

Last quarter awardee January-March
Bill W2MTA

AB4E UPDATE (de Woody, K4OI)

A. B. was moved to [Fair Haven] nursing home (Thursday, Aoril 29). His voice sounded very clear and strong. His comments were, to the effect, 'I'm ready to start over again'. Although the Drs said he will most likely be there from now on, and he understands that is probably true, he has not thrown in the towel. He is not one to give up and that is great. I suspect that his home telephone number will be transferred to his room/bed in the near future, I will send update when that happens.

> **A. B. Brackett (Room 211-A)**
> **Fair Haven Home**
> **149 Fair Haven Drive**
> **Bostic, NC 28018**
> **828-245-6334**

EAN

This story, while fictionalized, serves as an introduction to the nature of the National Traffic System beyond the local nets. The dedicated hams who relay traffic throughout the US and Canada are the role models for all who aspire to this high service "Eastern Area Net".

"EAN." I transmitted the net name, "EAN" indicating to stations that they should now "QNI" or "check in" to the Eastern Area Net. This particular net was being conducted via Morse code, an efficient mode for this sort of work. Traffic would be heavy this Tuesday evening, just a few days before Christmas. I was Net Control Station, or "NCS" of the Eastern Area Net, a clearing house for all formal, written radiogram messages passing between regions in the Eastern Seaboard of the U.S. and Canada.

As NCS of the net it was my responsibility to act as the "master of ceremonies" to ensure that stations with messages for one region would get hooked up to their counterparts in other regions to send, receive and relay messages destined for other nets.

In response to my call, I heard: "Dit." "…Dah dah." "…Dididit."

Three stations came back simultaneously with different "signs" and on slightly different frequencies a few Hertz apart. The result was a not-unpleasant melody of varying pitches spelling out letters like "E", "M" and "S." They were easily distinguishable to the ear. I thought I recognized the swing in the "M" emanating from the semi-automatic key "fist" of W2MTA.

"Dah dah," I replied, pressing one side of the Bencher paddle to form the dashes indicating that the station signing "M" should go ahead. Immediately I heard, "…DE W2MTA PAN RX QRU."

Bill's regular schedule, or "sked" involved him acting as the receiving station ("RX") for message traffic destined for the Pacific Area Net. Bill used a standard Q signal, "QRU" to indicate that he had no traffic to send.

"W2MTA R AS," I replied. "R" meant "received." And the letters "AS" sent together—"didahdididit"—instructed him to standby.

"DE …" "DE," I replied, in turn. "…W2EAG 1RN TX QTC CAN 12 3RN 5 4RN 3 AR."

W2EAG, Mark in Taunton, Massachusetts was the First Region Net Transmit station. His list of traffic, or "QTC" included the traffic's destination followed by actual number of messages. Clearly, Central Area Receive was going to be busy this evening. In addition, Mark listed traffic for the Third and Fourth Regions.

Sending radiogram traffic on Morse code can be an absolute pleasure. One of the real advantages one has using Morse code over voice is something called "full break-in." If Mark had been transmitting simultaneously, or "doubling" with another station he would have quickly known this by hearing the dots and dashes of someone else's signals between his own. The concept is similar to a group at a party who begin to speak all at once, then pause and allow one to proceed. Traffic handlers refer to full break-in as "QSK." Sent as a question, QSK means, "Can you receive between my signals?" As a statement it means, "I can receive between your signals." "…Dididah."

I instructed the sender of "U" to proceed. "DE KW1U CAN RX QRU K."

Marcia, KW1U, from Martha's Vineyard was accepting messages on behalf of the Central Area Net. Marcia would check in directly to the Central Area Net in one hour with any messages she received off the Eastern Area Net.

I decided to get down to business. "1U…" "…dah," replied Marcia, immediately. "EAG…" "…dit," Mark responded, about fifty milliseconds later. "D 10 CAN."

Simultaneously I heard two "dahs" from Marcia and Mark, respectively, acknowledging my instructions.

In less than six seconds I had instructed both stations to move off frequency—specifically "D 10" or "down ten kilohertz." It was understood that Marcia would be receiving traffic destined for CAN. As the receiver, she would call Mark on the closest open frequency "down ten" per my instructions.

EAN K." Ready for more business. "Dahdididit." I acknowledged the "B" station.

"…DE VE3BDM ECN TX 1RN 4 2RN 3 4RN 6 8RN 2 AR." George in Elizabethtown, Ontario, acting as Eastern Canada Net's TX station, listed his QTC.

Without so much as an "R" for acknowledgement I decided to hook George up with the Fourth Region Net Receive station—a station who had not yet checked in. "4RN RX QNI," I sent to the net. In other words, "Fourth Region Net Receive station please check in now."

"…DE W4ANK 4RN RX QRU," came the reply.

I dispatched the two off frequency: "W4ANK VE3BDM U 7 4RN."

I heard a quick "dit" and "dah" response from W4ANK and VE3BDM as they headed "Up Seven" to handle the Fourth Region traffic.

Ten minutes later, I had Transmit and Receive stations checked in from the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Eighth and Eastern Canada Region Nets. I also had TX and RX stations from the Central and Pacific Area Nets. The latter were members of the TCC or "Transcontinental Corps", an elite group who liaise between the three Area nets.

An Alternate Transmit, or "ALT TX" station from First Region Net came to EAN. The 1RN Net Control Station had wisely decided to spread the load of outgoing traffic between two stations instead of a single TX station. To further assist with the heavy volume I also had 2RN- and a 3RN ALT RX stations standing by if needed. One other station with no assignment casually checked in, "QRU." I politely excused him from the net.

I consulted the "bingo sheet," my low-tech, pencil-and-paper solution for tracking the locations and traffic lists of all stations on the Net. By my calculations I had facilitated the passing of roughly 60 percent of the traffic listed. Several stations were "queued" up off frequency awaiting their turn to send traffic to receiving stations.

Using my auxiliary VFO, I tuned down 20 kHz to hear how the Fourth Region Net Receive and Third Region Transmit stations were doing. Everything sounded copasetic. "…AR 1." "Dit."

The 3RN TX ended a message with the pro sign "AR" followed by the number 1, indicating that he had one more message left to transmit. 4RN RX acknowledged that he was ready to copy the next message by answering with a single "dit". I decided that it was time to have the next station with 4RN traffic queued up and ready to go.

I flipped back to the net frequency. "HRI," I sent, addressing the 1RN Alternate TX, WB1HRI. "Dit," replied WB1HRI. "QNQ D 20 W4ANK 4RN," I said. (Translation: "Change frequency down 20 kHz and wait for W4ANK to finish handling traffic. Then send him traffic for 4RN.") "G," he replied. ("Going.") Just like that—it was done.

I dialed "Up 20" to listen to the traffic flow between the 2RN TX and 3RN RX stations. Things were a little rough. The Receive station had instructed the Transmit station to "QRS 10" or "Send more slowly, 10 words per minute." There was a significant amount of signal fading, or "QSB" between the two stations.

Solid copy is paramount when handling radiograms; speed takes a back seat to accuracy. I've heard veteran traffic handlers slow down to less than five wpm when the situation warranted. "…MERRY CHRI […] MA…" "…Daaaahhhhhh…." The receiving station hit his key to interrupt. When he heard the TX station had stopped, RX sent, "AA MERRY." Translation: "ALL AFTER the word MERRY."

A causal operator might assume that the word in question was CHRISTMAS. When handling traffic, however, one does not assume. Instead, one requests a "fill" by using pro signs such as AA ("All After"), AB ("All Before"), BN ("BetweeN") and so forth. The sending station picked up with the word MERRY and continued sending the rest of the message slowly.

Back on the Net frequency I heard, "QRL?" A station that was not a part of the Net was inquiring, "Is the frequency in use?" "QRL" I replied. ("The frequency is in use.") "SRI." The station apologized for the intrusion and left.

A moment later, I heard: "OKN NG" followed immediately by, "…FTX." The previous exchange between the 3RN RX and 2RN TX stations had gone poorly. W3OKN had indicated a busted exchange by saying "NG", or "No Go." Following proper procedure, they returned to net frequency to await further instructions. It was time to get them a relay—someone located in a favorable QTH who could both hear and be heard by them. "OKN FTX AS," I replied. Then I called for a relay. "W4ABC." "Dah." W4ABC responded. I said, "QNB W3OKN N4FTX U 20." I heard three "dits" confirming that all three stations acknowledged my instructions for W4ABC to act as a relay for W3OKN and N4FTX. All three went up 20 kHz to try again. Things were rolling along. The net had been in session for thirty five minutes. Everyone who had their traffic cleared had been "QNX" or excused from the net. Eight stations were currently passing traffic, or queued up waiting. I had had no new check-ins for ten minutes. I decided to officially close the net.

"QNC QRU EAN QNF TU GUD WRK ALL." Translation: "Announcement. No traffic for Eastern Area Net. The Net is Free. Thank You. Good Work, Everyone."
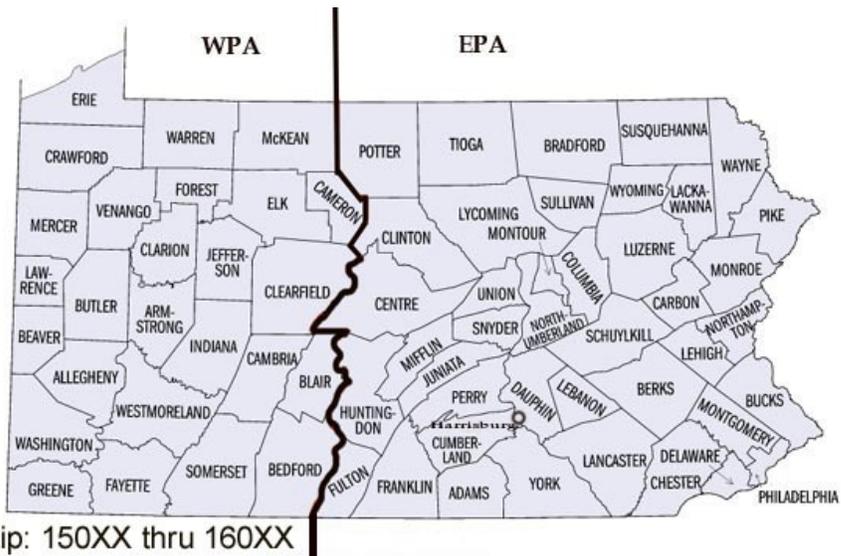
I remained on frequency for the next 15-20 minutes, excusing returning stations and thanking them individually. In the space of 55 or so minutes, we had collectively relayed 67 messages with 100 percent accuracy. Tomorrow evening a whole different group of Amateur operators would get together and do it all over again, as it's done every day of the week, 365 days per year.

http://www.temples.com/mod.php?mod=userpage&menu=140025&page_id=44

Web site of K9HI, Phil Temples, Watertown MA.
URL submitted by K8KFJ

HBN needs NCS for Thursdays (or Fridays)

Zip: 150XX thru 160XX

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ERROR: stackunderflow
OFFENDING COMMAND: ~

STACK:
```